

Call for raters

supporting the ECVAM project

'Development of a quality assessment tool for toxicological data'

The European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) of the Institute of Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP), European Commission – DG JRC, is currently carrying out a project developing a tool to assess the (inherent) quality of in vitro and in vivo toxicological data. Such an assessment aims to determine data reliability - independent of the relevance of the evaluation purpose. The aim of the project is to devise a scoring tool to check the essential information necessary to determine the inherent quality of data in an unambiguous and transparent way. The results of this project will facilitate and harmonise this first pivotal step of data evaluation. It is intended to share the final outcome with the scientific community.

Assessment of the inherent quality of toxicological information is receiving renewed attention, especially under REACH, where the use of existing information is emphasised. In addition, it is highly relevant to ECVAM validation activities as the chemical selection process for validation is driven by the availability of reliable test data from reference tests. Therefore, in the frame of furthering approaches towards an evidenced-based toxicology (EBT)¹ ECVAM and the contractors FoBiG/DKFZ - with the support of a group of European experts -

have devised a prototype tool by expanding on existing approaches of reliability assessment, mainly the Klimisch scores². In a first experiment, raters have applied this tool to a variety of in vivo and in vitro studies. Based on the results of this experiment, the tool is being optimised. The improved second prototype will again be submitted to a rater experiment, in which each rater shall apply the tool to about ten in vivo or in vitro studies. It is planned to carry out the rating, which requires about two working days, in June 2008.

Expert group:

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H.-B. Richter-Reichhelm, BfR (D)

We would like to call on you to support us as a rater!

We are looking for toxicologists and scientists of related fields who **are interested in quality assessment**, who are looking for **training in quality assessment** or who want to actively **contribute to furthering approaches toward an EBT**. A commitment of about two working days is required for evaluating one set of about ten studies (in vivo or in vitro). The tool with instructions for use and the studies will be provided by e-mail. Of course, your contribution will be acknowledged when publishing the tool.

In case of questions or if you would like to express your interest, please contact Sebastian Hoffmann (sebastian.hoffmann@jrc.it)!

¹ Hoffmann, S., Hartung, T., 2006. Toward an evidence-based toxicology. *Human Exp Toxicol* **25**: 497-513

² Klimisch, H.-J., Andreae, M., Tillmann, U., 1997. A systematic approach for evaluating the quality of experimental toxicological and ecotoxicological data. *Regul Toxicol and Pharmacol* **25**: 1-5