



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

3040 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3040

OCT 29 2010



Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Director, National Toxicology Program Interagency
Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233, Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Rear Admiral Stokes:

I am replying to Dr. Linda Birnbaum's letter dated June 10, 2010, requesting the Department of Defense's review of the suitability of two new nonradioactive versions of the murine local lymph node assay (LLNA), the LLNA: Daicel Adenosine Triphosphate and the LLNA: Bromodeoxyuridine Detected by ELISA. The Department agrees with the recommendations by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) that the two versions of the assay can be used to identify substances that have the potential to cause allergic contact dermatitis (as described in NIH Publications No. 10-7551 and 10-7552). The Department also agrees that the two versions of the LLNA will be useful to reduce the number of animals used to evaluate chemicals for skin sensitization.

The Department will use a variety of mechanisms to educate and encourage the use of the new versions of the LLNA for Department-sponsored research. Informing 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 Department research will be informed of these alternative test methods through their interactions with Department personnel and IACUCs. The Department of Defense 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,

David A. Honey, Ph.D.
Director, Research Directorate