

## Feature Story

### AltTox Announces New "Communities of Practice" Forums

AltTox has created a new communication tool to serve the needs of working groups and others tackling specific challenges in advancing non-animal methods of toxicity testing. Our new "Communities of Practice" (CoP) forums are intended to operate as centers for discussion and information exchange among working groups, consortia, dialogue groups, committees, panels, etc. tasked with working through a specific challenge that will advance non-animal testing methods. Members of these groups can go to the CoP forum to post the latest draft of a working document or be updated on the most recent activity related to a specific topic. Because the new forums are open to viewing and participation by the larger AltTox readership, they give visibility and transparency to a project, engaging stakeholders that may not otherwise be aware of ongoing work.

The first CoP forum was instituted earlier this month in the Emerging Technologies forum. The [Chemical Reactivity - ChemReactTox](#) forum will be a focal point for online activity of scientists working in the area of characterizing electrophilic reactivity. Examples of current work include the quantitative determination of reactivity for endpoints such as skin sensitisation (Natsch, et al., 2008; Gerberick, et al., Roberts, et al., 2008; Schultz, et al., 2005 - [DEFRA LINK project](#)) and the characterisation of organic chemistry rules and implementing these into tools for routine use (Aptula and Roberts, 2006; Enoch, et al., 2008 ([CAESAR](#))). The ChemReactTox CoP forum welcomes comments from those involved in both direct experimental determination of reactivity and those who use these measures in the prediction of both environmental and human health effects.

The AltTox.org Management Team is in discussion with representatives of other working groups who are exploring the possibility of establishing a Community of Practice forum on AltTox. We would be interested in hearing from others with similar interests. For more information, please email [info@alttox.org](mailto:info@alttox.org).

## Forum Postings

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

### Toxicity Endpoints & Tests forum

- [Draft OECD TG for in vitro skin irritation testing endorsed by experts](#)
- [EHP Science Education Lesson on the BCOP Assay](#)
- [ECVAM Workshop report on Chemical Respiratory Allergy – No. 2](#)
- [ICCVAM Issues Recommendation on In Vitro Pyrogenicity Test Methods](#)

### Emerging Technologies forum

- [OECD issues guidance on using \(Q\)SAR application toolbox](#)
- [ForinviTox Forum 2009: The First Market place for in vitro tox testing methods](#)
- [OECD Application Toolbox - Phase 2 Update](#)
- [ChemReactTox - a new Community of Practice](#)

### Programs & Policies forum

- [Dr. Linda Birnbaum appointed as new Director NIEHS and NTP](#)
- [OECD releases draft Test Guidelines for public comment](#)
- [NTP's Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods](#)
- [Regulation of Nanoparticles under TSCA](#)

### Overarching Challenges & Opportunities forum

- [EPAA meeting report: "New Perspectives on Safety"](#)
- [3Rs and regulatory testing](#)
- [SOT President's reaction to NRC's "Toxicity Testing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"](#)
- [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Russell & Burch 'Principles of Humane Experimental Technique'](#)
- [Hartung is new head of CAAT](#)

Be sure to visit the forums, respond to previous postings, or start a new message thread.

[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 material:

### In the Spotlight

- [North American Alternative Awards Announced](#)
- [Meeting Report: TestSmart's DNT2](#)

### The Way Forward

- [Applying Non-Animal Approaches to the Assessment of Skin Sensitization](#) by Emanuela Corsini

### Toxicity Testing Resource Center

- [Validated and Regulatory Accepted Alternative Methods](#)
- Informational Resources: [Meetings & Events](#), [3Rs Awards](#), [Databases](#), [Education/Training](#), [In Vitro Testing & Other Services](#), [Organizations & Associations](#), [Other Literature/Websites](#), and [Testing Supplies, Cells, Tissues and Software](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

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

- CHI's High Content Analysis, January 5-9, 2009, San Francisco, California, US
- Utrecht University IRAS Short Course: Chemical Safety Assessment under REACH, January 19-23, 2009, Bilthoven, The Netherlands
- Training ADME/PK/TK and Drug Metabolism in Drug Discovery and Development, January 20-21, 2009, Brussels, Belgium
- Stem Cells World Congress, January 20-22, 2009, Pam Springs, California, US
- Predictive Human Toxicity and ADME/Tox studies, January 22-23, 2009, Brussels, Belgium
- Omics Meets Cell Biology, January 25-30, 2009, Breckenridge, Colorado, US

[More Events >>](#)

## 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-mailing [info@alttox.org](mailto:info@alttox.org). Please submit your suggestions for the Informational Resources or Events section to [info@alttox.org](mailto:info@alttox.org).

If you received this message from a friend, you can sign up for the AltTox.org newsletter by clicking [here](#).

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