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

Dear Dr. Olden:

Thank you for providing the report on the use of the Murine Local Lymph Node Assay. Consideration of this assay as a stand-alone alternative to animal testing is important in our continuing effort to minimize animal use. The Department's Laboratory animal veterinarians and IACUCs are now aware of the validation of the Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA) for assessing allergic contact dermatitis of chemicals and compounds. This will ensure that the LLNA will be utilized when appropriate for assessing toxicity for evaluation or for risk assessment purposes of chemicals of military interest.

I have informed our Laboratory animal veterinarians and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's (IACUC) that CORROSITEX has been validated as an alternative toxicological test for assessing the dermal corrosivity potential of chemicals and chemical mixtures. The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) web sites have also been provided. We are vitally interested in these programs, and include our 3R activities in our Annual Report to Congress on DOD's Animal Use and Care Programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in ICCVAM. Our representative to ICCVAM, since its inception, has provided the Chair of our DOD Tri-Service Animal Care and Use Working Group (JTWG) and me with the agendas and minutes following each monthly ICCVAM meeting.

I look forward to your continued success in these worthwhile endeavors.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Foster
Director, Bio Systems

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NTP Interagency Center for the
Evaluation of Alternative Tox. Methods

