

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am writing in regard to the decisions made at the recent NIEHS workshop, to partially implement in vitro testing for toxicity, in order to phase out the antiquated LD50 Tests. While I applaud your efforts in the right direction, to both protect the safety of the human public, and trying to make ethical decisions that will reduce the use of animals in this testing procedure, I fear that you may be hanging on to the training wheels, so to speak, after having learned how to ride a bike. I know that you are aware of the extrapolation difficulties that have always existed in trying to apply these test results from animal species to humans, that have made these tests unreliable thus far. So why the attempt to hang onto this method, to set starting doses, when clearly this entire method of testing is outdated, dangerous to the public health, and is highly objectionable to many taxpayers, who know enough about what is going on behind closed doors, to voice an objection.

Please take this step, but please do not forget how important it is to move forward into the this new century, with the promise of a better, safer method for testing, but also one that takes into consideration the sanctity of all life, and preserving not wasting the lives of those animals, who aren't given the option of whether they wish to participate in these deadly studies.

Yours Sincerely,
Cindy A. Niswonger