

NICEATM/ICCVAM 5-year Plan

Background:

Congress requests of NIEHS that the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) in partnership with relevant federal agencies develop a 5-year plan that addresses (1) research, development, translation, and validation of new and revised non-animal and other alternative assays for integration into federal agency testing programs and (2) identification of areas of high priority for new and revised non-animal and alternative assays for replacement, reduction, and refinement (less pain and distress) of animal tests.

Questions for SACATM and public comment:

The NIEHS and NICEATM invite public comments for consideration by ICCVAM and agency program offices in development of the 5-year plan. With regard to refining, reducing, and replacing animal use, ICCVAM has previously identified and ranked the types of regulatory safety tests that it considers should have the highest priority for the development and validation of alternative test methods. Public comment on the following list is welcome.

1. Acute eye irritation and corrosion
2. Biologics/vaccines
3. Acute skin toxicity (including irritation/corrosion, sensitization, absorption)
4. Acute systemic toxicity (oral/dermal/inhalation)
5. Chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity
6. Reproductive/developmental toxicity
7. Endocrine disruptors
8. Neurotoxicity
9. Immunotoxicity

Also, the NIEHS and NICEATM seek public input on the following questions. One of the elements that you might consider in answering these questions is the priority areas listed above.

1. Considering available science and technology, what development, translation, and validation activities are most likely to have the greatest impacts within the next five years on refining, reducing, or replacing animal use?
2. What research and development activities hold the greatest promise in the long-term for refining, reducing, or replacing animal use?
3. What are appropriate measures for evaluating progress in enhancing the development and use of alternative test methods?