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## **New Hope for Flu Misery**

**Birmingham, AL -Feb. 14, 2004** -- As government officials gather in Washington on Feb. 18 to discuss which new flu strains to expect next, others work at a furious pace to prevent flu infections. Vaxin Inc., an emerging vaccine company, is developing a nasal-mist influenza vaccine, which could provide a fast, painless vaccine that can be manufactured more rapidly than existing products. The Vaxin vaccine is a mist; however, it is not live and is expected to have a broad usage for the entire population, both young and old, as it does not elicit the public concerns of other non-injectible products.

"Our nasal mist flu vaccine shows great promise in the laboratory. The flu causes so much misery and mortality, it is our utmost priority to bring an effective vaccine to painlessly prevent suffering, especially for the elderly and children, who are most likely to be killed by the virus," said Frank Cano, Ph.D., CEO and chairman of the board, Vaxin Inc.

The new vaccine could be easily produced in mass, unlike the current vaccine technology that has not provided sufficient supplies for consumer needs. The currently licensed injectible vaccine products are manufactured using 10- day-old chicken embryos. A needle injects the virus into the egg white for a three day growth cycle before the fluid can be harvested and processed. The process is cumbersome and dependent on constant egg production. Often, existing manufacturers process 200,000-300,000 eggs per day, placing an extremely high dependence upon outside factors, such as egg availability. The recent outbreaks of diseases such as Avian Influenza could severely impact viable sources of egg embryos.

Vaxin will use the latest cell culture technology.

"We can simply go to the freezer for frozen cells. Our vaccine can be made endlessly, quickly and in vast quantities," said Kent Van Kampen, president and COO, Vaxin. "We put the essential flu gene into the adenovirus, and use that virus for production. In humans, the virus cannot replicate at all, but the cells inside the nose stimulate a robust immune response to the flu antigen."

In its first clinical trial last year, the topically-applied recombinant vaccine answered initial safety questions, and showed promising results. Designed to be a proof-of-concept trial, the results demonstrated that the company's novel vaccine technology can produce an immune response in man very similar to what was observed in animal studies. The technology was developed in collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

"What we are trying to do is to make the painful, painless, the expensive, more cost effective, the safe, safer; and the impossible, possible," said De-chu Tang (pronounced TAN) vice president and chief technical officer for Vaxin and lead researcher at UAB.

Vaxin Inc. is a privately-held vaccine company, which is concentrating on eliciting immune responses through non-invasive means. The company's technology platform includes a skin delivery system for vaccines called EasyVax™, as well as other mucosal delivery programs. Vaxin's goal is to discover and develop new vaccine products with topical and mucosal applications through its research and in partnership with other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

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This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. We have identified certain important factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in such forward-looking statements.