



- [14-Day Archives](#) | [Paid Archives](#)
- [Subscribe](#) | [Today's Paper & More](#)

HEALTH BRIEFS

Page 2 of 5

OHSU spinoff gets

\$1.65 million grant Najit Technologies Inc., an Oregon Health & Science University spinoff company, has been awarded a \$1.65 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop tests that will help detect suspected bioterrorist attacks.

Mark Slifka, an associate scientist at OHSU's Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute and president and chief scientific officer of Najit, will work with Anne Rimoin, an epidemiologist and assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, to develop rapid and accurate diagnostic tests for pox viruses, including smallpox and monkey pox.

The last natural case of smallpox was reported in 1977, and by 1980, it was declared extinct in nature. Vials of the smallpox virus still remain in secure research laboratories in the United States and Russia; however, since Sept. 11, there has been concern that terrorists could obtain and release a weaponized form of smallpox.