

Bill proposes \$2 million for local biotech group

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The Gainesville Sun had the following to say in an excerpt about the funding:

... Banyan chief executive officer Gary Ascani said that during serious head traumas, enzymes are released in the brain. Those enzymes break down brain cells and the remaining proteins quickly mix with the body's blood.

Banyan is working on a blood test that would detect those proteins that are unique to specific areas of brain injuries.

The test would be useful near the battlefield because brain scans are not always available and are not always reliable in detecting brain chemical problems.

Banyan is working with another Texas-based company that is building the handheld devices that would be used to do the blood test, Ascani said.

Banyan is working with the University of Florida, which did some of the early research in brain protein detection.