Grants & prizes

3Rs student grants 2018. The European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) published a call for submissions to support students with outstanding work in alternative approaches by funding their attendance at a high-profile scientific event. Deadline is the 15 August 2018. More info: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/3rs-student-grants-2018-call-submissions_en

3Rs Science Prize. The European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) has announced that a call for submissions is now open for its 2018 3Rs Science Prize. The 3Rs science prize is granted every other year to a scientist with an outstanding contribution to 3Rs. Deadline for submission: 3 September 2018. More info: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/3rs-science-prize-2018-call-submissions_en

Regulatory news

New and updated in vitro OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals. On 25 June, the OECD adopted a set of new and updated in vitro Test Guidelines for chemicals safety testing to keep pace with scientific progress and to respond to the needs of member countries. Those include two new Test Guidelines on in vitro methods for fish hepatic clearance (TG 319A and TG 319B) that can be used to improve in silico predictions of the test chemical bioaccumulation in fish. In addition, in vitro Test Guidelines in the area of eye irritation and skin sensitisation have been revised to either improve predictivity of the existing method (TG 438, isolated chicken eye method) or include similar methods to those already existing (me-too methods in TG 442B, TG 442D, TG 492) ensuring more readily usable methods. Finally, other updates to existing Test Guidelines encompass the inclusion of endocrine-related endpoints in TG 408 (90-d repeated dose toxicity study) and TG 414 (Developmental toxicity study). A set of supporting documents and Guidance Documents associated to these Test Guidelines will soon be published. More info: http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/oecdguidelinesforthetestingofchemicals.htm

Workshop on the validation and regulatory acceptance of innovative 3R approaches in regulatory toxicology. Organized by BfR and RIVM on 13 & 14 June 2018 in Bilthoven, The Netherlands. International experts exchanged their points of view on how the process of validation, acceptance and use of animal-free innovations can be facilitated. Two scenarios can be followed towards an animal-free safety assessment framework. Firstly, an evolutionary scenario in which the current animal test-based system is modernised step by step as new animal-free approaches become available. Secondly, a revolutionary scenario that starts from scratch by describing the human biology and how this can potentially be affected by chemicals. A human biology-driven approach for mechanistic validation was discussed. Key recommendations were the need to define the biological relevance and uncertainties of new test methods and to use these aspects to evaluate their scientific validity. The need to increase experience and confidence was recognised. This can be
achieved, for example, through case studies with defined sets of chemicals in which multiple stakeholders collaboratively participate. A workshop report will be published soon. More info: https://www.rivm.nl/en/Documents_and_publications/Common_and_Present/Newsmessages/2018/Animal_free_innovations_in_safety_assessment_of_chemicals

Three Road Maps for Alternatives to Animal Use – One Goal. The US. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) have published draft roadmaps over the last six months to further the use of alternative methods. Here we examine a unique opportunity to compare and understand the synergies that together can transform safety testing in the US. More info: https://www.dropbox.com/s/3nrphg4aqdehf44/2018-05-30_EHE_Becton.mp4?dl=0

News from EURL-ECVAM

Optimising validation studies of non-animal methods for vaccine testing. A new report summarises the outcome of a workshop organised by the Joint Research Centre's EU Reference Laboratory for alternatives to animal testing (EURL ECVAM) and VAC2VAC project partners on the design of multi-centre validation studies. More info: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/validation-non-animal-methods-vaccine-testing

Reviewing the use of alternative methods in biomedical research. The JRC's European Reference Laboratory for alternatives to animal testing has launched a study to review alternative methods and models being used for research in the areas of Respiratory Tract Diseases and Neurodegenerative Disorders. More info: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/alternative-methods-biomedical-research


New publications:

Symposiums & Congresses


Training & Education


8 - 9 Nov. 2018. 3DTissue Engineering Quality Control – From the Bench to the Bedside. IRBM & Altertox Academy, Montpellier, France. More info: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3dtissue-engineering-quality-control-from-the-bench-to-the-bedside-tickets-42424353383

