“Protection of people and our environment through NAMs”

Mirror Group Perspective

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The Mirror Group

- Consists of representatives of civil society
- Reflects views of academia, animal research organisations, animal welfare organisations and politician
- Members act on a personal capacity, based on expertise
- Acts as a consultation forum in an advisory capacity to the Steering Committee for the implementation of the action programme and EPAA’s projects
- Adds a broader societal perspective to EPAA’s work
- Quarterly meetings with the Steering Committee
EPAA’s task (from brochure “15 years EPAA”):

“EPAA promotes alternatives to animal testing in priority areas where research gaps need to be identified and to overcome acceptance barriers”

“…facilitates research and development of new alternative methods to address technology gaps and promote innovative approaches to regulatory safety testing, particularly repeated-dose toxicity“

“…builds coalitions and synergies to accelerate the adoption of non-animal NAMs“

“… hosts workshops, provides recommendations and publications, financial and organizational support for expert meetings”
- **Revision** of the EU framework for the authorisation of chemicals has been delayed

- Proposed changes could increase animal testing by millions

- Stronger focus on *neurotoxicity, immunotoxicity and endocrine disruption*

- **Extension** of the *one-generation study* by two cohorts for immunotoxicology and DNT studies discussed
EPAA’s role; questions raised by MG members

These are many and varied!

• Who is responsible for method validation?

• EURL ECVAM’s financial resources of are unlikely to be sufficient for the validation authority’s now very extensive range of tasks

• Redistribution of financial resources from other projects?

• European Commission funding, Horizon Europe?

• Plans to abandon the extensive, long-lasting validation process?

• Can methods undergo a different qualification system to that currently used?
OECD TG 426 on DNT has hardly been used

New IVB investigates changes in a number of important DNT processes at cellular level

2016: Consensus, that IVB can be used for screening and prioritization

Currently animal cells are considered instead of human cells.

Extension of IVB urgently required to investigate e.g. disruption of the hormone and immune system, and create full replacement method.
No budget for reproductive toxicology

- Non-animal NAMs for tests of reproductive toxicity has not yet been sufficiently addressed
- Comparatively large number of animals are used in this area
- Currently no additional budget in sight for the development of replacement methods
Role model: PEPPER

- Public-Private-Partnership between Industry and government on national level (50:50)
- Organizes and finances pre-validation to ensure sufficient quality of developed methods
- Methods and assays for ED testing
- Evidence for international regulatory authorities
Validation funding or another qualification system?

Overlapping task?

- ONTOX
- RISK HUNT 3R
- ASPIS
- PRECISION TOX

60 million euros

400 million euros
Thank you for your attention!

EPAA Mirror Group

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