



OCT 01 2009

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, North Carolina 27709



Dear Admiral Stokes:

This is in response to a request from Dr. Linda S. Birnbaum, Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, dated September 18, 2009. Dr. Birnbaum requested the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) review of the test method recommendations for the reduced murine local lymph node assay (rLLNA), an updated LLNA test method protocol, and LLNA test method performance standards. These recommendations are contained in two documents entitled: *ICCVAM Test Method Evaluation Report: The Reduced Murine Local Lymph Node Assay: An Alternative Test Method Using Fewer Animals to Assess the Allergic Contact Dermatitis Potential of Chemicals and Products* (NIH Publication No. 09-6439) and *Recommended Performance Standards: Murine Local Lymph Node Assay* (NIH Publication No. 09-7357).

These documents were reviewed by staff in the NCI's Division of Cancer Biology. Based on this review, the NCI finds that the recommendations are consistent with the ICCVAM efforts to facilitate the scientific evaluation and adoption of test methods that will help protect human health and the environment while providing for improved animal welfare whenever possible.

The NCI is not one of the Federal agencies that promulgates regulations or guidelines regarding test methods, or test method protocols and performance standards. We thus do not have relevant test methods for which the ICCVAM test recommendations may be added or substituted.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these documents and please accept our appreciation for the time, effort, and expertise that were taken to develop these recommendations and their supporting background review documents.

Sincerely,

/s/

John E. Niederhuber, M.D.
Director
National Cancer Institute

cc: T. Kevin Howcraft, Ph.D.
NCI ICCVAM Principal Agency Representative