



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

December 27, 2010

RADM William S. Stokes
Director
National Toxicology Program
Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P. O. Box 12233
Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear RADM Stokes:

This letter is in response to correspondence from Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, requesting that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) review the following two products of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods:

ICCVAM Test Method Evaluation Report, "Murine Local Lymph Node Assay: DA, A Nonradioactive Alternative Test Method to Assess the Allergic Contact Dermatitis Potential of Chemicals and Products." (NIH Publication No. 10-7551)

ICCVAM Test Method Evaluation Report, "Murine Local Lymph Node Assay: BrdU-ELISA, A Nonradioactive Alternative Test Method to Assess the Allergic Contact Dermatitis Potential of Chemicals and Products." (NIH Publication No. 10-7552)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on these proposed test methods. CDC/ATSDR concurs with your recommendations regarding these methods and agrees that these test methods should be considered before using whole animals for toxicity testing. The ICCVAM recommended methods should be used as appropriate.

ICCVAM is to be commended on its work towards reduction, refinement, and replacement of animals in toxicity testing. This is a tremendous challenge our society faces, as new chemicals are being introduced into commerce at an ever increasing pace, while the resources to test them are indeed limited. However, promoting advances in alternative methods and maintaining scientific quality without compromise of human, animal, and the environmental health should remain our goal.

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If you need any further information, please contact Dr. Moiz Mumtaz, Science Advisor, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine (DTEM), our principal agency representative to ICCVAM, by calling (770) 488-3349, or Dr. Bruce Fowler, Associate Director of Science, DTEM, ATSDR at (770) 488-7250.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, CDC, and
Administrator, ATSDR

cc:

Linda Birnbaum, Director, NIEHS
Moiz Mumtaz Ph.D.
Bruce Fowler, Ph.D.