

Dr. Stokes, I am urging you to begin efforts to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in vitro testing methods.

Thank you,  
Lisa S. Jenkins

> After years of protest from animal activists, the LD50 Test (in which  
> animals are force fed chemicals to estimate the dose needed to kill 50% of  
> them) is slowly being phased out internationally and is being replaced  
> with tests that use fewer animals [or none at all]. A recent workshop held  
> by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), a  
> government agency that researches the health effects of environmental  
> hazards, addressed the feasibility of going one step further and replacing  
> the 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, which  
> would have the effect of further reducing the number of animals in the  
> tests. The NIEHS is inviting the public to comment on the findings of  
> these scientists and the use of in-vitro cell cultures as a replacement  
> for lethal animal tests.