

JaCVAM – Japanese Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods

Japanese views on the 3Rs in the 21st century

Hajime Kojima
JaCVAM, NIHS, Japan

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) created the Japanese Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods (JaCVAM) at the National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS) in Japan in 2005. JaCVAM has promoted the 3Rs in animal experiments for the evaluation of chemical substance safety in Japan and established guidelines for new alternative experimental methods through international collaboration for 4 years. Many Japanese colleagues have supported JaCVAM activities by performing validation studies, peer reviews and regulatory acceptance for new alternative experimental methods. Furthermore, we plan to push forward with international harmonization efforts by both OECD activities and the International Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods (ICATM) framework, which was organized this April.

Japan Health Sciences Foundation established the Center for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care and Use in 2007. The center aims to promote the optimum enforcement of scientific animal testing. The center assesses and verifies institutes of animal experiments for their compliance with the “Basic Guidelines for Proper Conduct of Animal Testing and Related Activities in the Research Institutions under the Jurisdiction of the MHLW”. The other ministries control animal experiments in universities and other institutes.

We think developments and continued activities of these Japanese centers will contribute much to achieve the 3Rs. We also expect these Japanese activities to contribute to International harmonization in the 3Rs in the 21st century.