

Attention: Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting

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Federal Register Notice: (90FR29572-29573)

Private Citizen

Comments: "As an academic researcher, I absolutely believe in the 3 R's: replace, reduce, and refine.

That said, we are not currently in a state where we can afford to replace all animal-based research. Fundamental discoveries and medical advancements have been made using small and large animal models. Often the translational potential from these works is unclear at the inception of the research programs and only become obvious after careful and elaborate consideration of incremental advances (and failures).

As a patient with an extremely rare autoimmune disorder that affects my nervous system, I am well aware of the limitations and potential benefits of our biomedical research enterprise, especially at the bleeding edge.

Our society benefits from biomedical research using animal models -- from the perspective of basic science knowledge, public health, and economically -- and cutting off animal research to focus exclusively on alternative approaches will only handicap the US and cede leadership in domains dominated by America to other countries.

I hope the committee recognizes the careful consideration of ethics and humane practices that already define US biomedical research practice. Please do not allow dogma to shape the current and future health of America."