



COSMETICS EUROPE: NEWS ON ALTERNATIVES

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News on Alternatives

NEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO ANIMAL TESTING



Working in partnership to develop alternatives to animal testing



Rob Taalman
Director, Research Project
Management, Colipa

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of the Colipa Alternatives newsletter.

This is the third issue of the newsletter, which focuses on research into alternatives to animal testing. We believe that the newsletter has become a valuable method of informing decision-makers, civil society and the general public about the latest developments led by the cosmetics and personal care products industry.

This edition focuses in part on the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences.

The last Congress, held in September 2009 in Rome, had many welcome results, and highlighted the progress that is being made in finding alternatives to animal testing, including the work of the industry over the past two decades. We take a look back at the Rome Congress, and look forward to the next meeting, which will be held in Montreal in August this year.

We also look at the launch of a 50m EUR partnership between the European Commission and Colipa under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research. By giving financial support to a series of projects, we aim to accelerate the development of alternative methods in some of the most difficult areas of safety assessment for cosmetics and personal care products. Finally, we focus on progress in one particular area – skin sensitisation. Here, as elsewhere, the cosmetics and personal care products industry continues to support scientists and researchers and facilitate collaboration in order to make as

much progress on alternatives as possible, as fast as possible.

Colipa continues to work with the European Commission and other industry associations in order to advance research into alternatives.

In November, a new action plan was launched at the 6th annual conference of the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to animal testing (EPAA). It aims to tackle the challenges raised by EU legislation in a range of sectors, including cosmetics and personal care products.

The EPAA is just one example of an important partnership between the European Commission and several industry sectors to advance the replacement, reduction and refinement of animal studies – and Colipa continues to work with decision-makers, scientists, NGOs and others to support the development of alternative methods.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Calling on science to advance animal welfare

From Rome to Montreal: a look at the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences

Launched in 1993, the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences has become a key forum for members of the global animal welfare community and leading scientists to discuss the ethical use of animals and quality science, as well as how to advance the replacement, reduction and refinement of animal studies ('3Rs').

The Seventh Congress – known as 'WC7' – was held in Rome in September 2009, with the theme 'Calling on Science'. The conference and its many workshops addressed developments and challenges regarding scientific breakthroughs, regulatory risk assessment and animal welfare around the world.

Participants examined current knowledge of the human genome and the genomes of many animal species. Based on this knowledge, it found that substantial scientific progress has been, and can continue to be made in the area of gene mapping and expression (genomics). This makes it

possible to apply this knowledge to the development of alternatives to animal testing in the near future.

Current computational methods (linking and analysing massive databases) and a new generation of sophisticated *in vitro* test systems (which address metabolic processes at a tiny sub-cellular level) are key technologies in moving towards this goal: they will allow for assessment of the safety of chemical and microbiological substances used in cosmetic and personal care products (as well as other chemical-using industries) without the need for testing on animals.

Bertil Heerink, the Director-General of Colipa, stressed the importance of communicating the state of progress in alternative testing methods from events such as the World Congress to a wide range of stakeholders.

Commenting on the success of WC7, he said: "The World Congress provided an opportunity to share our research into

alternative methods and to benchmark it against cutting-edge science whilst taking inspiration from the best scientists in the world."

The aim of the Eighth Congress, to be held in Montreal later this year, is to build on these achievements by bridging the gap between science and policy and identifying opportunities for collaboration. One thousand scientists, veterinarians, animal welfare organisations and regulatory experts, from over 50 countries, are expected to attend. Executive Director of Canadian Council on Animal Care, Clément Gauthier, said: "the WC8 will provide a forum that supports both the ethical use of animals and quality science". Commenting on the Congress' motto ('The Three Rs – Together it's possible') he said, "this reflects a tradition of consensus-building on this issue in Canada – as well as the approach that Colipa is taking in Europe, working with partners in the European institutions, scientists, NGOs and other industry associations."

Building a partnership for scientific progress

Colipa and the European Commission join forces to support research into alternatives

The key elements for the development of alternatives to animal testing are top-quality research, partnership between different stakeholders, and substantial funding. That is why Colipa has joined forces with the European Commission to launch a major initiative to stimulate further research into alternatives to animal testing under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7).



50m EUR is being devoted to the initiative – half from the cosmetics and personal care products industry – with the aim of attracting proposals from Europe's top life scientists and institutions.

In July 2009, a new 'call for proposals' was announced under FP7 as part of the EU's Health Programme, with a focus on developing non-animal tests for one of the most difficult areas of safety assessment, known as 'repeated-dose systemic toxicity'. Tests in this field are crucial: they ensure the safety of cosmetic and personal care products - including vital, everyday items such as toothpastes, sunscreens, soaps and dermatological products - in terms of their overall long-term impact on the body and its functions.

The call for proposals, which includes six research topics and one coordinating project, is based on recommendations made by a group of experts jointly selected by the European Commission and by Colipa.

The 25m EUR funding from Colipa brings investment in alternatives by the cosmetics and personal care industry to more than 37m EUR over the period from 2007 to 2014. The industry in Europe has shown a long-standing and continuous commitment to the elimination of animal testing.

'Out of the lab, into the real world'

Making progress on skin sensitisation



Gavin Maxwell
Chair of the Colipa Skin Tolerance Task Force

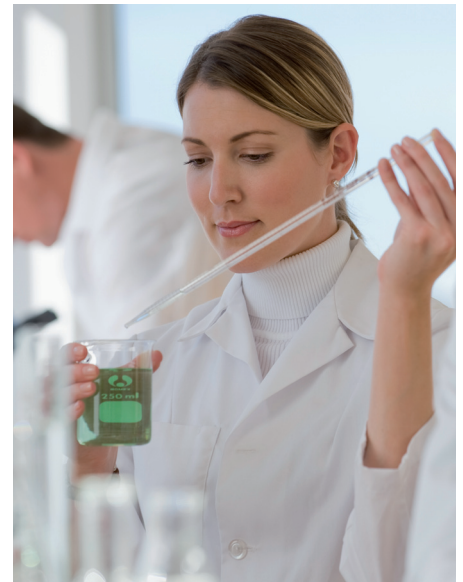
Product safety has always been – and remains – the top priority for the cosmetics and personal care industry. Colipa member companies ensure compliance with European legislation, including its stringent safety testing requirements, in order to guarantee the safety of the consumers who use them and the workers who make them.

One important area of safety assessment is the impact of a cosmetic or personal care product on the skin. Colipa funds an extensive programme of research to build on our understanding of the molecular mechanisms that drive 'skin sensitisation' – an allergic reaction to a particular chemical that results in skin inflammation and itchiness, which will get worse with repeated exposure.

Our increasing knowledge in this area is being applied in the development of non-animal test methods – whether in vitro (in a test tube or dish) or in silico (using computer modeling). These tests help us to identify and characterise the 'sensitising' potential of chemicals.

In June last year, scientific researchers and cosmetics and personal care products industry experts gathered in Brussels to share information and ideas at an international workshop of the Colipa Skin Tolerance Task Force. This workshop discussed Colipa's overarching approach for a full replacement of animal tests for skin sensitisation.

In my view, this event really demonstrated the value of bringing together academic and industry experts. We feel a tangible sense of progress since last year's conference, and are looking



to maintain the current pace, not least by funding, as an industry, academic research and non-animal testing method development. Our efforts in the area of skin sensitisation demonstrate the determination of the cosmetics and personal care products industry to take lab developments into the real world and create effective alternative methods to animal testing.

Colipa
The European Cosmetics Association
Avenue Herrmann-Debroux 15a
1160 Brussels
T. +32 2 227 66 10
F. +32 2 227 66 27
E. colipa@colipa.be
www.colipa.eu

"News on alternatives" is published twice a year by Colipa in order to bring you the latest news regarding the development of Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing.

More information about alternatives can be found on our website: www.colipa.eu

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COSMETICS EUROPE – THE PERSONAL CARE ASSOCIATION
AVENUE HERRMANN-DEBROUX 40, 1160 BRUSSELS
T. +32 2 227 66 10, F. +32 2 227 66 27
WWW.COSMETICSEUROPE.EU