

News - May 2018

Surveys

Survey on 3Rs education and training courses and resources

The JRC has launched a survey to identify courses, modules, teaching materials, guidance, and other resources to form a snapshot view of how, where and to whom the 3Rs principles and alternative-to-animal approaches are currently being taught keeping in mind that many such initiatives might not be "3R labelled". The survey is part of a JRC study aiming to review available education and training resources that support the 3Rs approach: Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of animal procedures used for scientific purposes.. The survey is open until end of June and can be accessed here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/3Rs-Education-and-Training>

Systematic evaluation on simulators

The "Institut für Tierschutz, Tierverhalten und Versuchstierkunde " at the Freie Universität Berlin is conducting a survey on the advantages and disadvantages of currently used rats and mouse-simulators. The survey (in German) is open until 1st July 2018. The survey is accessible here: <https://survey.vetmed.fu-berlin.de/index.php/945376?lang=de>

Survey on the Adverse Outcome Pathway Knowledge Base (AOP-KB)

The Adverse Outcome Pathway Knowledge Base (AOP-KB) is known as a significant platform. It has been launched by the OECD in 2014. Now, the AOP-KB 2.0 project has been started. It is the next generation of the AOP-KB. In order to get to know stakeholders needs, the AOP team is conducting a survey and looking for persons willing to share their opinion later this year through participating in workshops or targeted interviews. The survey can be accessed here: <https://survey2018.oecd.org/Survey.aspx?s=049a9deddbbd4b9caa0fc9157a6beb70>.

News on Conferences and Symposiums

Animal Experimentation Conference

On 18 May, the 11th Animal Experimentation Conference of the Swiss Animal Protection (STS) took place in Olten, Switzerland. This year's event focused on the new 3RCC national competence centre and whether the centre can meet the expectations from the various stakeholders. Several projects using alternative methods were presented. The conference documentation will be available on: <http://www.tierschutz.com/publikationen/index.html>.

3R Symposium on Alternatives to CO₂

On the 29 May 2018, the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) organized a Symposium in Bern, Switzerland to discuss possible alternatives to the use of CO₂ for euthanasia and slaughter purposes. The Symposium counted with the presence of Swiss and international speakers who presented the drawbacks of using CO₂ for euthanasia, the need to find possible alternatives, and addressed possible alternative solutions. The Symposium was organized in a dynamic manner to allow maximum participation of the ca. 100 participants that inscribed to participate to the symposium. First a plenary discussion with the participants allowed to define a set of criteria on

'what is a good death for animals?'. Furthermore, world café discussion took place during the afternoon session to answer the following questions:

- What would you do if you couldn't use CO₂ for euthanasia & slaughter purposes?
- How can your professional experience contribute to the search of alternatives to CO₂?
- Can you suggest any novel methods or novel refinements to existing methods that might be a humane and practical alternative to CO₂?

The outcomes of discussions from each question were presented and commented by the invited experts. The final conclusions and recommendations are planned to be published to the larger scientific community.

News from EURL-ECVAM

The new EURL-ECVAM Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) has been formally appointed

The JRC's EU Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL ECVAM) is delighted to announce the renewal of the EURL ECVAM Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) whose members were formally appointed on the 16th of April 2018. Details of the new ESAC including its members can be found on the Register of Commission Expert groups under the page 'members': <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3602&NewSearch=1&NewSearch=1>.

Renewed every three years, ESAC is composed of external scientists who are appointed on the basis of their scientific expertise and who act independently in the public interest. ESAC advises EURL ECVAM on scientific and technical issues related to the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The new ESAC will meet in Ispra, Italy, on 3-5 December 2018 at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and preparations are currently underway to mandate ESAC to deliver opinions on the scientific validity of alternative methods to assess chemicals for their skin sensitisation potential, and antibodies and new generation affinity reagents produced using animal-free technologies.

Upcoming Workshops, Symposiums & Congresses

13 - 14 June 2018. Workshop on the validation and regulatory acceptance of innovative 3R approaches in regulatory toxicology. Organized by BfR and RIVM, Bilthoven, The Netherlands (on invitation only)

5 - 6 July 2018. LIVE 2018 - Lung *In Vitro* event – for innovative & predictive models. Epithelix & Alvertox Academy, Nice, France. More info: <http://www.epithelix.com/support/LIVE2018>

27 - 29 Aug. 2018. 12th International Conference and Workshop on Biological Barriers. BioBarriers 2018, Saarbruecken, Germany. More info: <http://biobarriers.hips-wordpress.helmholtz-hzi.de/>

2 - 5 Sept. 2018. Eurotox 2018. Brussels, Belgium. Registration until 15 August 2018. More info: <http://www.eurotox-congress.com/2018/>

23 - 26 Sept. 2018. 21st European Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing. EUSAAT, Linz, Austria. Registration is open now. ***Deadline for abstract submissions has been postponed until 14 June 2018.*** To get selected to the EUSAAT 2018 YSTA program, young scientists can provide a submission until 25 June 2018. More info: <http://www.eusaat-congress.eu/index.php/congress/2018/topics>.

15 - 18 Oct. 2018. ESTIV 2018 - 20th International Congress on *In Vitro* Toxicology.
ESTIV-CAAT-GT, Berlin, Germany. Deadline for abstract submissions: 17 June 2018.
More info: <http://www.estiv2018.com>

5 - 6 Nov. 2018. ECOPA Symposium 2018. How new experimental tools in life sciences challenge the 3Rs vision. Francopa (French platform on alternatives), Paris Diderot-Paris 7, University. More info: <http://www.francopa.fr/web/pdf/francopa/ECOPA2018EN.pdf>

Upcoming Training & Education

28 - 29 June 2018. Symposium "The three Rs in research project design: a prerequisite for good science". Fondazione Guido Bernardini, Varese, Italy. More info: http://www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org/en/training_initiatives/event_detail.aspx?IDEvent=112&IDEventType=5

9 - 14 Sept. 2018. Biosystems Engineering: Bioreactors and Cell Factories (Course). Braunwald, Switzerland. More info: <http://www.braunwald-bioengineering.de/>

4 - 5 Oct. 2018. Hands-on training on PBPK modelling for quantitative *in vitro-in vivo* extrapolation. KU Leuven & Alvertox Academy, Leuven, Belgium. More info: <https://alvertox2018-kuleuven.eventbrite.com>

30 - 31 Oct. 2018. Hands-on training on culture of human highly relevant cells according to Good Cell Culture Practice (GCCP). Evercyte & Alvertox Academy, Vienna, Austria.
More info: <https://alvertox2018-evercyte.eventbrite.com>

8 - 9 Nov. 2018. 3DTissue Engineering Quality Control – From the Bench to the Bedside. IRBM & Alvertox Academy, Montpellier, France. More info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3dtissue-engineering-quality-control-from-the-bench-to-the-bedside-tickets-42424353383>

15 - 16 Nov. 2018. Hands-on training on *in vitro* lung models. Epithelix & Alvertox Academy, Geneva, Switzerland. More info: <https://alvertox2018-epithelix.eventbrite.com>

22 - 23 Nov. 2018. Hands-on training on skin sensitization. BASF & Alvertox Academy Ludwigshafen, Germany. More info: <https://alvertox2018-basf.eventbrite.com>