

Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM)

Naomi Charalambakis, PhD
Director of Communications & Science Policy
Americans for Medical Progress

September 11-12, 2025

Our Mission

To keep medical advances moving ahead.



Recommendation 1: Establish a Standardized Definition of NAMs

The acronym “NAMs” is used inconsistently across agencies and stakeholders, leading to misinterpretations and conflicting policy expectations.

“Non-Animal Models”

“Novel Alternative Methods”

“New Alternative Methods”

} Emphasis is more on
the methodology itself

“New Approach Methods”

“New Approach Methodologies”

} Emphasis is more on the broader research
approach, which includes the 3Rs (Reduce,
Refine, Replace)

*AMP strongly encourages defining NAMs as **New Approach Methodologies** to more accurately capture the full scope of the scientific and ethical commitments of this research without oversimplifying their use.*

Recommendation 2: Ensure ICCVAM Expansion Includes Adequate Expertise and Resources for Biomedical Research



Roadmap to Reducing Animal Testing in Preclinical Safety Studies

Interagency Coordination through ICCVAM

The FDA will collaborate with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods ([ICCVAM](#)), which provides a ready-made platform for partnership with other federal entities like NIH and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). ICCVAM is a committee of 18 U.S. agencies (including FDA, NIH, DoD, EPA, VA, and others) established to “work together to develop and evaluate new, improved, and alternative test methods and strategies”. [Leveraging ICCVAM can accelerate progress by pooling expertise, data, and resources across government.](#)

Key biomedical funding agencies signal expansion of ICCVAM to accelerate progress.

LEADING IN GOLD STANDARD SCIENCE



An NIH Implementation Plan

National Institutes of Health

Planned Efforts

NIH continuously seeks new strategies for advancing reproducible and replicable biomedical approaches, and is planning to develop new, targeted funding mechanisms and programs that foster culture change across the research enterprise. NIH is planning new efforts to support reproducing and replicating data and research results, including those focused on sharing negative or null results. NIH is also identifying areas in which more tools are needed to deliver replicable, translatable, and efficient results such as [human-based research technologies](#) and expansion of efforts of the [Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods \(ICCVAM\)](#).

Recommendation 2: Ensure ICCVAM Expansion Includes Adequate Expertise and Resources for Biomedical Research

ICCVAM's progress in advancing toxicological alternative methods is revolutionary. However, tools and guidelines for toxicology do not directly extend to other scientific areas.

- Recognize that the role of NAMs and animal models differs across scientific disciplines.
- Broaden expertise and stakeholder engagement by including lab animal veterinarians, IACUC professionals, basic scientists, and translational researchers.
- Coordinate closely with NIH OLAW.
- Reinforce the complementary—not competitive—relationship between NAMs and animal studies.

Recommendation 3: Provide Clear Communication and Set Realistic Expectations for NAMs

It is essential that advisory bodies offer realistic expectations on the role and viability of NAMs in biomedical research. It is important not to overpromise or oversimplify these technologies.

Clear communication with stakeholders and the public should emphasize:

- **Where animals remain necessary for advancing science and safeguarding public health.**
- **The current limitations of NAMs and areas where further development is needed.**
- **The practical implications of these realities for public health and biomedical progress.**

Goal: Ensure that future research policies and tools *serve* the science, not define it.