

Attention: Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting

Date received: August 26, 2025

Federal Register Notice: ( 90FR29572-29573 )

Private Citizen

Comments: "A appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Scientific Advisory Committee for Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM) and its September 2025 meeting. I recognize SACATM's vital role in advancing the integration of new approach methodologies (NAMs) into toxicological testing, and appreciate the committee's efforts to ensure scientific progress is paired with public trust and ethical responsibility. I share these comments as a neuroscientist and engineer submitting in my personal capacity as a concerned citizen, rather than on behalf of my institution..

As a researcher working in both neuroscience and engineering, I recognize the tremendous potential of NAMs to accelerate discovery and improve our understanding of complex biological systems. Indeed, my work includes efforts to develop computational models to improve our understanding of the brain. While I am optimistic and supportive of these emerging approaches, my work also makes it clear to me that certain questions in neuroscience, such as how neural circuits interact across the brain to influence cognition, learning, and behavior, can only be answered with living organisms. Research in living organisms, for example, are still needed to improve our computational models of the brain. SACATM's advisory role is therefore uniquely valuable in fostering balanced strategies that bring these approaches together and ensure that the most informed science guides regulatory and research decisions.

I encourage SACATM, alongside the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM), to continue emphasizing transparency and collaboration with the scientific community as they develop their recommendations. This requires engaging with the full range of stakeholders in scientific research, from scientists to animal care staff and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members. Facilitating integration of NAMs alongside animal research when appropriate and scientifically necessary will be important for ensuring these recommendations facilitate rigorous, ethical, and responsible scientific progress. Thank you for your diligent and thoughtful work on this important matter."