

# **IOMAI AWARDED FUNDING TO DEVELOP DOSE-SPARING PATCH FOR USE IN AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC**

Iomai

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Iomai has received a contract from the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to fund the company's development of a dose-sparing patch for use with a pandemic influenza vaccine. If the product is developed through licensure, the total cost reimbursed by DHHS, plus the fixed fee, is estimated to be US\$128 million. DHHS has allotted approximately US\$14.5 million to cover performance under this contract up until 31st March 2008.

Iomai is currently developing a skin patch that, when used in conjunction with an injectable influenza vaccine, is designed to stimulate an immune response to even small doses of vaccine. This would allow public health officials to extend vaccine supply in the event of an influenza pandemic. During the course of the DHHS contract, the company will be reimbursed for research, development and capital costs associated with the preclinical and clinical testing of the immunostimulant patch. Under the contract, Iomai will develop a plan to bring the product to market and move forward to assess the safety and immunogenicity of the patch, with initial funding will be used to show safety and immunogenicity in humans.

According to Iomai, dose-sparing strategies for pandemic influenza could be a significant component of the response to an influenza pandemic. Recent research indicates that even at peak capacity, vaccine production may only be sufficient to vaccinate less than 10 per cent of the US population. The Iomai approach uses a potent adjuvant, applied to the skin through a patch that is affixed over the site of the injected vaccine. Once the patch is applied, the adjuvant passes into the skin, has been shown in a clinical study to boost immune responses to traditional influenza vaccines in a group of elderly volunteers.

In addition to accelerating the pace of research and clinical testing, Iomai will also develop for DHHS a detailed production plan explaining how the company would produce 150 million immunostimulant patches in a six-month period. Though Iomai will soon begin that planning process as laid out by DHHS, the contract announced today does not cover commercial production of the patches; additional funding would be required to produce the patches at the scale needed for stockpiling.