



## IIVS News



### Pew Health Group Stakeholder Workshop

Dr. Rodger Curren was an invited speaker at the stakeholder workshop titled *Enhancing FDA's Evaluation of Science to Ensure Chemicals Added to Food are Safe* (April 5-6, 2011 Washington, D.C.). Co-sponsored by the journal Nature, the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and The Pew Health Group, the workshop was designed to contribute to the US FDA's *Advancing Regulatory Science Initiative*, specifically the priority to better understand the risk of toxins in food by adapting science at FDA to meet the challenges of increasingly complex issues. The specific goals of the workshop were to:

- Promote a better understanding of the interaction between academic science and regulatory science;
- Identify areas of common interest and understanding within the chemical safety regulatory system among the many stakeholders;
- Review FDA's procedures to identify and initiate changes in its guidance for testing chemicals; and
- Publish a summary report of the key issues identified.

Experts from government, industry, academia, and public interest organizations participated in a facilitated discussion regarding the role of academic, hypothesis-based studies and protocol-based studies on regulatory decisions. Dr. Curren presented on the use of alternative test methods and their current role in regulatory decisions.

### ECVAM's Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Comprised of 15 experts, including Dr. Rodger Curren of IIVS, the ESAC is organized to provide ECVAM with independent scientific advice on the validity

of alternative test methods. The ESAC, chaired by Dr. David Basketter, met last October to discuss the review of an ECVAM-coordinated prevalidation study of three cell transformation assays (CTAs) for carcinogenicity.

These tests detect phenotypic changes in cells following exposure to test materials. These changes are detected by variations in clonal morphology (Syrian Hamster Embryo cells) or focus formation (Balb/c 3T3 cells). In order to conduct a detailed review of the ECVAM study, a working group of 5 experts was formed, including Dr. Curren and Dr. Erwin Roggen (chairperson) who represented ESAC.

The conclusions of the review were reported back to the full committee and will be incorporated into an ECVAM test method recommendation.

### Posters available from Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting

To view the IIVS posters presented at the SOT meeting, please visit the Resources section at: [www.iivs.org](http://www.iivs.org)

- Considerations for Demonstrating the Inter-Laboratory Reliability of Chorioallantoic Membrane Vascular Assay (CAMVA) and the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability Assay (BCOP)
- Evaluation of an Oral Care Product Safety Screening Program Utilizing the In Vitro SkinEthic Human Gingival Epithelium (RHG) and Oral Buccal (RHO) Models
- Improvements and Limitations of the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability Test (BCOP, OECD Test Guideline 437) in Routine Testing for Severe Ocular Irritants
- In Vitro Assessment of Skin Irritation Potential of Surfactant Based Formulations Using 3-D Skin Reconstructed Tissues and Cytokine Expression Analysis

- Quantification of UVA-Induced Reactive Oxygen Species in Primary Human Keratinocytes Treated with Antioxidants
- The KeratinoSens Assay to Detect Skin Sensitizers Based on Nrf2-dependent Gene Activity: Exploring the inter-laboratory reproducibility and the applicability domain

### IIVS launches new website design

IIVS is pleased to announce the official launch of our new web site design. Visit us at [www.iivs.org](http://www.iivs.org) to take a look at the following changes and improvements:

- Step-by-Step general assay procedures with photos in the "Science" section;
- A breakdown of current training opportunities and highlights of both institute and non-institute sponsored workshops in the "Education" section;
- An explanation of key science-based advocacy programs and partners in the "Outreach" section.

If you were familiar with the previous site, you may have used our "Resources" section to find publications and copies of IIVS newsletters. The search feature is greatly improved in this new site (and powered by Google). Feel free to contact us if you have difficulty finding any materials.

In addition to the improved features, the new website offers several options for keeping in touch with IIVS and getting the latest updates from us. You can click the "RSS feeds" button to be notified whenever we update our news and events postings. You can also follow us on Twitter, connect with us on LinkedIn, and friend us on Facebook to receive updates and interact with us in the forum that works best for you.

Please visit our new website today and send us some feedback or ask any questions that you might have.