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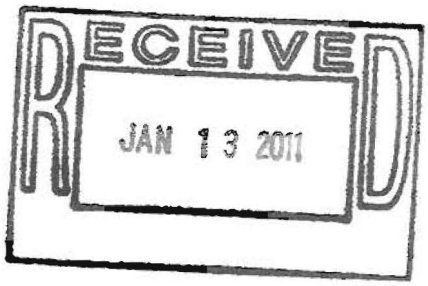

Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Director, National Toxicology Program Interagency Center
for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233 Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Admiral Stokes,

I am responding to Dr. Linda Birnbaum's June 10, 2010 letter requesting NLM review of the test method recommendations for: a) two nonradioactive versions of the murine local lymph node assay (LLNA), and b) an expanded LLNA applicability domain. These new versions and applications can be used to further reduce and refine the use of animals for assessing the potential for chemicals and products to cause allergic contact dermatitis (ACD). The three ICCVAM Test Methods Evaluation Reports (TMERs) included in this request are:

1) ***Murine Local Lymph Node Assay: BrdU-ELISA. A Nonradioactive Alternative Test Method to Assess the Allergic Contact Dermatitis Potential of Chemicals and Products.***
2) ***Murine Local Lymph Node Assay: DA. A Nonradioactive Alternative Test Method to Assess the Allergic Contact Dermatitis Potential of Chemicals and Products.***
3) ***Murine Local Lymph Node Assay for Testing Pesticide Formulations, Metals, Substances in Aqueous Solutions, and Other Products.***

NLM agrees with ICCVAM's recommendations about these alternative testing methods. The ICCVAM evaluation process included scientific peer review by an international independent panel or experts, review by the federally chartered Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM), and also included several public commenting opportunities. ICCVAM considered the peer review report, and the SACATM and public comments in preparing the final recommendations

As you know, we do not have any regulatory or testing authority that would need to be in compliance with these recommendations. We continue to heartily endorse the recommendations and the continued work to promote and encourage the development and use of alternative test methods that are found to be effective and applicable. Access to this information will be included via ALTBIB, our NLM Web portal on "Resources on Alternatives to the Use of Live Vertebrates in Biomedical Research and Testing" (http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/altbib.html).

We are pleased to participate in the efforts of the ICCVAM, and look forward to be on this committee as it continues to work to facilitate the evaluation and adoption of test methods that provide improved animal welfare as while protecting human health and the environment.

Yours truly,

/s/

Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg
Director