Implementing alternative approaches for inhalation toxicity testing: Recent success and remaining hurdles

> Amy Clippinger<sup>1</sup>, David Allen<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>PETA International Science Consortium Ltd. <sup>2</sup>ILS, Contractor supporting NICEATM AmyJC@PISCLtd.org.uk

# Acknowledgements

The Dow Chemical Company Dow AgroSciences Syngenta British American Tobacco Simulations Plus ToxMetrics ScitoVation Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) Free University of Brussels, Belgium Cardiff University University of Pennsylvania US Environmental Protection Agency Health and Safety Executive, UK NICEATM PETA International Science Consortium

### Outline

- Respiratory tract
- Why conduct inhalation toxicity testing?
- Current test guidelines
- In vitro and in silico approaches
- Ongoing efforts

### Respiratory tract

• The respiratory tract serves as a portal of entry from the external environment to the systemic circulation





International regulatory agencies require inhalation toxicity testing for hazard labeling and risk management of chemicals when exposure to the respiratory tract is possible

### Acute inhalation toxicity tests are designed to identify chemicals that could cause illness or death after a short-term inhalation exposure



1. OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals are periodically reviewed in the light of scie



- Ventilation rates and breathing mode
- Airway architecture and branching pattern
- Cell type distribution and mucous composition
- Metabolic activity

Illustration modified from Dr. Jack R. Harkema, Professor of Comparative Pathology, Michigan State University





Alternative Approaches for Acute Inhalation Toxicity to Address Global Regulatory and Non-regulatory Data Requirements





# Working groups

WORKING GROUP 1 Establish a database of existing acute inhalation toxicity data

WORKING GROUP 2 Prepare a review on mechanisms of acute inhalation toxicity, dosimetry considerations, & available non-animal methods WORKING GROUP 3 Optimize (Q)SAR models

#### WORKING GROUP 4

Design a non-animal testing approach and conduct a proof-of-concept study

- Reference chemicals based on in vivo data availability
- Develop a decision tree to guide the need for in vitro testing
  - Select relevant in vitro test systems

### Integrated approach to testing and assessment

Existing information (human, animal, in silico, in vitro data)

### Exposure information

#### Properties of the test substance

- Physicochemical: physical form, viscosity, volatility, particle size and distribution; irritation/corrosivity
- Chemical: reactivity

Computational biology modelsMultiple Path Particle Dosimetry model

• Computational Fluid Dynamics modeling

PBPK Modeling

Grouping, read-across, (Q)SARs, expert systems

Theory of additivity (for mixtures)

In vitro testing

### In vitro model systems



### Conclusions

Multiple non-testing approaches and in vitro methods will be needed to assess the various mechanisms of acute systemic toxicity following inhalation exposure

Multi-stakeholder collaborations on data sharing and validation efforts foster the development of in vitro and in silico approaches that can be used to protect human health without using animals

# Applied In Vitro Toxicology Special Issue



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Inhalation toxicity testing provides the basis for hazard labeling and risk management of chemicals when there is potential for exposure of the respiratory tract. The tests commonly



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#### Contact: AmyJC@piscltd.org.uk