

# PROGRESS



**EVIK** international Neuronal net's

N°2 - FEBRUARY 2009

## Alternative methods to animal experimentation?

It is common to lead the question of Alternative Methods back to the implementation and validation of *in vitro* models, considering in a simplifying way that these sole ones will replace, in the more or less long term, the entire need of knowledge covered today by the animal experimentation.

*In silico*, *in vitro* and *in vivo* methods succeeded in coexisting for decades fulfilling complementary functions, the first ones being more directly used for the investigation of pharmacological or toxicological mechanisms of action on specific targets, whereas the last ones were more globally utilized to understand the impact of these effects onto alive organisms *in totum*.

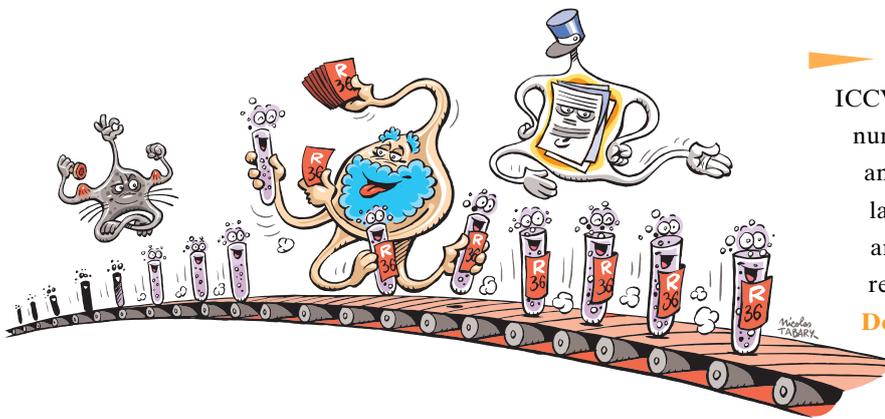
The inconsiderate recourse to animal experimentation conducted to a legitimate emotional reaction of the public, reinforced by the media. This growing pressure inevitably pushed the political power to take corrective measures, without previous guarantee that substitutes were available enabling to reach the same objectives with final benefit of the public.

From now on, it is for the researcher - pharmacologist or toxicologist – to define, then justify the strategy that enabled him to conduct his project properly, case by case, depending on the problems and the experimental models that he still is allowed to use.



As of March 2009, it will not be possible anymore to perform short term assays in animals to assess the local tolerance and the systemic risk of the ingredients used in cosmetology; with the pressure from the consumers, the same question pops up today in other industrial sectors that you might be interested in...

**Have you already defined the approach the most appropriate to satisfy the safety requirements of the ingredients or products that you plan on marketing in the upcoming months?**

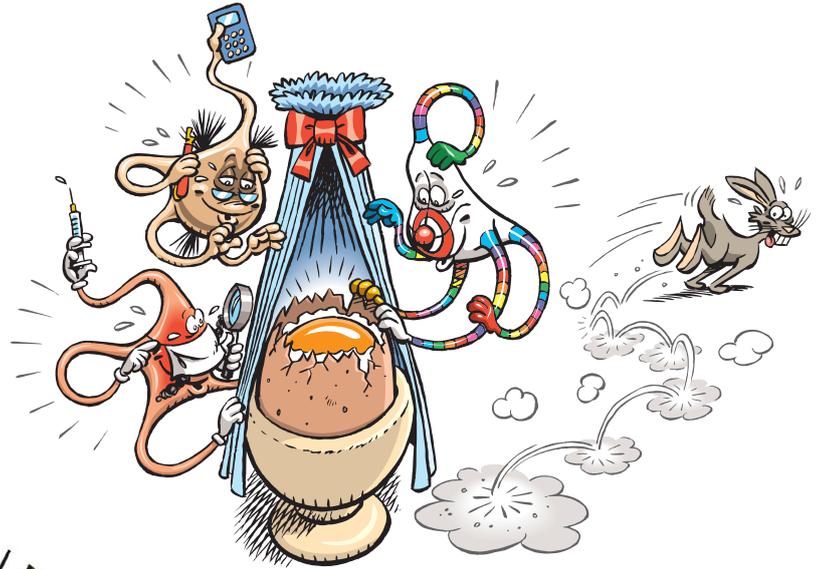


Under the impulse of ECVAM in Europe, ICCVAM in the USA and JaCVAM in Japan, a number of *in vitro* methods have just been validated and are subject to mutual recognition, allowing a labelling of the ingredients; sometimes methods are accepted by some committees but not recognised by others...

**Do you have access to this information?**

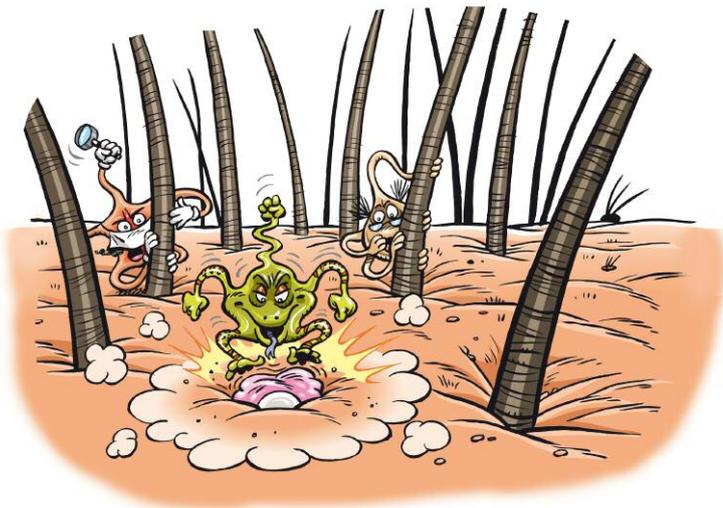
Some validated Alternative Methods are eligible for the creation of REACH dossiers, as for example irritation tests on reconstructed epidermis, irritation tests on cornea and skin sensitisation rLLNA. These experimental models enable to save a precious time and substantial money.

**Have you considered integrating them into the development plans of your new molecules?**



The ban of animal experimentation will consequently suppress the access to repeated toxicity data needed for the calculation of the margin of safety. However, the established absence of cutaneous penetration makes this demonstration not necessary for ingredients intended for topical use.

**Have you included this concept in your toxicological approach?**  
**Do you know that the requirements of the experimental protocols might fluctuate according to the committees of experts who will give a decision on your ingredients?**



It is apparent that all the efforts made to validate *in vitro* methods concern ingredients. On the other hand, it seems that the Authorities want to give some freedom to the researchers for their adaptation to the finished products. This implies that they have at their disposal the appropriate research means in addition to a satisfactory size in order to constitute quickly a databank by type of assays and by category of products, a necessity to determine the level of risk for a given formula. Does the volume of your experimental activity allow you to create such a database?

Our team of technicians, familiar with technical-regulatory matters, surrounded by multidisciplinary researchers, is at your disposal to tackle each of the questions you still have regarding the use of Alternative Methods and look with you for the most adequate way to satisfy your specific needs.

By simply taking the initiative of a first phone call to us, you might take the chance to spare hours of work or inappropriate expenses... A minor risk for great profits... That's all we suggest you to do for now on...

**Next theme in Progress: Photoprotection**

**PROGRESS**  
 EVIC INTERNATIONAL  
 51, avenue de Paris - 94300 VINCENNES - FRANCE  
[www.evicinternational.com](http://www.evicinternational.com)  
 Editor: Philippe Masson - Concept: JMD Conseil, Bordeaux

**EVIC france**  
 48 rue Jean Duvert - 33290 Blanquefort - France  
 Tél : +33 5 56 95 59 95 - Fax : +33 5 56 95 05 22  
 E-mail : [evic-blanquefort@evic.fr](mailto:evic-blanquefort@evic.fr)