



CAATfeed

CAAT at the 8th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences Montreal, Canada. August 21-25, 2011

- On Sunday, August 21, CAAT and the Human Toxicology Project Consortium co-hosted a satellite meeting on implementation of the NAS Report: “21st Century Toxicology: Updates on Current Efforts.”
- CAAT observed its 30-year anniversary Monday evening as part of the opening Get-Together Party at the magnificent Bonsecours Market overlooking the St. Lawrence River.
- CAAT again organized a meeting of representatives of the various 3Rs organizations world-wide, as well as a separate Altweb Project Team Meeting.

CAAT collaboration with IVTIP and ESTIV

CAAT joined forces with the In Vitro Testing Industrial Platform (IVTIP) and the European Society of Toxicology In Vitro (ESTIV) to offer a meeting that addressed “In vitro reconstructed human tissue models as alternatives to animal testing: applications and limitations.” The meeting was held in Monaco April 26-28. The meeting also was sponsored by EPAA and Cefic.

The highlight of the first day was the official announcement of the ALEXAN-

DRA Association. ALEXANDRA (Alternatives to Experiments on Animals Destined to Research Applications) is a Monaco-based initiative headed by Dr. Bart de Wever and Dr. Constantin Turchina. The Association (<http://www.alexandra-project.org>) aims to stimulate research and development in the area of alternative methods to animal experimentation by providing financial support to researchers and entrepreneurs worldwide. The ALEXANDRA Association will work in collaboration with other international centers of excellence including CAAT, ESTIV, ZET and IVTIP. ALEXANDRA also will provide a platform for discussion and exchange of information on the selected R&D projects between scientific opinion leaders, industry, regulatory bodies and the public, organizing regular international conferences in Monaco.

During the Monaco meeting, IVTIP, ESTIV and CAAT-Europe officially announced their decision to collaborate closely in the future. Networking is the principal tool implemented by each organization to reach our goals. The common denominator for the three organizations is the genuine interest in *in vitro* testing and the objective to actively promote *in vitro* toxicology in product development, hazard identification and safety assessment.

The goals of this collaboration among the three societies include:

- Optimize the exploitation of the synergies with the objective of improving the flow of relevant knowledge be-

tween academia, industry and regulatory bodies.

- Stimulate the application of *in vitro* tests by industry and the acceptance of these tests by regulatory authorities.

CAAT-Europe holds workshop on dog use in biomedical research and testing

The workshop, held in Budapest, Hungary, drew representatives from universities, pharmaceutical companies, NGOs, and other stakeholders who discussed where dogs are currently being used and how the Three Rs might be applied to their use. A summary and outcomes of the meeting will be published in ALTEX. The meeting was covered by *Nature* in a recent article titled: “Call to curb lab tests on dogs. Canine remains the default option in outdated pharmaceutical toxicology.” See <http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110628/full/474551a.html>. Although there were some minor errors in the article, the basic focus and discussion of the meeting were presented accurately.

Nature article on CAAT study analyzing phase one of REACH

In Europe the REACH legislation aims to fill the large information gaps we have on chemicals in current use. This massive effort has a large impact



on animal use and its alternatives. We previously published an estimation of the animal numbers required to achieve the REACH goals if we apply the first guidance for testing (<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v460/n7259/full/4601080a.html>). The outcome was that this approach is clearly not feasible. The first 200 publicly available summary reports were now analyzed focusing on reproductive and developmental toxicity, which will require 90% of the animals and 70% of the testing costs of REACH (<http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110712/full/475150a.html>). 20% more substances were registered than expected (final count 3242) in the first phase and it appears that more information on reproductive and developmental toxicity is available than we expected. However, only few dossiers suggest new animal experiments be done, despite large data gaps remaining in these areas. Therefore, the proposed completeness check of 5% of dossiers not proposing new animal experiments by ECHA will not suffice to ensure the information needs required by REACH are met. Extrapolating only the tests that have been suggested in these first 200 proposals to the full dossier count will already exceed European testing capacities. We clearly need to integrate alternative approaches, especially in reproductive toxicity testing, where the one-generation study already accepted by OECD reduces animal use and costs by over 60%, but is not yet accepted for REACH (<http://www.nature.com/>

[news/2010/100113/full/463142b.html](http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100113/full/463142b.html)). The full study has been expanded to 400 dossiers and is under peer-review at ALTEX.

Upcoming CAAT events

CAAT t⁴ Workshop

Roadmap for Systemic Toxicity Testing
October 10-12, 2011
Konstanz, Germany
Contact: caat-eu@uni-konstanz.de

CAAT-Europe Workshop and Information Day

Status and Future of Cosmetics Safety Testing
October 13, 2011
Konstanz, Germany
Contact: caat-eu@uni-konstanz.de

CAAT-US t⁴ Workshop

Testicular Toxicology In Vitro Models
October 26-27, 2011
Baltimore, MD, USA
Contact: mprincip@jhsp.edu

CAAT-US Information Day

Food Information Day
November 15, 2011
Baltimore, MD, USA
Contact: mprincip@jhsp.edu

For up-to-date listings and information about CAAT programs and events:

<http://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/>

Recent publications by CAAT/ CAAT-Europe Faculty

Bressler J., O'Driscoll C., et al. (in press). P19 embryonic carcinoma cell line: A model to study gene-environment interactions. In Michael Aschner, et al. (eds.). *Cell Culture Techniques (Neuromethods 56)*, Heidelberg: Springer Science+Business Media.

Hartung, T., and Sabbioni, E. (2011). Alternative in vitro assays in nanomaterial toxicology. *Wiley Interdiscip. Rev. Nanomed. Nanobiotechnol.*, doi: 10.1002/wnan.153.

Stiegler, N., Krug, A., Matt, F., and Leist, M. (2011). Assessment of chemical-induced impairment of human neurite outgrowth by multiparametric live cell imaging in high-density cultures. *Toxicol. Sci.* 121, 73-87.