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Inventor Is Proving No Pain Is Everyone's Gain, Receives International Award

(contact Dr. Tang)

Birmingham, AL -October 11, 2000- After evaluating nearly 100 years of conventional medical wisdom, a University of Alabama at Birmingham researcher didn't get the point. Thanks to De-chu Christopher Tang, Ph.D., no one else may either. Dr. Tang has invented a revolutionary way to administer vaccines without the use of needles.

The Coulter Foundation at Georgia Institute of Technology's College of Engineering recognized Dr. Tangs invention as being on the verge of impacting practically every person on earth.

Dr. Tang received the prestigious Coulter Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship on October 7. The $100,000 award was presented by the Wallace H. Coulter Trust. The award was named to honor the inventor of the Coulter Counter, a device is used to perform the complete blood count, medicines most requested and informative diagnostic test. The award is granted to the individual with the most potential to achieve the highest level of engineering innovation, resulting in technological advances with health care applications.

For decades, the medical community firmly believed vaccines must be injected into the body to be effective. Dr. Tang is proving traditional wisdom about vaccinations is in fact less effective than his revolutionary new non-invasive system.

Studies show the skin is more immuno-competent than deep tissues in the body. It forms a natural barrier against pathogens and its immune response can be as effective as a natural infection in eliciting a protective immune response but without the hazard associated with natural infections. Only, no one needs to get sick. The vaccine can be applied to a patch, in nose drops, creams and even shampoos.

This needle-free vaccination is particularly extraordinary because it will not require refrigeration, making it much easier for third world countries to obtain and administer immunizations. The vaccinations also eliminate the biohazard caused from used sharps.

The vaccine is a synthetic vector encoding a small number of genes. This means there is little chance of developing the disease itself. Vaccines for the human papilloma virus, tetanus, hepatitis B virus, influenza and rabies are being developed.

Dr. Tang has an agreement with the Navy to develop needle-free vaccines for anthrax, malaria and

dengue fever. The Navy recently granted UAB $3.5 million to help set up Dr. Tangs vectored-vaccine laboratory.
Pre-clinical data has indicated an immune response in mice, rabbits and monkeys. Currently, Dr. Tang is awaiting FDA approval to begin testing on humans.

An assistant professor at UAB since 1994, Dr. Tang earned his doctorate in

microbiology from Indiana University. He had post-doctoral experiences at Baylor College of Medicine, Duke University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Tang was a pioneer in the study of DNA vaccination.

Dr. Tangs scientific research led him to the formation of Vaxin, the name of the vaccine delivery company. Dr. Tang is vice president and chief technical officer of the company. UAB has licensed its patent for the technology to Vaxin to produce this revolutionary vaccine delivery mechanism.