

Attention: Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods Meeting

Date received: September 3, 2025

Federal Register Notice: (90FR29572-29573)

Private Citizen

Comments: "As a scientist who works with animals and also deeply cares about them, I am always excited to learn of ways we can use alternative methods to advance science. I firmly believe in reducing our usage of animals to studies where they are truly needed to improve our understanding of biology. Many techniques are showing promise on this front--however, I believe it is misguided to think that we can totally move away from animal research at this point. Many of our modern advances in medicine could not have been possible without discoveries made in fundamental research with animals, and it is incredibly important that we maintain our capacity for this kind of research into the future.

I speak here also as a person with an uncommon autoimmune disorder--one that has some treatments but no cure. The few treatments we do have for this disorder were developed with the aid of animal research, and if we hope to have a chance at curing this disease (or any other similar diseases), we need to advance biomedical science in all possible ways, including both animal and non-animal methods.

Lastly, I wish to point out that animal research conducted at universities undergoes extreme scrutiny to ensure the welfare of the participating animals. Each institution has an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)-- a board of scientists, veterinarians, and members of the public who approves and monitors studies using animals. One primary function of this committee is to ensure that the studies being conducted are humane and ethical. Any discussion of scientific methods involving animals and alternative methods should involve members of these institutional boards.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment for this meeting, and I hope that the outcome is that we can advance science with all our available tools."