

Dr. William Stokes, Director
NICEATM (MD EC-17), NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

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

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 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.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Tom Mohr