

Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting

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Private citizen

Comments: "As a neuroscientist, I know that animal research is incredibly important and cannot be replaced. Our efforts to find lifesaving treatments hinge on learning things from real brains and bodies that cannot be learned from artificial models or organoids. Further, many crucial experiments cannot be done on humans for reasons of ethics and of experimental control. A policy prohibiting funding for animal-only research will harm the health of people in this country and force this lifesaving research to move to other countries. USA has been the undisputed post-war champion in biomedical research and the development of critical drugs that have saved and bettered the lives of millions of Americans. This NIH-funded scientific progress would not have been possible without decades of research at the world's best institutions here. The NIH and these institutes are the absolute envy of biomedical researchers around the world and I am afraid that policies prohibiting animal research will stifle technological, toxicological, pharmacological, and neuroscientific progress here, we will lose our lead, and it will cost thousands, if not millions of lives around the world."