



Dr. Stokes,

I am writing with regards to the *Report of the International Workshop on In Vitro Methods for Assessing Acute Systemic Toxicity*. I am a graduate student in Department of Chemistry at the University of Michigan, having already obtained a Master's degree in chemistry from National Taiwan University. I wish to express concern from within the scientific community for irresponsible use of animals in unnecessary animal tests, particularly when it comes to toxicity testing. In my experience, little regard is given by many laboratories to the injuries or death suffered by animals under their control. The experimental methods chosen are typically the easiest, not the most humane, and in many cases are extremely cruel even when alternatives are clearly available. The scientific community has a responsibility to take their moral obligations seriously and rise to a high standard of care and consideration, not one that leaves us so easily open to attacks from animal welfare organizations. Our role in society demands that we live up to the respect and expectations that people place upon us. We must strive to do everything we can to minimize the harm inflicted on lab animals.

I therefore ask you to please eliminate any use of animals in toxicity tests, in favor of in vitro alternatives. Please require that all government agencies immediately adopt in vitro methods that minimize or eliminate harm inflicted on animals.

Tso-ching Chen