

Attention: Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting

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Private Citizen

Comments: "I thank the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around Alternative Toxicological Methods. As a neuroscientist, I appreciate the need for these new methodologies, and I am convinced that strategies such as in vitro testing and computational approaches can be extremely valuable. Nevertheless, some research questions can only be addressed in living animals, given the complexity of these organisms, that is not mimicked by any of the alternative methodologies. For instance, in my specialty field of neurodegeneration, toxicants that are known to affect the nervous system have to be examined in living organisms, to understand the acute and toxic consequences of neurotoxicants in the motor, cognitive and emotional domains. Furthermore, research in living organisms will help us further refine these alternative methodologies. The SACATM can provide essential guidance on how to advance the use of novel approaches and continue the use when necessary, and under appropriate regulations, of live animals for toxicological testing."