

Feature Story

EPAA Workshop – New perspectives on safety

The European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) recently held a high-level workshop for the purpose of identifying potentially useful approaches that may lead to the development of alternatives for repeated-dose testing. EPAA is a partnership between the European Commission and industry sectors, including the manufacturers of pharmaceutical, chemical, and consumer products. Although considerable progress has been made towards non-animal alternatives for acute, site-of contact toxicity (e.g., skin and eye irritation), the best approaches to replacing longer-term tests for systemic toxicity are still unclear. Given the revolution in life sciences over the past decade, EPAA decided to seek the advice of the top minds in life sciences and chemistry on possible novel approaches that could lead to replacements for repeated-dose toxicity testing.

The invited participants at the workshop spanned a wide range of expertise including stem cells, computational chemistry, systems biology, receptor biology, biotechnology and bioengineering, molecular toxicology, metabolism, informatics, medicine and pathology. The group acknowledged the complexities of modeling toxicity in a variety of organisms and indicated that replacing traditional models will be difficult and require extensive resources and time. There are a number of areas that are amenable to being applied to toxicology immediately, and for which progress can be made relatively quickly. These include chemi-informatics, computer-based predictions of metabolism, the generation of multiple cell types from stem cells, sensor-based systems to evaluate individual cellular responses, and tiered approaches to testing. Longer-term approaches that will be useful include toxicogenomics and other approaches to catalog mechanisms of toxicity at a molecular level, systems biology approaches to generate hypotheses about toxic action and to design testable experiments, and possibly the use of lower species.

A workshop report, along with commentaries, will be published shortly. AltTox will provide citations for these when they are available.

Forum Discussions

Some of the recent posts on the AltTox forums include the following:

- Acute Systemic forum: [European drug companies challenging requirement for acute toxicity studies](#)
- Genotoxicity/Carcinogenicity forum: [Updated ICH guidelines for genotoxicity testing of pharmaceuticals](#)
- Programs & Policies forum: [Front-page Washington Post Article on ICCVAM](#)
- Overarching Challenges & Opportunities forum: [Alternatives & Animal Tests - what is the cost-benefit ratio?](#)

Make sure to visit the forums and offer your views on one or more of the topics being discussed.

[Enter Forums >>](#)

New and Updated Information

The AltTox.org Management Team and Editorial Board strive 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

- [PPP: Perspectives in Percutaneous Penetration](#)
- [New Internet Search Engine for 3Rs Methods: Go3R.org](#)

Toxicity Testing Resource Center

- Toxicity Endpoints & Tests: [Dermal Penetration](#)
- Informational Resources: [Meetings & Events](#), [Organizations & Associations](#), [Other Literature/Websites](#)

Upcoming Events

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

- 2008 US EPA Science Forum, May 20-22, 2008, Washington, DC, USA
- 2nd Technical Workshop, The Phenion® Skin Model Technologies and their Applications, May 27-28, 2008, Dusseldorf, Germany
- Nanotechnology: Towards Reducing Animal Testing, May 28-29, 2008, London, England
- NCR3s Workshop: Toxicokinetics and the 3Rs, May 29, 2008, London, England
- 13th International Workshop on Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships (QSARs) in the Environmental Sciences, June 8-12, 2008, Syracuse, New York, USA

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User Participation

We welcome your participation in the AltTox forums, as well as your comments and suggestions, which 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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