

Recent Progress and Future Directions at NICEATM-ICCVAM: Validation and Acceptance of Alternative Test Methods that Reduce, Refine, and Replace Animal Use

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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 the 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. ICCVAM was organized in 1997 and U.S. law established it as a permanent interagency committee in 2000. ICCVAM consists of representatives from 15 regulatory and research agencies that generate, use, or require toxicological testing data to safeguard the health of people, animals, and the environment. NICEATM administers ICCVAM and provides scientific and technical support, including the conduct of high priority validation studies. Since its establishment, ICCVAM has contributed to the evaluation of 27 alternative test methods that have now been accepted or endorsed by national and international authorities. NICEATM and ICCVAM developed a Five-Year Plan in 2008 in conjunction with member agencies to advance alternative methods. The plan identifies priority areas for research, development, translation, and validation activities necessary to support the regulatory acceptance of alternative methods. Implementation of the five-year plan and expanded international collaborations are expected to result in significant progress on alternative methods that will support improved safety assessments while reducing, refining, and replacing animal use. NOTE: The views expressed above do not necessarily represent the official positions of any federal agency.