

Attention: Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting
Date received: September 3, 2025
Federal Register Notice: (90FR29572-29573)
Private Citizen

Comments: "Animal research is essential for the advancement of our understanding of the body and brain and for the treatment of diseases and disorders. I am a neuroscientist at the University of Arizona where I study Parkinson's disease and aging. As a scientist, I am truly amazed by the cutting edge research and insights into the brain and disease that emerge every day from studies using animals (rodents, primates, flies, etc...). This is because studies measuring brain activity and the effects of drugs in freely behaving, thinking, moving, sleeping animals provides far more insights than could ever be gathered from NAMs such as brain organoids or studies in humans - where technologies for brain measurement are far less advanced and are unsafe. Techniques such as optogenetics in animal models have revolutionized our ability to determine how individual cells in the brain contribute to disease and memory. These technologies will not be available for research in humans in the foreseeable future for many reasons, including safety and ethical concerns. Please support animal research. US support for basic scientific research using animals has played an enormous role in making the USA the undisputed world leader in biomedical research."