DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

NOV 2 3 2010

RECEIVED
NOV 2 3 2010

William S. Stokes, D.V.M.
Rear Admiral, US Public Health Service
Director, National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for
the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
PO Box 12233, Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear RADM Stokes:

I am responding to Dr. Birnbaum's June 10, 2010, letter to me transmitting the test recommendations from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) as required by Section 3(c)(4) of the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 285*l*-3). As indicated in the ICCVAM report, the test method recommendations relate to test methods proposed for new versions and applications of the local lymph node assay (LLNA). The alternative test methods described are updated LLNA test methods used to assess the potential for chemical and products used to cause allergic contact dermatitis.

We appreciate the Committee's recommendations and note that the ICCVAM Authorization Act (P.L. 106-545, Section 5, Application (a)) states that this Act does not apply to NIH programs. You should know, however, that the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare within the Office of Extramural Research will provide access to ICCVAM's test recommendations through a Web link.

NIH remains committed to animal welfare efforts and to research efforts that improve human and animal health. Additionally, we promote the development of sound research designs and alternative methods to reduce the use of animals in biomedical research.

My understanding is that other components of the NIH will be responding to your transmittal as well.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director