

Current and Future Contributions of NICEATM and ICCVAM to the International Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods W Stokes¹ and M Wind²; ¹National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, U.S.A. ²U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A.

The National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) work collaboratively to promote validation and regulatory acceptance of new, revised, and alternative test methods that are based on sound science and that will provide continued or improved protection of people, animals, and the environment while reducing, refining, and replacing the use of animals where scientifically feasible. The United States, Canada, the European Union, and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on International Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods (ICATM) in April 2009. The participating national validation organizations will work to expand and strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and communications on the scientific validation and evaluation of new alternative testing methods proposed for regulatory health and safety assessments. NICEATM and ICCVAM, as the designated participating national validation organizations for the U.S., will collaborate with JaCVAM, ECVAM, and Health Canada's Environmental Health Science and Research Bureau. NICEATM and ICCVAM have implemented procedures to ensure consistent collaborations with the other validation organizations during the design and conduct of validation studies, the evaluation and independent scientific peer review of proposed test methods, and the development of harmonized test method recommendations for regulatory consideration. The enhanced international cooperation in these three areas is expected to result in more efficient test method validation and review, and more rapid national and international acceptance of scientifically valid test methods. NOTE: The views expressed above do not necessarily represent official positions of any federal agency.