

■ **The US NIAID* has announced a free distribution programme for a new 'SARS** chip'** that will enable researchers to rapidly detect tiny genetic variations among different SARS virus strains. This announcement is the result of an alliance of government, not-for-profit and industry partners. NIAID has purchased several hundred SARS microarrays – essentially a reference strain of the SARS coronavirus embedded in a quartz chip – and will distribute the arrays at no cost to qualified researchers worldwide. Researchers can request the SARS array through the NIAID's website at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/genomes/pfgrc>. The NIAID hopes that widespread access to the SARS genome chip will encourage research into effective treatments for the virus.

* National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

** severe acute respiratory syndrome

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). NIAID Offers 'SARS Chip' Free to Researchers. Media Release : 23 Jun 2003. Available from: URL: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov> 809022708