

Surveys & Prizes

Survey on complex *in vitro* models

The European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing ([EURL ECVAM](#)) is conducting a survey to assess stakeholders' opinions on the scientific and technical issues that influence end-user confidence and uptake of complex *in vitro* models (e.g. 3D cell cultures, organ-on-chip, microphysiological systems). The survey can be accessed here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/VCIVM2017>

The deadline for completing the survey is Thursday 31st May 2018. It should take about 15-20 min to complete it. Feel free to distribute this survey within your organisation/network. Your and your colleagues' opinions are highly appreciated!

Lush Prize

The 2018 Lush Prize – supporting animal free testing. Nominations are open until July 4th 2018 for a total of £ 250,000 distributed into five categories as follows: science, young researchers, training, public awareness, lobbying. More info: <https://www.lushprize.org>

News from EURL-ECVAM

Mapping education and training on the 3Rs

The JRC has launched a study to review available education and training resources that support the 3Rs approach: Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of animal procedures used for scientific purposes. More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/education-and-training-3rs>

JRC portal ChemAgora simplifies access to chemical data

The JRC's [ChemAgora](#) web portal provides search capabilities to retrieve chemical data from a plethora of online resources enabling users to access both regulatory information on chemicals and public databases on chemical properties. More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/chemagora-portal-access-chemical-data>

How to assess the safety of nanomaterials with less animal testing?

The JRC participated in an expert group of regulators, academics and industry to discuss the way forward in nanotoxicology, concluding that there is a strong potential for use of alternative methods that will impact the reduction, refinement and replacement (3Rs) of animal testing. More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/assess-safety-nanomaterials-less-animal-testing>

Good progress in carcinogenicity assessment of chemicals

The outcome of a workshop reviewing progress in carcinogenicity assessment of chemicals has been published in the latest issue of [Toxicology in Vitro Special Issue](#). The workshop was organised by the JRC's EU Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL ECVAM) and the European Society of Toxicology In Vitro (ESTIV) and identified opportunities

for exploiting recent advances in test methods and assessment approaches to move away from the two-year cancer bioassay in rodents. More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/good-progress-carcinogenicity-assessment-chemicals>

Adapting the Adverse Outcome Pathway concept to biomedical research

JRC scientists have explored the application of Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOP) to improve mechanistic understanding of human disease pathophysiology in order to advance biomedical research and inform the development of new drugs. More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/adapting-aop-concept-biomedical-research>

EPA releases draft strategy to reduce the use of vertebrate animals in chemical testing

EPA is releasing for public comment a draft strategy to reduce the use of vertebrate animals in chemical testing. The draft Strategic Plan incorporates input from a public meeting held November 2, 2017 on the development of the draft Strategic Plan, as well as written comments submitted after the meeting, and draws upon EPA research on test methods. More info: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/alternative-test-methods-and-strategies-reduce>

EP resolution calls for a worldwide ban on animal testing for cosmetics

On 20 February the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) voted on a draft resolution calling on the Council and European Commission to achieve a global ban on cosmetics testing on animals. More info: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180219IPR98116/animal-testing-of-cosmetics-meps-call-for-worldwide-ban>

Symposiums & Congresses

8 May 2018. Symposium "Reducing the reliance on animal experiments in basic and applied research". IC-3Rs platform & EURL ECVAM, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium. More info: www.IC-3Rs.org

29 May 2018. 3R Symposium on Alternatives to CO₂. Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), Bern, Switzerland. For more information contact: alexandra.kassis@blv.admin.ch. Registration will be accepted in the order of arrival.

1 June 2018. The 3R Symposium on "Improving science, advancing animal welfare – towards FCS-free *in vitro* practices". 3Rs Centre Utrecht Life Sciences, Conference Centre Eindhoven, Netherlands. More info: www.fcs-free.org/symposium

5-6 July 2018. LIVE 2018 – Lung *In Vitro* event – for innovative & predictive models. Epithelix & Alvertox Academy, Nice, France. More info: <http://www.epithelix.com/support/LIVE2018>

23 – 24 Aug. 2018. Pan-American Conference on Alternative Methods. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Deadline for abstract submissions: 30 April 2018. More info: <http://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/workshops/PanAmerican2018/index.html>

23 - 26 September 2018. 21st European Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing.
EUSAAT, Linz, Austria. Deadline for abstract submissions: [31 May 2018](#).
More info: <http://www.eusaat-congress.eu/index.php/congress/2018/topics>

15 - 18 October 2018. ESTIV 2018 - 20th International Congress on *In Vitro* Toxicology.
ESTIV-CAAT-GT, Berlin, Germany. Deadline for abstract submissions: [17 June 2018](#).
More info: <http://www.estiv2018.com>

30 Oct. - 1 Nov. 2018. III COLAMA - 3rd Latin American Congress of Alternative Methods to the use of Experimental Animals in Education, Research and Industry, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
More info: www.colama2018.com

Training & Education

22-23 May 2018. Hands-on-training "Use of weight of evidence with non-testing methods for cosmetics ingredients". Mario Negri Institute & Alvertox Academy, Milan, Italy.
More info: <https://alvertox2018-marionegri.eventbrite.com>

31 May - 1 June 2018. Hands-on training on *in silico* and *in vitro* liver models.
Biopredic International & Alvertox Academy, Paris, France.
More info: <https://alvertox2018-biopredic.eventbrite.com>

28-29 June 2018. Symposium "The three Rs in research project design: a prerequisite for good science". Fondazione Guido Bernardini, Varese, Italy. More info:
http://www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org/en/training_initiatives/event_detail.aspx?IDEvent=112&IDEventType=5

4-5 Oct. 2018. Hands-on training on PBPK modelling for quantitative *in vitro*-*in vivo* extrapolation. KU Leuven & Alvertox Academy, Leuven, Belgium.
More info: <https://alvertox2018-kuleuven.eventbrite.com>

8-9 Nov. 2018. Hands-on training on stem cells and 3D tissue engineering. IRBM & Alvertox Academy, Montpellier, France. More info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3dtissue-engineering-quality-control-from-the-bench-to-the-bedside-tickets-42424353383>

30-31 Oct. 2018. Hands-on training on culture of human highly relevant cells according to Good Cell Culture Practice (GCCP). Evercyte & Alvertox Academy, Vienna, Austria.
More info: <https://alvertox2018-evercyte.eventbrite.com>

15-16 Nov. 2018. Hands-on training on *in vitro* lung models. Epithelix & Alvertox Academy, Geneva, Switzerland. More info: <https://alvertox2018-epithelix.eventbrite.com>

22-23 Nov. 2018. Hands-on training on skin sensitization. BASF & Alvertox Academy Ludwigshafen, Germany. More info: <https://alvertox2018-basf.eventbrite.com>