



News

EU: Environmental endpoints added to ECHA RAAF

The updated Read-Across Assessment Framework (RAAF) published by ECHA now covers REACH information requirements concerning human health, environmental fate and environmental hazards.

Registrants can use it to check the quality of their own read-across cases. ECHA's experts use the framework to assess read-across cases in a consistent and transparent manner. The first version of the assessment framework covering the human health endpoints was published in 2015.

Read-across is the most commonly used alternative method under REACH. It works by using test results for a particular property of a substance to predict that property for another substance. When used correctly, it can help to avoid unnecessary testing on vertebrate animals.

The framework does not replace the official guidance on read-across for registrants but complements it. A document with considerations on read-across involving UVCBs and multi-constituent substances is also in preparation.

RAAF: <http://bit.ly/2nmD6nG>

RAAF Annexes: <http://bit.ly/2nEmKJB>

Practical guide on how to use alternatives to animal testing: <http://bit.ly/2onbKNR>

Adapted from ECHA/NA/17/02

EU: Commission processing reproductive toxicity decisions

The European Commission is processing draft implementing decisions requesting registrants to update their dossiers with information relating to the extended one-generation reproductive toxicity study (EOGRTS).

ECHA had referred these cases to the Commission as a unanimous agreement on them was not reached in the Member State Committee. The public versions of the final Commission decisions will be published later on DG Environment's and ECHA's web pages.

EOGRTS has been the information requirement for reproductive toxicity in REACH since March 2015.

ECHA Weekly
March 8, 2017

EU: JRC report on 3R knowledge sharing published

The JRC has carried out a study of available knowledge on the replacement, reduction and refinement (the 3Rs) of animal procedures used in research and testing to understand how supply of such knowledge can better meet demand. Findings show that although much 3Rs knowledge exists, its sharing can be improved through better coordination, communication and outreach, and by more emphasis on targeted education and training initiatives.

In 2015, the Commission identified four actions to accelerate the development and uptake of non-animal approaches, in response to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Stop Vivisection". The work undertaken in this study underpins the first action that set out to assess the current situation regarding the sharing of knowledge relevant to the 3Rs between various sectors and communities with a mind to accelerate the development and uptake of non-animal approaches in research and testing.

Full report: <http://bit.ly/2nOoD6z>

EU Science Hub

February 20, 2017

FRA: EthicScience campaign supports 3Rs research

The EthicScience campaign is a sponsorship program that was launched by the non-governmental organization Pro Anima in 2013. Its goal is to support a selection of scientific programs that do not use animal experimentation.

So far more than €40,000 has been distributed for research. In January, €3,000 each was awarded to Saadia Berrada, who works on a new generation of synthetic skin, and Ludovic Wiszniewski, who works on a new inhalation test applicable for e-cigarettes.

Website: <http://www.proanima.fr/en/ethicscience/>

More information: contact@proanima.fr



GER: New chair for 3R methods in Frankfurt filled

A new university chair for pharmaceutical technology with the research focus 3R methods has been filled at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. Prof. Maïke Windbergs' research focuses on the development of organotypic three-dimensional cell cultures for animal-free pharmaceutical drug testing. The chair will be supported with €200,000 for five years.

The State of Hesse will also finance a chair on the refinement of animal experiments at the Justus Liebig University in Gießen with a further € 1 million.

University of Frankfurt
press release
February 3, 2017

GER: Call for nominations for Animal Protection Research Prize

The Federal Ministry for Nutrition and Agriculture awards a yearly prize for innovative scientific work aimed at reducing or replacing animal experiments. Work aiming to improve the husbandry conditions of experimental animals may also be submitted. The prize, which is endowed with €25,000, will be awarded in 2017 for the 36th time. Applications must be based on scientific papers that are accepted for publication or were published within the past two years.

Deadline for application: May 1, 2017

More information: http://www.bmel.de/Tierschutz_und_Forschung

Adapted from
BMEL PM21/17
March 15, 2017

GER: Research alliance R2N established

The Ministry for Science and Culture has established a new research alliance "R2N – Replace and Reduce from Lower Saxony – Replacement and Refinement for future-oriented biomedical research", which will be supported with €4.5 million over a period of four years. Members of the alliance are the Medical University of Hannover, the University Medical Faculty at Göttingen and the Leibniz University Hannover. TWINCORE – Center for Experimental and Clinical Infection Research, the Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine and the German Primate Center are also associated.

The alliance aims to develop replacement and refinement methods including *ex vivo* and *in vitro* methods to replace *in vivo* experiments and partial replacement methods that can reduce the number of animals required to answer specific research questions. Work packages aim to develop alternative methods in basic and translational research, investigate ethical aspects, and exchange scientists and establish a network for alternative methods.

Ministry for Science
and Culture of
Lower Saxony
Press release
March 8, 2017

INT: New release of Effectopedia site available

Effectopedia is an open-knowledge and structured platform to display quantitative information on adverse outcome pathways (AOPs) supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This collaborative tool is designed to facilitate interdisciplinary efforts for delineating AOPs in an encyclopedic manner with greater predictive power.

The new release of Effectopedia features:

- A stable and user-friendly experience, supported by online training material (videos, introduction tutorials)
- Quantitative features that support entry of dose- and time-response data and can be used to derive response-to-response relationships
- New functionalities for model development and interaction
- Workflow support that allows users to create and save their AOPs locally or publicly

Website: <https://www.effectopedia.org/>

Other OECD resources for development of AOPs:
<http://bit.ly/2ny8rDW>

Adapted from
NICEATM News
February 15, 2017

INT: InterNICHE seeks input for film

InterNICHE is working on a new global film about alternatives in veterinary education and training. This is a request for your suggestions for content. The film aims to facilitate replacement of harmful animal use (dissection of purpose killed animals, animal experiments and other instrumental animal use) and to ex-



ploring the potential for a fully humane veterinary education and training.

We have some important footage already, and following a short hiatus we are now ready to get the rest of the footage we need. Your ideas are welcome concerning universities and colleges, teachers, students and campaigners, and alternatives and their developers, that could be important to include or interview in the film. These can be from your country, or internationally – and examples from North America are particularly welcome.

The suggestions could include specific exemplary or innovative alternative tools or approaches; development and implementation of alternatives at a specific college or university; major replacement achieved; alternatives implemented due to student conscientious objection; opinions on harmful animal use; veterinary education and training that is humane within a discipline in your country by convention; and official bodies that support or have accredited courses that use alternatives.

Reflections on the latest trends in veterinary medicine and their expression within education and training are also welcome, as are thoughts on the changing nature of education as a whole.

Contact: coordinator@interniche.org

Nick Jukes
InterNICHE

INT: OECD releases Guidance Document on IATA

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recently released a “Guidance Document for the Use of Adverse Outcome Pathways in Developing Integrated Approaches for Testing and Assessment (IATA)”. This guidance document is intended to:

- Provide a framework for developing and using IATA
- Describe how IATA can be based on the adverse outcome pathway concept
- Provide examples on how AOPs can be used in the development of IATA

IATA provide a means for combining the data from different testing methods, with the objective of predicting chemical toxicity more accurately than with any single test method.

The OECD Programme on Hazard Assessment addresses chemical hazards. One of the programme’s current efforts is on the development and application of IATA and the collation of comments on new hazard assessment methodologies.

More information: <http://bit.ly/2iTaZcz>

NICEATM News
March 24, 2017

UK: SEARCHBreast helps tissue sharing to benefit the 3Rs

The framework SEARCHBreast (Sharing Experimental Animal Resources, Coordinating Holdings), established with NC3Rs funding, enables scientists to share material from animal studies in breast cancer research, minimizing repetition of animal studies and maximizing the use of available resources. Professor Valerie Speirs from the University of Leeds and colleagues describe this work and the benefits of extending the SEARCH concept to other research fields in an article published in the open access journal *PLOS Biology* (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.2000719>).

The SEARCH initiative brings together those requiring animal tissue and those holding this type of archival material. The first SEARCH example, NC3Rs-funded SEARCHBreast, is a free database that lists tissues associated with mouse models of breast cancer, and makes them available without charge to scientists. It is run by the University of Leeds, alongside the Barts Cancer Institute, the University of Sheffield and the Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute.

The team led by Professor Valerie Speirs conducted a survey, with 135 respondents from different research institutes, about the use of animal models in oncology and other disciplines. The responses showed clearly that there is a significant surplus material generated from most animal studies. Encouragingly, the vast majority (95%) of the researchers were willing to share this material on a collaborative basis. At the same time, respondents who did not use animals but wished to do so, listed lack of access to tissue and/or technical expertise and financial constraints as the main barriers.

Professor Speirs and colleagues saw an opportunity to facilitate possible collaborations while reducing the use of animals. An example genetic model of breast cancer could require an extensive breeding program just to generate a single mouse with the required phenotype, which may take up to 18 months and require the use of many animals. Rather than re-creating these models in their labs, researchers around the world can first check the database to see if an existing resource matches their needs.

To date, over 220 scientists have signed up to the SEARCHBreast database, from the UK, European Union, United States, and Australia, to share resources and expertise to accelerate breast cancer research without the use of additional animals. As of 31 October 2016, 86 animal models were available through SEARCHBreast, representing thousands of ready-to-use tissue samples, including formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue blocks, cells, and histological slides.

Promotional video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_1mDBjEHe4

Website: <https://searchbreast.org/>

NC3Rs News
January 27, 2017



UK: Launch of the Alliance for Human Relevant Science

The Alliance for Human Relevant Science is an exciting new collaboration, founded to address an urgent need to drive research and development, policymaking, awareness, outreach and education into human based methods of safety testing and biomedical research.

Launched at a very successful parliamentary event on February 8 in the UK House of Commons, the Alliance will act as a center of expertise, to champion delivery of tools and therapies focused on human biology, to help improve public health and safety. The launch was attended by politicians and scientists from academia, industry and regulatory agencies, to hear talks from the Alliance's five founder organizations, Safer Medicines Trust, Dr Hadwen Trust, Kirkstall, Cyprotex and CN Bio Innovations, as well as other experts in the field of human-based research. There was great enthusiasm and support for the concept and formation of the Alliance, with a majority of attendees registering their interest immediately after the event.

Following its official launch, the Alliance – which initially is UK-centered – is engaging with potential partners and welcomes new organizations to join and expand – as well as benefit from – this ambitious new collegiate enterprise, in its mission to drive an urgently needed paradigm shift towards more human relevant science and away from unreliable animal models. This will deliver better science, leading to improved health and safety, as well as greater efficiency in time, cost and scientific resource, by ensuring human relevant technologies gain their rightful status as the 'gold standard'. *It is time to focus on the human.*

For more information on the Alliance, to register interest, or to see introductory talks and a highlights video from the launch event, please visit <http://www.HumanRelevantScience.org> or email info@HumanRelevantScience.org.

Rebecca Ram,
Scientific Consultant
Safer Medicines Trust
Rebecca@SaferMedicines.org

UK: Call for nominations for the LUSH Prize 2017

Nominations for the LUSH Prize 2017 soon can be submitted in the categories Science, Lobbying, Public Awareness, Training and Young Researcher for work based around promoting the complete replacement of animals tests. The total prize money of £250,000, provided by LUSH Cosmetics, is shared among the winners.

Submissions: April 24 - July 24, 2017
More information: <http://lushprize.org/>

UK: David Sainsbury Fellowship: Call for outlines

The NC3Rs is now inviting informal outlines to our David Sainsbury Fellowship scheme. This scheme supports talented 3Rs-minded scientists who have two to six years' postdoctoral experience, and are looking to transition into an independent career.

Outline submission deadline: April 24, 2017
More information: <http://bit.ly/2oNVLbv>

NC3Rs News
March 31, 2017

UK: Development of an adverse outcome pathway (AOP) for cardiotoxicity

The NC3Rs is inviting applications to their latest strategic award call. The focus of this call is to perform a comprehensive literature-based review and develop the AOP 'L-type Ca²⁺ channel block leading to heart failure'.

Application deadline: April 26, 2017
More information: <http://bit.ly/2oNWj11>

NC3Rs News
March 31, 2017

USA: ARDF offers research grants

The Alternatives Research & Development Foundation (ARDF), which promotes alternatives to the use of laboratory animals in research, testing, and education, is currently soliciting research proposals for its 2017 Alternatives Research Grant Program. For over 20 years, this innovative program has created opportunities for scientists who have interest and expertise in alternatives research.

ARDF is offering up to \$40,000 to support individual projects. Preference will be given to projects based in U.S. universities and research institutions using pathway-based "21st century toxicology" approaches. Proposals will be evaluated on their potential to significantly replace or reduce animal use and their scientific merit and feasibility.

Application deadline: May 1, 2017
More information: <http://www.ardf-online.org>

NICEATM News
January 19, 2017



USA: Nominations for the Charles River Excellence in Refinement Award sought

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Charles River Laboratories Excellence in Refinement Award, sponsored by Charles River's Commitment to Humane Animal Research Through Excellence and Responsibility (CHARTER) Program in cooperation with the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT). This award honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the development, promotion and/or implementation of refinement alternatives. This award is based on the conviction that the humane care of laboratory animals is both a moral imperative and a scientific necessity. The Award will be presented at the 10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in Seattle, WA.

The award includes \$5,000 to further the recipient's scientific endeavors and complimentary registration and travel support to Seattle, WA. In addition to a curriculum vitae with bibliography, please provide in your cover letter a brief sketch of the nominee's professional background and a statement pertaining to the individual's qualifications for the award.

Deadline for nomination: April 30, 2017

Submission to: jderita1@jhu.edu

USA: Call for nominations for the 2017 Russell and Burch Award

The Humane Society of the United States welcomes nominations of scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of alternative methods in the areas of research, testing, or higher education for the Russell and Burch Award. Alternative methods – also known as the Three Rs – are methods that can replace or reduce the use of animals, or refine procedures so that animals experience less pain or suffering.

The award is named in honor of William Russell and Rex Burch, the scientists who formulated the Three Rs approach of replacement, reduction and refinement. The Award recognizes those who have played an important role in limiting the use and suffering of animals in laboratories.

Candidates are judged on the scientific merit of their contribution to the alternatives field, as well as their impact and professional commitment to alternatives. Applicants should have a proven history of laboratory work that is above reproach on humane grounds.

Persons nominating themselves should submit a cover letter explaining their suitability for the award, a curriculum vitae and three published articles, preferably in PDF format, that represent their work in alternative testing methods. Persons nominating others should submit a letter explaining the nominee's suitability for the award and arrange to have a curriculum vitae and three published articles, preferably in PDF format, forwarded.

The Humane Society of the United States will bestow the Russell and Burch Award at the 10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences August 20-24, 2017 in Seattle, WA, USA. The awardee will receive a \$5,000 award and a plaque.

Deadline for nomination: April 10, 2017

Submission to: nwertan@humanesociety.org

HSUS PR 02/2017

February 6, 2017