

## NICEATM Workshop Session Presentation

**Society of Toxicology**  
**44th Annual Meeting**  
March 6 - 10, 2005  
New Orleans, LA

### **Current Status and Future Considerations for the Development of *In Vitro* Alternatives to the Draize Rabbit Eye Test for Assessing Ocular Irritants**

T. Hartung<sup>1</sup>; W. Stokes<sup>2</sup>

1. ECVAM, Ispra, Italy.
2. NICEATM, NIEHS/NIH/DHHS, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA.

The Draize rabbit eye test has been used as the standard test method for assessing ocular irritation and corrosivity potential of chemicals and products for over 60 years. Largely due to the pain and discomfort associated with this test, there have been extensive efforts to develop and validate alternative test methods that would partially or fully replace the current regulatory version of the Draize rabbit eye test. These efforts are also being driven by the 7th Amendment to the European Union Cosmetics Directive that will ban the use of animals for ocular testing by 2009 and pressure to minimize or avoid animal use for the European Union Chemicals Policy Initiative (REACH). This workshop will address scientific and regulatory considerations for developing and validating *in vitro* test methods that will refine, reduce, and replace the Draize rabbit eye test. ICCVAM, NICEATM, and ECVAM have recently initiated collaborations to assess the usefulness of currently available *in vitro* ocular toxicity methods and to review the state-of-the-science with regard to *in vitro* test methods. These efforts include an evaluation of several *in vitro* test methods for their ability to detect severe ocular irritants, an assessment of the performance characteristics of the *in vivo* rabbit eye test, and a review of the current status of methods for identifying nonirritants and mild to moderate irritants. Current and future challenges in validating alternative methods and approaches to evaluate ocular toxicity will be presented including the need for high quality reference data to assess test method performance.

#### **SOT Itinerary Information:**

ID#	660
Location:	Room R03
Date/Time:	March 8, 2005 / 8:30 – 8:40 AM
Session:	Current Status and Future Considerations for the Development and Validation of <i>In Vitro</i> Alternatives to the Draize Rabbit Eye Test