

Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting

Date received: September 1, 2025

Federal Register Notice: (90FR29572-29573)

Private Citizen

Comments: "Entrenched interests against the use of animals in scientific discovery rely on the notion that scientists don't want to change how they do business and reject more modern alternatives. As a neuroscientist who uses non-human primates to explore the brain circuitry implicated in human mental disorders, I find these ideas is both offensive and wrong. The publicly and privately-funded scientific enterprise relies on animal models because there is no alternative. At this time, we have no way to delve into the deep biological underpinnings of how the brain drives reasoning, emotion, and organizes behavior without studying animals, especially other primates. Studies of this nature must be undertaken to inform the development of treatments for Alzheimer disease, Parkinson's disease, addiction, chronic pain, and severe mental illness – diseases that millions of Americans and their families struggle with daily. As an animal lover, I understand why the use of NAM's is attractive. Physicians, researchers, and regulators, however, understand that her proposal is not yet realistic. When tissue cultures, computer models, and organs on chips are capable of manifesting hallucinations, depression, and memory deficits, neuroscientists will happily abandon research with animals."