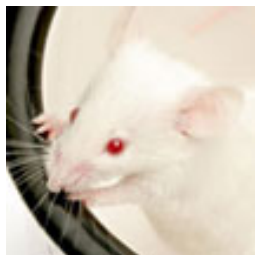


ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



ICCVAM Holds Workshop on Alternatives to Botox® Testing

On November 13-14th, the federal Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) held a workshop on "Alternative Methods to Refine, Reduce, and Replace the Mouse LD50 Assay for Botulinum Toxin Testing." The workshop was organized in response to a proposal by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) urging ICCVAM to identify potential alternatives to the LD50 assay used for testing botulinum toxin-based products such as Botox® Cosmetic, and to provide guidance for fostering the development and validation of the most promising alternative methods. The standard test for the popular anti-wrinkle treatment and similar products--the Lethal Dose 50% Test, or LD50 Test—causes considerable distress before killing the animals.

The workshop, co-organized by the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), drew 116 participants from Europe and North America. The workshop revealed that the LD50 assay is used not only to assess the potency of botulinum toxin-based products, but also to detect the toxin in suspected cases of botulism poisoning or in food or environmental samples. Several methods were identified that show promise in reducing, refining, and replacing the use of animals in these areas. For example, Allergan, Inc. has been able to reduce the number of animals used in testing its signature product, Botox®, and is working on a cell-based replacement alternative for the LD50 assay.

"The HSUS views the ICCVAM workshop as an important step in ending the use of animals in LD50

November 2006

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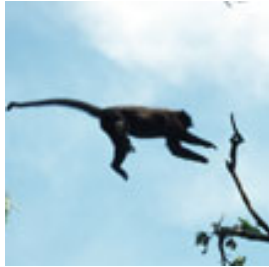
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Noteworthy...

The federal government is requesting public comment until December 31, 2006 on the development of a 5-year plan by the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative

testing of botulinum toxin” says Dr. Martin Stephens, HSUS Vice President for Animal Research Issues. “Now the challenge for the ICCVAM is to work with the key players in this field to bring the most promising alternative methods forward, and to gain regulatory acceptance for them.”

Sources: [ICCVAM](#)



Facility Will Not Conduct Research on Endangered Monkeys-For Now

Yerkes National Primate Research Center has withdrawn its request to the United States government to conduct biomedical experiments on its colony of sooty mangabeys, a species of monkey classified as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Yerkes withdrew its request “in light of possible reconsideration of the sooty mangabey classification status” according to an Associated Press article.

Normally research on endangered species is prohibited. However, Yerkes requested permission from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in January 2006 to conduct “lethal take” experiments and simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) research on the mangabeys housed at Yerkes Primate Center, as well as to euthanize animals “that are of no value for breeding.” The request was controversial. The USFWS received 400-500 public comments on the proposal, including from The Humane Society of the United States. Opposition to the permit included a joint letter from a number of scientists, including primatologist Jane Goodall.

According to a USFWS spokesperson, the agency is currently reviewing the endangered status of sooty mangabeys. Animal protectionists will be monitoring this review to see if the agency “downlists” sooty mangabeys from “endangered” to “threatened.”

Source: [Associated Press](#); *Science*, November 3 2006, Vol. 314

Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternatives (ICCVAM). The plan will address (1) research, development, translation, and validation of non-animal assays for integration into federal agency testing programs, and (2) identification of high priority areas for new and revised non-animal alternative assays with the intention of replacing, reducing, and refining animal tests. [Federal Register](#).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting comments on the pilot phase of its Voluntary Children’s Chemical Evaluation Program. The program, which calls for various animal-based tests, was designed to collect data on health risks for children exposed to 23 chemicals. Comments are being accepted until January 19, 2007. The EPA will use the comments to help evaluate the effectiveness of the VCCEP, now at its midpoint. For more information see the [Federal Register](#).

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Two Studies Reveal Limitations of Animal Experiments

The discover that insulin-producing cells in humans differ markedly from their counterparts in rodents has cast doubt on the validity of much of the animal-based research on human diabetes, according to researchers at the Diabetes Research Institute. "We can no longer rely on studies in mice and rats" according to the Institute's Per-Olof Berggren. "It is now imperative that we focus on human [islet cells, which produce insulin]. At the end of the day, it is the only way to understand how they function."

Similarly, scientists at the University of Toronto have evaluated whether animal studies regularly lead to "successful human research." Their article, published in Journal of the American Medical Association, was based on a systematic review of the animal studies most commonly cited in the prominent scientific journals. According to their criteria, the scientists found that only one third of these highly cited animal studies actually led to human trials. The authors, commenting on the meaning of their review, warned that doctors and patients should be careful about translating animal research findings to the treatment of human disease. They also warned that those conducting human clinical human research should expect poor replication of animal studies, even if the animal studies were of high quality.

Source: [Diabetes Research Institute](#); Journal of American Medical Association. October 11, 2006- Vol. 296, No.14



OSU Chimpanzees Transferred from Primarily Primates

Seven chimpanzees originally sent from Ohio State University (OSU) to Primarily Primates, Inc. in San Antonio, Texas, have been relocated to a second sanctuary--Chimp Haven, a home for chimpanzees formerly used in research, in Shreveport, Louisiana. These seven individuals are the survivors of a group of nine chimps relocated from OSU in March of this year. One of the chimpanzees died during transfer to Primarily Primates and a second individual died two weeks later.

In October, the Texas Attorney General's Office took control of Primarily Primates, Inc. and an Austin judge appointed wildlife rehabilitator Lee Theisen-Watt as interim operator of the facility. According to Theisen-Watt, approximately 200 animals have been relocated to other sanctuaries in an effort to relieve "cramped conditions" at PPI.

Source: [Shreveport Times](#); Chron.com, Nov. 25, 2006



Jack Spade Pulls Dissection Kit from Shelves

Jack Spade, known primarily as a designer and retailer of men's handbags and other accessories, has pulled its Frog Dissection Kit from stores after receiving protest letters from animal advocates and organizations, including one from The Humane Society of the United States. The kits included a dead frog and a picture of a one-legged frog on crutches, as well as scissors, forceps, a magnifying glass, and an instruction booklet.

Spade started selling the \$40 frog dissection kits in October. After learning of the sale of the kits earlier this year, The HSUS called upon the company to halt the sale of the product. The HSUS emphasized the toll that dissection takes on animals and the environment, and the availability and effectiveness of dissection alternatives. "The bottom line is that promoting such a controversial practice ... would seem to be in contradiction with Jack Spade's fashionable image," said the HSUS's letter.

Explaining its reason for dabbling in dissection, a company spokesperson said the "intent was to celebrate science and biology, present something educational for children and adults," he said. "Jack Spade doesn't support the unethical treatment of animals."

Source: The New York Times, *The Sartorial Meets the Biological*, November 19, 2006; [Reuters](#); The HSUS, Letter to Jack Spade November 11, 2006.

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