This course aims to spread information on progressing experiences in validation and acceptance of in vitro methodology, building up concepts and proper terminology, addressing bottlenecks and current problems at a theoretical, practical and strategic level. Contact: Dr. Flavia Zucco, Istituto Tecnologie Biomediche, Via G. B. Morgagni 30/E, 1-00161 Rome, Italy (Fax +39-6-44230229).

The aim of the course is to promote the exchange of views, information and experience among scientists involved in the development and use of in vitro methods in toxicology and toxicity testing. INVITOX 98 was the occasion of the first General Assembly of the newly formed European Society of Toxicology In Vitro (ESTIV), which is now the host society for future INVITOX workshops, amongst other activities. INVITOX 98 is organized by Elsevier Science and the proceedings of the workshop are to be published in a special issue of Toxicology In Vitro. Information: Caroline Sumner, INVITOX 98 Secretariat, Meetings Management, The Chestnuts, 1st Floor, 18 East Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7SD, UK (Fax: +44-1252-723303, Email: jherriot@meetingmgmt.u-net.com).

The interest in the use of alternative in vitro methods in the development and control of biological products has increased considerably in the last few years. The issues raised are of concern to the Scientific Community as well as to manufacturers, regulatory authorities and those working in animal ethics and welfare. A large number of physicochemical, immunotoxicological, biochemical and cell biological methods have been proposed for the replacement, refinement and reduction of these in vivo tests. The aim of the conference is to bring together research scientists and regulatory authorities to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these in vitro methods in the field of human and veterinary biologicals. The meeting will be held at the Zoological Society, London under the sponsorship of the International Association of Biological Standardization (IABS) and European Validation of Alternatives Methods (ECVAM). Dr. Theo Saraceni of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) and Dr. Coenraad Hendriksen of the National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM) will serve as cochairs of the Scientific Program. Information: Dr. Theo Saraceni, NIBSC, Blanche Lane, Potters Bar, Herfordshire EN6 3OG, UK (Fax +44-170-7853796, Email thea@nibsc.ac.uk) or Dr. Coenraad Hendriksen, RIVM, P.O.Box 1, NL-3720 BA Bilthoven, The Netherlands (Fax +31-30-2744408, Email Coenraad.Hendriksen@rivm.nl).

Alternatives to Animals in the Development and Control of Biological Products for Human and Veterinary Use. Zoological Society, London Zoo, September 24–26, 1998. The interest in the use of alternative in vitro methods in the development and control of biological products has increased considerably in the last few years. The issues raised are of concern to the Scientific Community as well as to manufacturers, regulatory authorities and those working in animal ethics and welfare. A large number of physicochemical, immunotoxicological, biochemical and cell biological methods have been proposed for the replacement, refinement and reduction of these in vivo tests. The aim of the conference is to bring together research scientists and regulatory authorities to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these in vitro methods in the field of human and veterinary biologicals. The meeting will be held at the Zoological Society, London under the sponsorship of the International Association of Biological Standardization (IABS) and European Validation of Alternatives Methods (ECVAM). Dr. Theo Saraceni of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) and Dr. Coenraad Hendriksen of the National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM) will serve as cochairs of the Scientific Program. Information: Dr. Theo Saraceni, NIBSC, Blanche Lane, Potters Bar, Herfordshire EN6 3OG, UK (Fax +44-170-7853796, Email thea@nibsc.ac.uk) or Dr. Coenraad Hendriksen, RIVM, P.O.Box 1, NL-3720 BA Bilthoven, The Netherlands (Fax +31-30-2744408, Email Coenraad.Hendriksen@rivm.nl).

International Conference on the Use of Humane Endpoints in Animal Experiments for Biomedical Research. ECVAM Working Group on Humane Endpoints. Hotel Fhid, Zeist, The Netherlands, November 23–25, 1998. Scientific programme: The conference will include invited lectures, oral communications and poster presentations. The main topics that will be addressed are: Humane endpoints in biomedical research (carcinogenicity testing and tumor research, drug research, infection studies and vaccine development, etc.); Regulatory testing (toxicity testing, vaccine quality control, quality control of pharmaceuticals, etc.); Alternatives to lethal or severe clinical endpoints (clinical parameters, pathophysiological parameters, biochemical parameters); Animals in lethal experiments (observation of animals, assessment of pain, distress, suffering, training of scientists and animal technicians, non-invasive and remote sensing techniques). For any information please contact: Coenraad Hendriksen or Bjorn Steen, p/a RIVM, Central Animal Laboratories, P.O. B. 1, NL-3720 BA Bilthoven, The Netherlands (Tel. +31-30-2742503/2377, Fax: +31-30-2744408, Email: Bjorn.Steen@RIVM.nl).

Third World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, Bologna, Italy, 29 August–2 September 1999. Information: JRC Public Relations and Publications Unit (Fax: +39-332-782436, e-mail: prp@jrc.it; website: http://www.ei.jrc.it/ecvam/bologna/testbol.html).