DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
P. O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

February 1, 2012

Harold E. Varmus, M.D.
Director
National Cancer Institute
Building 31, Room 11A48
31 Center Drive, MSC 2590
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Varmus:

I am pleased to forward toxicological test method recommendations for the LUMI-CELL® Estrogen Receptor (ER) BG1Luc Estrogen Receptor (ER) Transcriptional Activation (TA) test method from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) for your consideration. These test method recommendations are being sent to you for action pursuant to Section 3(e)(4) and 4(a)-(e) of the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 285*l*-3).

Xenobiotic Detection Systems, Inc. (XDS, Durham, NC) nominated the BG1Luc ER TA test method to ICCVAM for an interlaboratory validation study. ICCVAM and the Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM) recommended the study as a high priority, and NICEATM subsequently coordinated an international validation study with counterparts in Japan (JaCVAM) and Europe (ECVAM).

ICCVAM's Interagency Endocrine Disruptor Working Group (EDWG), composed of scientists from ICCVAM member agencies, worked with NICEATM to carry out relevant evaluation activities following completion of the international validation study. A draft background review document, draft test method performance standards, and draft ICCVAM test method recommendations were reviewed by an international independent scientific peer review panel (the Panel). ICCVAM considered the Panel report and comments from the public, the EDWG, and SACATM in preparing the final test method recommendations provided in NIH Publication No. 11- 7850, ICCVAM *Test Method Evaluation Report: The LUMI-CELL® ER (BG1Luc ER TA) Test Method, An In Vitro Assay for Identifying Human Estrogen Receptor Agonist and Antagonist Activity of Chemicals* (enclosed). Based on this evaluation, ICCVAM recommends that the accuracy and reliability of the BG1Luc ER TA test method support its use as a screening test to identify substances with *in vitro* ER agonist or antagonist activity.

Pursuant to Sections 4(a)-(e), of the ICCVAM Authorization Act, Federal agencies are required to review ICCVAM test method recommendations and notify ICCVAM in writing of the agency's findings no later than 180 days after receipt of this letter. In accordance with these requirements, we ask that you please state whether your agency will adopt the ICCVAM test method recommendations or whether your agency has determined that one or more of the criteria in Section 4(e)(1) to (4) for not adopting the recommendations are met.

Please send your agency's response regarding each of the requirements to RADM William S. Stokes, Director, NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (contact information, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, telephone: 919-541-2384, facsimile: 919-541-0947, email: stokes@niehs.nih.gov. ICCVAM is required to make the final ICCVAM test method recommendations and corresponding agency responses available to the public per Section 3(e)(6) of the Act. Accordingly, your response will be made available on the NICEATM-ICCVAM website at http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov.

I appreciate your agency's participation on ICCVAM. This committee serves an important role in facilitating the scientific evaluation and adoption of test methods that will help protect human health and the environment while providing for improved animal welfare.

Sincerely,

/s/
Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S.
Director

Enclosure

cc:
T. Kevin Howcroft, Ph.D., NCI ICCVAM Principal Agency Representative