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Vaxin Receives Grant For Tetanus Vaccine Patch Development

Birmingham, AL -- Vaxin, Inc. announced today that it received a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The grant (awarded June 1) was approved for \$282,625 for the first year for research towards developing the technology for a vaccine patch for tetanus. If progress continues, another \$282,625 should be awarded in 2002.

"We look forward to the development of the painless patch so children wont have to experience the pain of injection," says Kent Van Kampen, President of Vaxin.

Dr. De-chu Tang, a researcher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, invented the revolutionary way to administer vaccines without the use of needles.

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 needles from injection.

"The tetanus vaccine patch will boost tetanus coverage around the globe due to simplicity and patient comfort," says Dr. Tang.

Dr. Tang is vice president and chief technical officer of Vaxin. UAB has licensed its patent for the technology to Vaxin to produce this revolutionary vaccine delivery mechanism. Dr. Tang is awaiting FDA approval to begin testing on humans.

Tetanus Facts:

- Tetanus, also called lockjaw, is an infectious disease of the nervous system. It causes severe, painful muscle spasms and can eventually lead to locking of the jaw and can spread to the muscles of the abdomen, upper arms and thighs. Tetanus spores which create the bacteria can be found worldwide in soil, dust and animal waste. These spores produce a powerful nerve poison.
- The bacteria can get in through even a tiny pinprick or scratch, but deep puncture wounds or cuts like those made by nails or knives are especially susceptible to infection with tetanus. All that is needed to provide a suitable environment for the tetanus bacteria is a wound or cut contaminated with the soil and not open to the air.
- It usually takes two weeks after an injury for the symptoms to occur, but could range from two days to two months.
- Although uncommon, tetanus can be deadly, and infects approximately 70 Americans each year, according to the Mayo Clinic. Sixty percent of the cases are fatal. In developing countries, these numbers are significantly higher because immunization is not enforced or required. Treatment is long-term, and does not guarantee recovery.
- Fortunately, prevention is easy. Widespread immunization after WWII has made tetanus rare in

the U.S. Currently, infants receive a mandatory combination shot for tetanus and diptheria and adults should get a booster shot every ten years. With the invention of the patch vaccine, prevention can become even simpler and without pain.

Note: The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is a separate entity from the University of Alabama, and should be referred to in its entirety.