



USA/CAN/JAP/EU: Countries unite to reduce animal use

Representatives from four international agencies, including the director of the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP), signed a memorandum of cooperation that could reduce the number of animals required for consumer product safety testing worldwide. The agreement between the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Union will yield globally coordinated scientific recommendations on alternative toxicity testing methods that should speed their adoption in each of these countries, thus reducing the number of animals needed for product safety testing. The memorandum is available at http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/docs/about_docs/ICATM-MOC.pdf.

The agreement promotes enhanced international cooperation and coordination on the scientific validation of non-and reduced-animal toxicity testing methods. If the toxicity testing methods are shown to be reproducible based on strong scientific information, and able to accurately identify product related health hazards, the tests

are more readily accepted by regulatory agencies.

Federal agencies are committed to the welfare of animals used in research. All animals used in federally-funded research are protected by laws, regulations and policies to ensure they are used in the smallest number possible and with the greatest commitment to their comfort. ICCVAM is working to promote the development and validation of alternative test methods.

The European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods coordinates validation studies on proposed alternative methods, evaluates the results by peer review, and provides recommendations to the European Union National Coordinators for regulatory acceptance of the methods validated. For more information on ECVAM, visit <http://ecvam.jrc.it/>.

The Japanese Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods is a component of Japan's National Institute of Health Sciences and was established in 2005 to coordinate validation studies on proposed

alternative methods, conduct peer reviews of test methods, and provide recommendations to regulatory authorities.

The Environmental Health Science and Research Bureau within Health Canada coordinates activities relevant to health-related test method validation and acceptance issues. For additional information, visit <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/hecs-dgsesc/sep-psm/ehsrb-bsser-eng.php>.

The NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) administers and provides scientific support for ICCVAM and is a part of the NTP at the NIEHS. For additional information, visit NICEATM at http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/about/about_NICEATM.htm.

NIEHS supports research to understand the effects of the environment on human health and is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). For more information on environmental health topics, visit our website at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov>.

NIH press release, April 27th 2009

Calendar of Events

» **Forinvitox Forum event "From innovation to market success".**

**May 12-14, 2009,
Karolinska Institute Stockholm,
Sweden.**

Info: <http://forinvitox.org/>

» **19th Annual Meeting of the SETAC Europe – Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.**

**May 31-June 4, 2009,
Goeteborg, Sweden.**

Info: <http://goteborg.setac.eu/?contentid=13>

» **UFAW International Symposium 2009. Darwinian selection, selective breeding and the welfare of animals.**

**June 22-23, 2009,
University of Bristol, Bristol, UK.**

Info: <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/UFAW-SYMPOSIUM2009.php>

» **International course on Laboratory Animal Science – Utrecht, The Netherlands.**

**July 6-17, 2009,
Division of Laboratory Animal Science, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.**

Info: e-mail: las@uu.nl,
www.vet.uu.nl/las>Education and Training>International course

» **The 2009 International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society: Minding Animals.**

**July 13-18, 2009,
Civic Precinct, Newcastle, Australia.**

Info: <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>

» **7th World Congress on Alternatives and the Use of Animals in Life Sciences.**
**August 30-September 3, 2009,
Rome, Italy.**

Info: <http://www.aimgroup.eu/2009/WC7/index.html>