

Feature Story

Implementing the NRC Vision and Strategy for the 21st Century

Most members of the AltTox.org online community are familiar with two recent landmark developments in the United States. In June, 2007, the National Research Council (NRC) issued a report, "Toxicity Testing for the 21st Century: A Vision and a Strategy," which calls for the development of in vitro approaches that seek to model toxicity pathways using human cells and molecules, and to base these methods on a modern understanding of human, not animal, biology.

Second, in February of this year, the federal government announced a research collaboration among three agencies to essentially implement the NRC vision. However, the "Memorandum of Understanding" among these federal partners, which include the National Institutes of Health Chemical Genomics Center (NCGC), the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), does not specify a budget.

The NRC report calls for "moderately large funding" of a "large-scale, long-term research program," on the scale of the National Toxicology Program, to implement its vision (p. 158). To help ensure adequate funding for the new federal effort, four organizations are calling upon Congress to urge the National Institutes of Health to "fully support" its portion of the five-year collaboration. The diverse organizations include the American Chemistry Council, The Humane Society of the United States, The Humane Society Legislative Fund, and The Procter and Gamble Company. Only with adequate and sustained funding, as well as the involvement of other interested parties, will this collaboration realize the NRC vision on a meaningful timescale.

Forum Discussions

Some of the recent posts on the AltTox forums include the following:

- Neurotoxicity forum: [In vitro methods for neurotoxicity testing based on mechanism of action](#)
- Pharmacokinetics & Metabolism forum: [A Risk Assessment Framework for Quantitative PK data](#)
- Skin Sensitization forum: [Relevant Questions](#)
- Cell-based Technologies forum: [Stem cell toxicity testing](#)
- (Q)SAR forum: [Are \(Q\)SARs second class alternatives?](#)

Make sure to visit the forums and offer your views on one or more of the many topics being discussed. Progress depends on your participation!

[Enter Forums >>](#)

New and Updated Information

The AltTox.org Management team strives to give readers the most up-to-date summary information related to non-animal methods of toxicity testing. Check out our latest updated material:

In the Spotlight

- [Cell-based Microfluidic Devices for Toxicity Testing](#)

Toxicity Testing Resource Center

- The Way Forward: [Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century](#) by Melvin Andersen, Daniel Krewski, Ellen Mantus & Lauren Zeise
- Informational Resources: [Meetings & Events](#), [3Rs Awards](#), [Education/ Training](#), [Funding](#), [In Vitro Testing & Other Services](#), [Journals](#), [Other Literature/Websites](#), [Testing Supplies](#), [Cells](#), [Tissues](#), [Software](#)

Upcoming Events

Here are some of the many upcoming events listed on AltTox that should be of interest to our readership:

- British Toxicology Society Annual Congress 2008, April 6-9, 2008, Guildford, Surrey, UK
- INVITROM Symposium. Towards Better Reliable In Vitro Methods, April 22, Bruges, Belgium
- Alternatives to animal testing: New approaches in the development and control of biologicals, April 23-24, Dubrovnik, Croatia
- EPAA High Level Workshop: Predicting human adverse effects from systemic exposure to substances without the use of animals, April 28-29, 2008, Brussels, Belgium
- NC3Rs/BBSRC Meeting: Engineering Tissue Alternatives to Animals, April 30, 2008, London, UK

[Read more >>](#)

User Participation

We welcome your participation in the AltTox forums, as well as your comments and suggestions, which can be submitted by using the online [Website Feedback](#) survey, or by e-mail to info@alttox.org. Please submit your suggestions for postings to Informational Resources or Events to info@alttox.org.

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