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NIE Interagency Center for the  
Evaluation of Alternative Tox. Methods

National Institute for  
Occupational Safety and Health  
Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

December 8, 1999

Dr. William S. Stokes  
National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
P.O. Box 12233  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

Dr. Olden forwarded me a copy of the working group report on Corrositex®: An In Vitro Test Method for Assessing the Dermal Corrosivity Potential of Chemicals. In his letter, Dr. Olden asked that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) comment on the potential uses of Corrositex® within the Institute.

Copies of the Corrositex® report were provided to NIOSH scientists who have interest in and research that explores the effects of occupational dermal exposures. Many of these scientists already were aware of the Corrositex® Assay and were interested in the ICCVAM validation of the method.

NIOSH scientists could envision a number of potential uses for the Corrositex® Assay within the Institute. One application would be the assessment of occupational skin corrosives. The identification of potential corrosive hazards and the quantification of the associated risk of these hazards is perceived as a critical need by NIOSH, industry and government regulators. The data generated by the Corrositex® Assay could also support the development of an approach for determining the corrosion potential for common substances used in U.S. workplaces. Currently, there is very limited information available that meets this need.

Page 2 - Dr. William S. Stokes

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very promising assay. If you need further assistance from NIOSH, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Rosenstock', written in a cursive style.

Linda Rosenstock, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director

cc:  
Dr. K. Olden