

Attention: Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting

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Private Citizen

Comments: "I am submitting this comment as an individual. Research to improve human and animal health uses a combination of methods, including studies in animals, cell-based systems such as organoids, and computer models. Advances in cell and computer methods have reduced animal use in some areas. However, answering many important questions about how the body works and ensuring the safety of new medicines still requires animal research. Cell cultures and computer models cannot fully show how living organisms function as a whole. This is especially important when you are addressing fundamental questions about how the brain functions or trying to develop therapies for brain specific diseases.

Animal research in the United States is strictly regulated. All laboratories must follow rules set by the USDA, are inspected without warning each year, and must have every project reviewed and approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). These steps ensure that animals are treated humanely and that alternatives are used whenever possible.

Animal studies have been essential for major advances in medical science and continue to play a key role in understanding disease, developing treatments, and keeping new drugs safe. Continuing this work, under strong oversight, is critical for the progress of science and medicine."