

Implementation of the NICEATM-ICCVAM Five-Year Plan: Advancing the Development, Validation, Acceptance, and Appropriate Use of Alternative Test Methods

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Safety testing of chemicals, consumer products, and other substances is necessary to prevent injury and disease by identifying potential health hazards and ensuring proper hazard classification and labeling. ICCVAM's mission is to facilitate the development, validation, and regulatory acceptance of alternative safety test methods that protect human and animal health and the environment while reducing, refining, and replacing animal use. NICEATM and ICCVAM developed a Five-Year Plan in conjunction with its 15 member agencies that builds on the ICCVAM mission to achieve progress and to inform the public of their strategy. An overall goal of this plan is for ICCVAM to assume a greater leadership role in promoting research, development, translation, validation, and regulatory acceptance of alternative test methods. A working document has now been developed to describe how the strategies outlined in the Five-Year Plan are being implemented. Implementation activities address four key challenges: 1) identifying test method priorities and conducting and facilitating activities in these areas; 2) identifying and promoting new science and technology; 3) fostering regulatory acceptance and use of alternative test methods; and 4) developing partnerships. This plan is predicated on a proactive role for NICEATM and ICCVAM to identify and develop collaborations with experienced scientists that can bring state-of-the-art science to the forefront. This will require working closely with a broad range of stakeholders because ICCVAM, as an interagency committee, does not have resources to conduct research, development, and validation studies. Therefore, successful implementation will depend on these interactions both within and outside of ICCVAM agencies. ILS staff supported by NIEHS contract N01-ES-35504.

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