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NIH gives $2.2 mn to VaxInnate for dengue vaccine

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Singapore: National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has provided funds worth $2.2 million to US based-novel vaccine firm VaxInnate for the development of a recombinant tetravalent dengue vaccine over a period of three years.

The vaccine will use VaxInnate's proprietary technology, which involves genetically fusing vaccine antigens to the bacterial protein flagellin, a potent stimulator of the innate immune system, which dramatically improves the potency, manufacturing capacity and cost-effectiveness of vaccines.

Mr Wayne Pisano, president and CEO, VaxInnate, said that, "We're pleased to receive this grant and look forward to working with NIAID to develop a vaccine to prevent dengue, a disease that poses an increasing public health threat worldwide. VaxInnate's selection for this grant is another endorsement of the potential of our proprietary technology to meet critical and emerging public health threats."

The NIAID grant is VaxInnate's fourth funding opportunity from the US Government. The company previously received earmarks from the Department of Defense (DoD) for the development of vaccines to prevent dengue and malaria. Under a 2011 contract with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), VaxInnate is using recombinant technology to develop pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccines.