

AlphaVax Announces NIH New Vaccine Grant for Influenza

Research Triangle Park, N.C. AlphaVax announced today that it has received a significant new vaccine development grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The new award provides a total of \$6.5 million over a three-year period to support the first pre-clinical development and preparations for clinical stages of development of an influenza vaccine using the company's promising new vaccine technology, the **ArV™** (AlphaVax replicon Vector) system.

Influenza remains a leading cause of illness and death around the world, causing over an estimated \$1 billion in direct economic costs¹, as much as \$15 billion in lost earnings due to illness², and 36,000 deaths annually in the U.S. alone. The appearance of new strains of avian influenza in Asia in the last few years that have caused as much as 70% mortality in the several dozen humans who have become infected has raised the specter of a new, potentially devastating human influenza pandemic in the future. Coupled with shortages in the nation's influenza vaccine supply during the annual seasonal outbreaks of the disease in the last two years, these factors have placed improved influenza vaccine technologies and infrastructure development among the top priorities for U.S. public health agencies.

Jeffrey Chulay, M.D., Chief Medical Officer of **AlphaVax**, commented, "We are extremely pleased that the NIH will support our efforts to develop a new vaccine against such a significant public health threat. The **AlphaVax** vaccine technology holds great promise against influenza as well as many other important human diseases, and this new grant will accelerate our pursuit of an effective new influenza vaccine. It is particularly exciting that this program will give us our earliest opportunity to evaluate the efficacy of our vaccine system in a Phase II clinical trial."

Data from a collaboration between **AlphaVax** and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southeast Poultry Research Lab in Athens, Georgia, has already shown that an **ArV™** vaccine can protect birds from being infected by avian influenza. The collaboration with SEPRL will continue under the new grant, Dr. Chulay noted.

The new grant is the seventh vaccine development grant that **AlphaVax** has now received from the NIH supporting vaccine programs in HIV, biodefense, and SARS. The company is working with a number of other academic and industry partners on vaccines for diseases like herpes and human papilloma virus (the principal cause of cervical cancer), as well as vaccines that can be used to treat different types of cancer.