

IIVS News & Views

EPAA and IIVS Sign Memorandum of Understanding

In an effort to ensure stronger international co-operation on the advancement of non-animal testing methods, the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) and IIVS have agreed to establish a strategic partnership dedicated to the international dissemination of alternative techniques for safety evaluation. EPAA will provide IIVS with sponsorship of up to \$100,000 over the next two years, to support training activities in key regions, including China and Brazil.

IIVS Shares Poster Award at EPAA Meeting

The 2012 Poster Recognition Award, restricted to industry applicants, was given to a poster co-authored by IIVS, entitled: *Pre-validation of the Reconstructed 3-D Human Skin Micro-nucleus and Comet Assays*. Eight organisations co-operated in these studies, which were financed primarily by Cosmetics Europe, to develop genotoxicity assays that would assist in addressing the EU ban on the animal testing of cosmetics products or ingredients, or the marketing of animal-tested cosmetics products.

IIVS Wins the First LUSH Cosmetics Prize for Training

Designed to accelerate the date when products and chemicals are no longer tested on animals, the LUSH prize recognises individuals, or organisations, who have excelled in establishing training programmes to make scientists aware of the range of available non-animal testing methods. IIVS received the first annual LUSH Training Prize, during an award ceremony in London on 15 November, 2012. The prize is a joint project between the global handmade cosmetics company and Ethical Consumer magazine. “At IIVS we believe the change to non-animal testing methods will be hastened through education and training. Seeing, touching, using these methods first-hand and understanding the results will

change perceptions and practices” said Erin Hill, Vice-president of IIVS, during the awards ceremony. “Our training changes the fuzzy image of ‘alternatives’ into the reality of better science and the removal of animal pain and suffering.” IIVS shared the award with InterNICHE, an international network focusing on animal use and alternatives within biological sciences, medical and veterinary medical education.

COLAMA 2012: 1st Latin American Congress of Alternative Methods for Use of Animals in Education, Research and Industry

Styled after the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, COLAMA provided a forum for Latin American countries interested in alternative methods. The host country, Brazil, recently created the Brazilian Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (BraCVAM) through co-operation between the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), and the National Network of Alternative Methods (RENAMA). The COLAMA conference was organised in Niteroi (RJ), and was attended by almost 200 people, including over 40 speakers and 12 supporting organisations. IIVS was proud to give a lecture and to be recognised as a Bronze Supporter of the meeting.

While in Brazil, IIVS participated in the Humane Society International’s regulatory science workshop, entitled ‘Current and Future Prospects of Alternatives for Cosmetics Testing’. IIVS also presented a paper entitled ‘Harmonization of Techniques for Safety Evaluation of Cosmetics and their Ingredients’ during a meeting of ANVISA, the Brazilian Association of the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Industry (ABIHPEC), and the Institute of Technology and Studies of Personal Hygiene, Perfumery and Cosmetics (ITEHPEC).

52nd Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology

IIVS staff recently returned from attending the annual SOT meeting in San Antonio, TX, USA.

Hans Raabe was a speaker for a well-received continuing education class on non-animal corrosivity and irritation testing for REACH purposes. Listed below are the titles of the IIVS posters presented during the SOT meeting:

- Application of a Modified KeratinoSens Assay to Predict Sensitization Hazard for Botanical Extracts
- Validation of *In Vitro* and Clinical Safety Assessment of Behentrimonium Chloride-containing Leave-on Body Lotions Using Post-marketing Adverse Event Data
- The Inter-laboratory Reproducibility of the STE Test for Assessing Eye Irritation of Cosmetic Products
- Choosing the Appropriate Solvent for Solid Materials Tested in the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) *In Vitro* Assay
- *In Vitro* Ocular Irritation Testing Strategy for Prototype Cleaning Products
- Surfactant Responses in the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability Assay: Points to Consider for *In Vitro* Eye Irritation Testing
- Screening of Cosmetics Ingredients for Phototoxic Potential Using the *In Vitro* 3T3 Neutral Red Uptake Phototoxicity Test

For copies of the posters or for more information on any of the poster topics, please contact us through our website (www.iivs.org).

IIVS International Training Programmes

IIVS Industry Council for the Advancement of Regulatory Acceptance of Alternatives (ICARAA): Training at Reshine Biotech

At the end of October 2012, IIVS scientists travelled to China to provide training to Chinese researchers through IIVS' Industry Council for the Advancement of Regulatory Acceptance of Alternatives (ICARAA). The team visited Shaanxi Reshine Biotech in Xi'an to instruct their staff on three OECD-accepted *in vitro* methods. The programme consisted of lectures on the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) and the 3T3 Neutral Red Uptake Phototoxicity (3T3 NRU PT) assays, and the Skin Irritation Test (SIT), followed by hands-on laboratory training in these methods. Nearly 30 scientists attended these instructional sessions, including repre-

sentatives from the Chinese State Food and Drug Administration (sFDA) and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ).

Although this training provided the Chinese scientists with their first exposure to these methods, their local efforts clearly assisted the programme. Importantly, the bovine corneas used in the training were obtained locally, and the skin tissue models were generated on-site at Shaanxi Reshine.

A key component of the IIVS mission is to assist *in vitro* test method developers to optimise and validate their products for use by industry and the regulatory community. Realising the need for 3-D skin constructs and the limitation on the importation of such models into China, IIVS views Shaanxi Reshine as a viable option for the production of skin models for safety testing within China. With further training and development, it is expected that Shaanxi Reshine can provide tissue constructs for use in regulatory submissions, once they are accepted by the Chinese authorities. They could also become a training centre to help in the evaluation and validation of *in vitro* methods in China, and potentially provide companies with a safety testing service for product development and regulatory submissions.

ICARAA was created through the support of companies dedicated to supplying technical assistance to companies, universities and governments, with the goal of regulatory acceptance of non-animal methods in countries which still rely on animal models for the safety evaluation of ingredients and products.

IIVS International Outreach Program (IOP): Training at Beijing Technology and Business University

IIVS staff travelled to Beijing to provide training at Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU). BTBU is the leading Chinese university in cosmetic science, having undergraduate and graduate level training in cosmetic formulation, efficacy and safety. BTBU also has had a close connection to the State Food and Drug Administration (sFDA) in understanding *in vitro* methods for safety and efficacy. IIVS scientists provided lectures and a hands-on laboratory demonstration of the BCOP assay. The BCOP assay was conducted with high-quality, locally-sourced bovine corneas. Over 25 students and faculty attended the lectures and demonstration. This was the first step in establishing BTBU as a fully functional *in vitro* laboratory for evaluating the safety and efficacy of cosmetic ingredients and formulations.

This training was funded through support of IIVS and our International Outreach Program (IOP). Additional support was provided by BASF, through the donation of opacimeters for the BCOP, and by PETA in the form of supplying the BTBU lab with equipment necessary for conduct-

ing accurate *in vitro* assessments. With this funding, IIVS was able to provide quality training at BTBU and has been asked to return to China to provide further guidance and training. Further training at these laboratories, as well as at additional sites in China, is being planned for 2013.

