

WASHINGTON-. For the 4th year running, Congressman Spencer Bachus has secured research funding for the Vectored Vaccine Research Program. The program, operated by ImmuneFocus in coordination with the Navy at UAB facilities, is working towards creating a topical (on the skin) vaccination application. For fiscal 2004, \$1.5 million had been approved in the House Conference Report, matching the \$1.5 million dollar request put in by Congressman Bachus.

UAB is scheduled to receive royalties from the program for the licensing of their technology. In 1997, UAB scientists made the discovery that vaccines can be applied topically. “The royalties generated from this technology will benefit the University of Alabama system for years to come”, Bachus said. “We can all take great pride that research generated at UAB may have life changing and life saving benefits worldwide.”

“I am pleased the joint venture between UAB, ImmuneFocus, and the Navy will provide technology that will result in a painless vaccination application. This will increase the vaccination rate, and will improve the prevention of deadly diseases and protect citizens against potential biological dangers”, Congressman Bachus said.

The recent bioterrorism threat has heightened the need to develop vaccines against

potential biological agents that could be used as weapons by terrorists. The new technology, that includes an anthrax vaccine, will allow such vaccines to be shipped or stored without the need for refrigeration. They can be made quickly and inexpensively, and the disposal and safety of needles and syringes would no longer be a concern.