

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. <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](https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/alternative-methods-biomedical-research)

Call for worldwide ban on testing cosmetics on animals. The European Parliament on 3 May called on the European Union to launch a diplomatic drive for a worldwide ban on testing cosmetics on animals before 2023. More info: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180426IPR02613/testing-cosmetics-on-animals-meps-call-for-worldwide-ban>

New publications:

- *In silico* toxicology protocols: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/silico-toxicology-protocols>
- Aggregate exposure pathways in support of risk assessment: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/aggregate-exposure-pathways-support-risk-assessment>
- International Regulatory Requirements for Skin Sensitization Testing: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/international-regulatory-requirements-skin-sensitization-testing>

Symposiums & Congresses

27 - 29 Aug. 2018. 12th International Conference and Workshop on Biological Barriers. BioBarriers 2018, Saarbruecken, Germany. More info: <http://biobarriers.hips-wordpress.helmholtz-hzi.de/>

2 – 5 Sept. 2018. Eurotox 2018. Brussels, Belgium. Registration until 15 August 2018. More info: <http://www.eurotox-congress.com/2018/>

23 – 26 Sept. 2018. 21st European Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing. EUSAAT, Linz, Austria. Registration is open now. **Deadline for abstract submissions has been postponed until 14 June 2018.** To get selected to the EUSAAT 2018 YSTA program, young scientists can provide a submission until 25 June 2018. More info: <http://www.eusaat-congress.eu/index.php/congress/2018/topics>.

5 – 6 Nov. 2018. ECOPA Symposium 2018. How new experimental tools in life sciences challenge the 3Rs vision. Francopa (French platform on alternatives), Paris Diderot-Paris 7, University. More info: <http://www.francopa.fr/web/pdf/francopa/ECOPA2018EN.pdf>

15 – 18 Oct. 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>

6 – 11 Nov. 2018. The International Symposium on Persistent Toxic Substances (ISPTS). FHNW Campus MuttENZ, Basel (MuttENZ), Switzerland. Info: www.ispts2018.ch

20 Nov. 2018. EPAA Annual Conference, Pooling Resources to promote the use of alternative methods for advancing safety assessment. Brussels, Belgium. Info: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/epaa/annual-conference_en

Training & Education

9 – 14 Sept. 2018. Biosystems Engineering: Bioreactors and Cell Factories (Course). Braunwald, Switzerland. More info: <http://www.braunwald-bioengineering.de/>

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>

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>

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

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>

14 – 19 April 2019. Applied *In Vitro* Toxicology Course, ESTIV& ASCCT. University of Bucharest-Romania. Info: <https://estiv2019.com>