



1271 - 38th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
November 8, 2001

Dr. William Stokes, Director
NICEATM (MD EC-17)
NIEHS P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

RE: Report of the International Workshop on In Vitro Methods for Assessing Acute Systemic Toxicity

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am delighted to hear that the notorious LD50 Test is slowly being phased out internationally and is being replaced with tests that use fewer animals (or none at all). A recent workshop by NIEHS addressed the feasibility of going one step further and replacing animal tests completely with in-vitro cell culture tests. Scientists at the NIEHS workshop have agreed to a partial implementation of in-vitro testing, to set a "starting dose" for the lethal poisoning tests. This would have the effect of further reducing the number of animals in the tests.

I ask NIEHS to begin efforts as soon as possible to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in-vitro testing methods. Ultimately, both human and non-human animals will benefit.

Sincerely,

Jackie Pomiés