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Dear Dr. ~~Birnbaum~~<sup>Linda</sup>:

Thank you for the September 18, 2009, letter to me transmitting the test recommendations from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) as required by Section 3(e)(4) of the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 285f-3). As indicated in the ICCVAM report, the test method recommendations relate to test methods proposed for the reduced murine local lymph node assay (rLLNA). The alternative test method described is an updated LLNA test method used to assess the potential for chemicals and products to cause allergic contact dermatitis.

We appreciate the Committee's recommendations and note that the ICCVAM Authorization Act (P.L. 106-545, Section 5, Application (a)) states that this Act does not apply to research and does not apply to NIH programs. You should know, however, that the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare within the Office of Extramural Research will provide access to ICCVAM's test recommendations through a Web link.

The NIH remains committed to animal welfare efforts and to research efforts that improve human and animal health. Additionally, we promote the development of sound research designs and alternative methods to reduce the use of animal in biomedical research.

My understanding is that other components of the NIH will be responding to your transmittal as well.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director