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Samuel H. Wilson, M.D.
Acting Director
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Dr. Wilson:

Thank you for your October 25, 2007, letter transmitting the test recommendations from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) as required by Section 3(e)(4) of the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 285l-3). As indicated in your report, the test method recommendations relate to the identification of substances that may cause ocular corrosion or severe ocular irritation. The alternate test methods described should be considered before animals are used for ocular safety testing.

We appreciate the Committee's recommendations and note that the ICCVAM Authorization Act (P.L. 106-545, Section 5, Application (a) states that this Act does not apply to research and does not apply to NIH programs. You should know, however, that the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare within the Office of Extramural Research will provide access to ICCVAM's test recommendations through a Web link.

The NIH remains committed to animal welfare efforts and to research efforts that improve human and animal health. Additionally, we promote the development of sound research designs and alternative methods to reduce the use of animals in biomedical research.

My understanding is that other components of the NIH will be responding to your transmittal as well.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.
Director