

Feature Story

US Inter-Governmental Collaboration Aims to Reduce Animal Use in Toxicity Testing

The US federal government recently announced a new initiative with the ambitious goal of a paradigm shift in toxicity testing for human health effects—away from the historical reliance on animal testing and towards high-throughput approaches based on molecular and cellular methods. The initiative is a partnership among the NIH Chemical Genomics Center (NCGC) of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The partnership seeks to implement recommendations proposed in the National Toxicology Program's Vision and Roadmap and the National Research Council report, *Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: A Vision and a Strategy*.

By itself, the intra-governmental collaboration (formally a "memorandum of understanding" or MOU) has the potential to be a milestone in the development of non-animal testing methods. However, that impact can be greatly magnified by strategic alliances with other key players, including ECVAM and interested corporations. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that to realize the NRC vision within 10 years would take an overall commitment of \$200 million per year (\$2 billion total).

Interested stakeholders are invited to discuss the MOU, challenges to implementation, likely impact on the field of toxicity testing, and related issues in AltTox's [Programs & Policies forum](#).

New on AltTox

Forum Discussions

The following is a list of some of the new, thought-provoking posts on the AltTox forums:

- Acute Systemic Toxicity forum: [AcuteTox, an In-Vitro Test Strategy for Predicting Human Acute Toxicity](#)
- Eye & Skin Irritation forum: [Sharing experiences with in vitro ocular tests](#)
- Genotoxicity/Carcinogenicity forum: [Moving away from in vitro tests as purely hazard identification tools](#)
- Reproductive & Developmental Toxicity forum: [Evaluation of OECD 414 endpoints postnatally in an extended 1-gen study?](#)
- Programs & Policies forum: [ICCVAM 5 year plan](#)

Make sure to visit the forums and offer your views on one or more of the many topics being discussed. Progress depends on your participation!

[Enter Forums >>](#)

New and Updated Information

The AltTox.org Management team strives to give readers the most up-to-date summary information related to non-animal methods of toxicity testing. Check out our latest updated material:

In the Spotlight

- [Federal Agencies Collaborate on New High Throughput Toxicity Screening Initiative](#)
- [ICCVAM Unveils Eagerly Awaited 5-Year Plan](#)

Toxicity Testing Resource Center

- [Skin Irritation/Corrosion](#)
- [National Toxicology Program](#)
- Informational Resources: [Organizations & Associations](#), [Journals](#), [In Vitro Testing & Other Services](#), [3Rs Awards](#), [Other Literature/Websites](#)

Upcoming Events

Here are some of the many upcoming events listed on AltTox that should be of interest to our readership:

- Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting, March 16-20, Seattle, Washington, US
- INVITROM Symposium. Towards Better Reliable In Vitro Methods, April 22, Bruges, Belgium
- Alternatives to animal testing: New approaches in the development and control of biologicals, April 23-24, Dubrovnik, Croatia
- NC3Rs/BBSRC Meeting: Engineering Tissue Alternatives to Animals, April 30, 2008, London, UK

[Read more >>](#)

User Participation

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and forum participation. Comments and suggestions can be submitted by using the online [Website Feedback](#) survey, or by e-mail to info@alttox.org. Please submit your suggestions for postings to Informational Resources or Events to info@alttox.org.

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