

# Update on ICCVAM Communication Efforts and Report on Outcome of ICCVAM Public Forum

## Background Materials:

- ICCVAM Public Forum
- Report from Daniel Wilson, SACATM representative, on the ICCVAM Public Forum

As described in the draft 2013 vision and direction document, NICEATM and ICCVAM proposed work in several areas: (1) the ICCVAM website, (2) broader engagement with the scientific community and stakeholders, and (3) increased agency awareness of international 3R efforts. Significant progress has been made in these areas in the past year.

## *Public Interactions*

NICEATM and ICCVAM have solicited public comment at the initial phase of work on several (e.g., skin sensitization, inhalation methods) scientific areas. This solicitation of public comment provides an opportunity for the public to engage in NICEATM and ICCVAM efforts at the *beginning* of an effort.

NICEATM and ICCVAM are moving towards a communications approach that involves three opportunities each year for stakeholders to directly engage with NICEATM and ICCVAM. These three opportunities are: (1) public forum (planned for springtime), (2) SACATM (typically in September), and (3) a Communities of Practice webinar (planned for late fall/winter). In June 2014, ICCVAM held its first [Public Forum](#), an opportunity for ICCVAM agency representatives to interact with and receive comments from stakeholders. The Public Forum was held at the William H. Natcher Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and drew 46 participants (13 in person and 33 via webcast), representing interest groups including academia, industry, and animal welfare organizations. NICEATM and ICCVAM anticipate the Public Forum and SACATM meetings will provide overviews of multiple projects whereas the Communities of Practice webinar will provide a more in-depth discussion of 1-3 topic areas. Plans are currently underway to organize the first Communities of Practice webinar.

## *ICCVAM Website*

In December 2013, the [ICCVAM website](#) was integrated into the NTP website, allowing for support from the NTP web team and use of the NTP site content management system. Other benefits realized by this transition included a reduction of the number of pages within the site, which enabled easier navigation, and clear separation of NICEATM and ICCVAM activities.

The pages within the NTP site describing [NICEATM](#) and [ICCVAM](#) activities average 6000-7000 page views per month. A review of the content of these pages for accuracy, timeliness, and adherence to plain language guidelines is in progress and will be complete by December 2014.

### *ICCVAM-all Email Listserv*

ICCVAM-all is an email list through which NICEATM distributes announcements relevant to alternative methods development. The list currently has almost 1000 subscribers. Since October 2013, 28 messages have been distributed via the ICCVAM-all listserv informing recipients of meetings of interest, funding opportunities, data requests, and availability of useful resources for test method developers. In January 2014, NICEATM changed the format of these announcements to include multiple announcements in each message, so that recipients would get no more than one message per week.

### *Publications Describing ICCVAM Activities*

NICEATM provides quarterly updates to the journal [ALTEX](#) and the [NTP Update](#) newsletter. NICEATM also prepares reports on NICEATM and ICCVAM activities for the monthly [NIEHS Environmental Factor](#) newsletter. Recent articles described the [May NICEATM aquatic models workshop](#) and the [November 2013 coordination meeting of the International Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods](#). Upcoming articles will report on the June ICCVAM Public Forum, [NICEATM and ICCVAM activities](#) at the [Ninth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences \(WC9\)](#), and the [September NICEATM AOP workshop](#).

### *Presentations at National and International Meetings*

NICEATM staff along with five ICCVAM committee members chaired sessions, gave oral presentations, or contributed to [15 poster presentations](#) at the 2014 meeting of the Society of Toxicology. ICCVAM members and NICEATM staff will participate in sessions at the 2015 SOT meeting on the Tox21 collaboration and the incorporation of *in vitro* pharmacokinetic data and tools into toxicity testing and risk assessments. NICEATM staff and six ICCVAM committee members will contribute to [ten oral and nine poster presentations](#) at WC9 in August.

### **Charge Questions for SACATM:**

- Please comment on whether current communication efforts, as outlined above, are adequate for keeping interested stakeholders informed about ICCVAM activities. Please suggest any other communication efforts that ICCVAM might consider.
- Please comment on whether stakeholders and the public have sufficient opportunities to interact with ICCVAM or if there are other types of interaction that ICCVAM might consider.