

The NICEATM-ICCVAM Five Year Plan: Creating a Path Forward to Reduce, Refine and Replace Animal Testing

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NICEATM and ICCVAM have developed a five-year plan that builds on the mission, vision, and strategic priorities in the 2004 ICCVAM Strategic Plan. Implementing the five-year plan involves four key challenges. The first is to identify priority toxicity testing areas for the next five years, and to conduct and facilitate activities in those areas. Currently, the four highest-priority areas are ocular, dermal, acute, and biologics testing. Other priority areas include immunotoxicity, endocrine disruptors, pyrogenicity, reproductive and developmental, and chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity testing. The second challenge is to identify and promote research initiatives that are expected to support future development of innovative alternative test methods. These new methods might incorporate techniques such as high throughput screening, computer modeling, informatics, and biomarkers. The third challenge is for NICEATM and ICCVAM to foster the acceptance and appropriate use of alternative test methods through outreach and communication. This will be accomplished by sponsoring and participating in workshops, NICEATM-ICCVAM website communications, and the development and publication of standardized test method protocols. Finally, ICCVAM and NICEATM will develop partnerships and strengthen interactions with stakeholders to facilitate meaningful progress. These efforts are expected to facilitate research, development, translation, validation and regulatory acceptance of alternative methods that will reduce, refine, and replace animal use while maintaining scientific quality and the protection of human health, animal health, and the environment. Contract support provided by NIEHS contract N01-ES-35504.