



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
3040 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-3040**

SEP 30 2003

Dr. Kenneth Olden
Director
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Olden:

I am replying to your letter dated March 21, 2003 requesting the Department of Defense's (DoD) review of toxicological test recommendations from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). The Department endorses the ICCVAM recommendations and will promote the use of these acute oral toxicity test methods that provide alternatives to animal use in research.

By endorsing the ICCVAM recommendations, DoD agrees with ICCVAM's determinations that the following two test methods are scientifically valid for their intended use: (1) a toxicological test method, "The Revised Up-and-Down Procedure: A Test Method for Determining the Acute Oral Toxicity of Chemicals," and (2) in vitro methods to predict acute oral toxicity. When these test methods are appropriate to support the research goals conducted or supported by the Department, they will be accepted.

The Department will use a variety of mechanisms to promote and encourage the use of these test methods. Education of Department scientists and veterinarians will be accomplished through activities such as newsletters and training sessions for both Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members and laboratory personnel. Extramural scientists supporting defense research will be informed of these alternative test methods through their interactions with DoD personnel and IACUCs. In addition the Department will also publish acceptability of these methods on the DoD web site for animal use (www.dtic.mil/biosys/org/au.html) and in the DoD Animal Care and Use Report. The report is an annual summary of DoD animal use in research and highlights the Department's efforts to promote and implement animal use alternatives (the reports can be found on the DoD web site for animal use). The DoD takes very seriously our responsibility to develop and encourage methods that replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals in research.



I appreciate your leadership role in the federal government's effort to identify and validate alternatives to using animals in research. The ICCVAM has been instrumental in facilitating federal-wide endorsement of alternatives to animal use.

Sincerely,

/s/

Charles J. Holland
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Science and Technology)