

Dr. William Stokes, Director NICEATM (MD EC-17), NIEHS:

I am writing to you regarding the proposal to use in-vitro cell culture tests in place of live animal testing for lethal poisons. I know that scientists who attended your workshop agreed to use this form of testing in order to obtain a starting dose for the lethal poisoning tests. I am very happy about this. However, I am hoping it will go a bit further. Let's abolish animal testing altogether and replace it with the use of in-vitro cell cultures.

Animal testing is terribly cruel and inhumane. Beyond this, animal testing is often insufficient and inconclusive for a variety of reasons--one of them being that animals are not the same as humans in biological makeup. In addition, there are other equally effective and better methods with which to test poisons and such.

Please begin efforts to completely replace lethal dose testing on animals with non-animal, in-vitro testing methods.

I look forward to hearing from you, Joy E. Barnett