DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

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Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Director
National Toxicology Program Interagency Center
For the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Services
P.O. Box 12233, Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Admiral Stokes:

This letter is in response to a request from Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Services, requesting the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) response to the transmittal of Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) Test Method Recommendations for a specific criterion for the murine local lymph node assay (LLNA) to be used in potency categorization of chemicals that may cause allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) in humans.

Staff in the NCI Division of Cancer Biology reviewed the report (NIH Publication Number 11-7709) and found the recommendations are consistent with the ICCVAM efforts to facilitate the scientific evaluation and adoption of test methods that will help protect human health and the environment while providing for improved animal welfare whenever possible.

The NCI is not one of the Federal agencies that promulgate regulations or guidelines regarding test methods or test method protocols and performance standards. We thus do not have relevant test methods for which ICCVAM test recommendations may be added or substituted.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these documents.

Sincerely,

/s/

Harold E. Varmus, M.D.
Director
National Cancer Institute

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