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

**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**

**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.


Training & Education


