

Dr. William S. Stokes
Director, NICEATM (MD EC-17)
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes,

I thank you very much for the opportunity to express my hopes to you regarding toxicity testing (using in vitro methods as opposed to using animals). I am not a scientist or a doctor, so I cannot support my views with any scientific data. I am simply a person who cares deeply about the welfare of animals. I believe that toxicity tests done on animals are not only ethically wrong but without scientific value as well. The physiology of an animal is so different from that of a human - how could animal testing have any relevance to people?

I urge the NIEHS to replace ALL animal test methods with in vitro testing as soon as possible. I am amazed to hear that tests such as the LD50 test are still in use, although less so. Considering the immense suffering of the animals, it is my hope that all animal tests will be replaced by non-animal test methods which have been considered for almost 2 decades now. It is sad to hear that non-animal test methods have not been pursued as much as they could have been.

Perhaps, at the very least, government agencies could start to incorporate in vitro test methods as a starting point to make the transition away from animal testing to kill less animals. I urge the EPA to honor its October 1999 agreement with the animal protection community to use its non-animal cell culture method in its HPV chemical program.

On behalf of the animals who cannot speak for themselves, I thank you for your kind attention and consideration of my message.

Ellen Bowman