

TO: Dr. William S. Stokes
Director, NICEATM (MD EC-17)
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I would like to express my support for the adoption of non-animal testing methods for chemical toxicity. In fact, in my view, Government agencies should use in vitro cell culture tests to completely replace the use of animals in lethal dose tests. I consider it cruel and unconscionable to subject live animals to these tests.

At a bare minimum, ALL government agencies that currently require the acute animal-poisoning studies should immediately incorporate the in vitro cell culture method as a transitional means of reducing the number of animals killed and should fully support the use of this method as an eventual replacement for lethal-dose poisoning studies. In particular, the EPA must immediately incorporate the non-animal cell culture method into its HPV chemical program, as promised in its October 1999 agreement with the animal protection community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian E. Johnson