

NICEATM and ICCVAM - NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods and Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) - Advancing Public Health and Animal Welfare in the 21st Century with Sound Science and Collaborations

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The U.S. National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) work collaboratively to promote the validation and regulatory acceptance of new, revised, and alternative test methods that are based on sound science and that will provide continued or improved protection of people, animals, and the environment while reducing, refining, and replacing the use of animals where scientifically feasible. ICCVAM was organized in 1997 and U.S. law established it as a permanent interagency committee in 2000. ICCVAM consists of representatives from the 15 Federal regulatory and research agencies that generate, use, require, or provide toxicological testing data to safeguard the health of people, animals, and the environment. NICEATM administers ICCVAM and provides scientific and technical support, including the conduct of high priority validation studies. Since its establishment, ICCVAM has contributed to the evaluation of 27 alternative test methods that have now been accepted or endorsed by national and international authorities. NICEATM and ICCVAM developed a Five-Year Plan in 2008 in conjunction with member agencies to advance alternative methods. The plan identifies priority areas for research, development, translation, and validation activities necessary to support the regulatory acceptance of alternative methods, and increased collaborations with stakeholders. The plan emphasizes the application of advances in science and technology to the development of new more predictive alternative test methods. In 2009, the U.S., Japan, Europe, and Canada signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods (ICATM). The participating national validation organizations will work to strengthen and expand cooperation, collaboration, and communications on the scientific validation and evaluation of new alternative methods in order to achieve more rapid international adoption of alternative methods. Implementation of the NICEATM-ICCVAM five-year plan and expanded international collaborations are expected to result in significant progress on alternative methods that will support improved safety assessments while further reducing, refining, and replacing animal use.