U.S. EPA Strategic Plan to Promote the Development and Implementation of Alternative Test Methods

Louis Scarano, US EPA

Predictive Models for Acute Oral Systemic Toxicity Workshop

April 11-12, 2018
NIH, Bethesda, MD
Statutory Mandate

In 2016, TSCA was amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act:

• new requirements and deadlines for actions related to the regulation of new and existing chemical substances.

• new Section 4 (h) entitled *Reduction of Testing on Vertebrates*

• **Section 4(h)2 – Develop Strategic Plan**
Overview of Draft Strategic Plan

1. Identification, Development and Integration of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)*

2. Establishing Scientific Relevance, Reliability and Confidence

3. Importance of Training, Education and Collaboration

4. Implementation of NAMs Under TSCA
   – Commitment of time and resources through the establishment of the TSCA NAM Team (TNT)

* EPA views the term New Approach Methodologies as equivalent to alternative test methods and strategies
Fig. 1 Core Components of EPA Strategic Plan to Develop and Implement New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) in TSCA

- New or Existing NAM
- Evaluate Scientific Reliability and Relevance
- Training and Education
- Long-Term
- Intermediate-Term
- Short-Term

**Identify, Develop, & Integrate**

**DECISION Ready for Evaluation?**

**Build Confidence**

**DECISION Ready for TSCA Decision Context?**

**Implement**

- Integrate NAM
- Additional Data or Case Studies to Address Uncertainties
- Collaboration with Stakeholders (Public, Private and Government)
- Meet TSCA Section 4(h) to Reduce, Refine, and Replace Vertebrate Animal Testing

**Fit-for-Purpose: Developing and Using NAMs for TSCA Decisions**
Use of NAMs for TSCA – Decision Context

• New chemicals program has been using NAMs for years
  – ECOSAR, OncoLogic, EPISuite, New Chemical Categories Document, SAR/QSAR/Read-Across

• EPA will consider NAMs for:
  – Screening candidates for prioritization
  – Prioritization
  – Risk evaluation

• Use will be fit-for-purpose
Identification, Development and Integration of NAMs (1)

- Identification and Development of NAMs
  - Chemical Characterization
    • Important to determine critical aspects of hazard, dosimetry, exposure and environmental fate/persistence
    • Examples of NAMs currently used - EpiSuite, OECD QSAR Toolbox
  - Hazard Identification and Characterization
    • *in chemico, in silico, in vitro*, others
    • Examples of NAMs currently used– ECOSAR, OncoLogic, AIM (all new chemicals); ToxCast and Tox21 for screening for prioritization
Identification, Development and Integration of NAMs (2)

• Identification and Development of NAMs
  – Dosimetry and In Vitro-In vivo Extrapolation (IVIVE)
    • Developing and using tools to perform IVIVE
    • Limited examples of NAMs currently used

  – Characterizing Exposure to Humans and the Environment
    • Examples of NAMs currently used – ChemSTEER (environmental release and occupational exposure), CEM (consumer exposure), E-FAST (exposure to general population and environmental organisms)
Identification, Development and Integration of NAMs (3)

- Integration of NAMs: Frameworks and Weight of Evidence
  - Section 26(h) and (i) – use of Weight of Evidence (WoE) and Best Available Science
    - Section 4(h) – “information of equivalent or better scientific quality” (than traditional animal models)

- Various frameworks for Integrating or combining NAMs:
  - Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP)
  - Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment (IATA)
  - Defined Approach (DA)
  - Other considerations based on a tiered approach (examples – endocrine program approach)
Establishing Scientific Relevance, Reliability and Confidence of NAMs (1)

- Framework (OECD Guidance Document 34):
  - Relevance – regulatory need/usefulness and associated limitations
  - Reliability - reproducibility
  - Transparency (i.e., release of data sets and performance characteristics)
Establishing Scientific Relevance, Reliability and Confidence of NAMs (2)

- Criteria (largely based on Casati et al., 2017)
  - Decision context defined
  - Where possible, NAM should be mechanistically and biologically relevant
  - Criteria for selecting reference or training chemicals
  - Reliability be considered in context of its use and accepted best practices
  - NAM transparently described and all information is publicly available
  - Uncertainty described to fullest extent possible
  - Evaluation and implementation by third parties must be possible
  - NAM should under go independent scientific review
Education, Training and Collaboration

• NAMs and the new advancements in science (biology, chemistry, non-vertebrate animal test methods) need to be understood for proper application under TSCA.

• Ensuring that EPA scientists, the regulated community, and interested stakeholders are properly training to understand and use NAMs is critical to the success of implementing Section 4(h) of TSCA (including public outreach).

• EPA will continue to collaborates with multiple domestic and international partners on the development and use of NAMs for regulatory purposes.
Implementation

• Current-near term activities and needs (next three years)
• Intermediate term objectives (3-5 years)
• Long term goal
Implementation: Near-Term (Next Three Years) – Building a TSCA NAM Foundation

i. Continue to Implement NAMs to Evaluate Hazard, Exposure and Environmental Fate for New and Existing Chemicals

ii. Review Existing NAMs and Create and Maintain a List as required.
   1. Publish list – June 2018
   2. Review other existing NAMs according to Chapter 5 criteria

iii. Identify and Maintain Most Requested/Needed Studies for New and Existing Chemicals – Retrospective Analysis

iv. Identify and Curate Available Existing TSCA Information on NAMs (and Traditional Test Data) – CBI; TSCA In-House Inventory Analysis
Implementation: Near-Term (Next Three Years) (cont.)

v. Use of NAMs to identify candidates for prioritizing existing chemicals

vi. Begin development of Scientific Information Technology (IT) Platform

vii. Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to identify NAMs for further development (including case studies through TNT)
Implementation: Intermediate-Term Objectives (3-5 years)

i. Progress towards use of NAMs for prioritization and risk evaluation (several possibilities identified: toxicological threshold of concern (TTC); encouraging voluntary submitters to use NAMs; possible use of NAMs in designing safer chemicals.

ii. Maintaining the expansion of the TSCA NAM List

iii. Developing and maintaining educational and outreach goals for regulatory scientists, end-users and the public

iv. Continue collaboration with partners and stakeholders to identify NAMs for further development
Implementation: Long-Term

- EPA’s long-term goal is to move towards making TSCA decisions (conducting prioritization and risk evaluations for new and existing chemicals) with NAMs in order to reduce and eventually eliminate vertebrate animal testing for TSCA.
Next Steps

• Draft Strategic Plan released on March 7
  – including response to public comments from November 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2017 meeting

• Public Meeting took place yesterday - \textbf{Tuesday, April 10\textsuperscript{th}} in Washington, DC

• Comments on the Plan will be accepted through \textbf{April 26\textsuperscript{th}} (45-day comment period)

• Final will be published by \textbf{June 22, 2018}
Acknowledgements: The Writing Team

- Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) – Anna Lowit
- Office of Science Coordination and Policy (OSCP) – Kristan Markey, Seema Schappelle, Stan Barone
- Office of Research and Development (ORD)
  - National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT) – Rusty Thomas, John Cowden, Maureen Gwinn
  - National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) – Barbara Wetmore
  - Immediate Office (IO) – Jeff Frithsen
- Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) – Hans Scheifele, Christina Motilall, Susanna Blair