

Beverly MacKenzie

November 13, 2001

DR. William S. Stokes
Director, NICEATM (MC EC-17)
National Institute of Environmental Health Services
PO Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Fax: 919-541-0947

Report of the International Workshop on In Vitro Methods for Assessing Acute Systematic Toxicity

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am writing to urge your agency to use the new non-animal test methods immediately. Animals continue to endure extreme suffering and die horrific deaths even though non-animal test methods have been considered for almost 20 years.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) recommends using the non-animal method to set the starting dose for further animal poisoning tests, however that does not go far enough. **All government agencies** should be required to use in vitro cell culture tests to **totally replace** the use of animals in lethal dose tests.

The truth is that animal testing is big business; those that benefit are vivectors, breeders that raise animals specifically bred for use in labs, animal cage suppliers, manufacturers and suppliers of food for lab animals, etc. The big losers are the animals that are subjected to chemical poisons in a variety of ways. Substances are forced down their throats, pumped or injected into their stomachs, injected under the skin, injected into the peritoneal lining of the stomach, into a vein; applied to the vagina, rectum, eyes, inhaled or eaten. The animals are not given painkillers because that would interfere with test results. Can you imagine the fear and excruciating pain these living, thinking, feeling beings endure before dying or are killed?

The next group of losers is the taxpayers that fund these crude, useless tests because they do not even remotely measure human health hazards. Animal tests vary widely from species to species and do not relate to humans in any way.

Reams of information are available for many chemicals and for those that are not documented, it makes sense to use a zero tolerance approach and the implementation of the more reliable non-animal cell culture tests.

If the general public knew what of the realities of chemical testing on animals; the huge amounts of money wasted on invalid test results, I know the majority of Americans would be astonished, outraged and demand that the entire system change to the use of non-animal tests.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly MacKenzie

