



The European Partnership
for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing

EPAA press release – 30 November 2010

Better prospects for alternatives to animal testing European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing:

Brussels, 30 November 2010: A new action plan to maximise the use of alternatives to animal testing was launched today in a joint exercise by the European Commission and the industries that have to carry out product testing.

The plan addresses the challenges raised by EU legislation in chemicals, cosmetics, plant protection products, and the protection of laboratory animals. It has been drawn up by the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA), a partnership between the Commission and industry which aims to progress replacement, reduction and refinement of animal studies..

Gerd Ries, Vice President EMEA Regulatory Affairs at Johnson and Johnson, who is the industry co-chair of EPAA, said the joint approach was *"a distinct model of successful, refined and advanced cooperation between authorities and industry sectors"*.

Intervening at the 6th annual EPAA Conference in Brussels today, Antonio Tajani, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioners John Dalli and Janez Potočnik expressed strong support to the EPAA.

In 2010, EPAA has focused on reduction and refinement methods. The ultimate aim remains Replacement, but reduction and refinement offer significant opportunities bringing direct and immediate benefits in terms of animal welfare and reducing the number of animals used.

Ries said that the EPAA and its partners will continue to pursue the regulatory and scientific acceptance of alternative methods for each of the 3Rs. In addition to delivering concrete solutions, EPAA is also disseminating methods to reduce, refine and replace tests on animals, and developing collaboration with other industry sectors and with countries beyond Europe. Ries said that *"The new action plan is now set; the specific and particular strengths of EPAA are clearer than when we started"*.

EPAA's new Communication award worth €3000, was given to Dr. Sarah Wolfensohn for an article entitled "Alternative approaches to animal testing – the challenges and the limitations". EPAA's new Science Award, designed to raise awareness about alternative approaches among young scientists, was given to Dr. Felix Spoeler for his work on "Proofing the relevance of the Ex Vivo Eye Irritation Test (EVEIT) as a self-contained in vitro substitute for the Draize Eye Irritation Test". His project will be financially supported with up to €100,000 to be provided to the RWTH Aachen University where Dr Spoeler is working.

Notes for editors

The EPAA is a joint initiative from the European Commission, companies and European trade associations from seven industry sectors. It was launched in November 2005 to promote the

development and implementation of new 3Rs methods (replacement, reduction and refinement) and modern alternative approaches in the field of regulatory testing.

The partners include DG Enterprise and Industry, DG Research, DG Environment, DG Joint Research Centre and DG Health and Consumer Protection from the European Commission, and some 40 companies from the chemical, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, soaps and detergents, crop protection, animal health and bio-industry sectors, including their European trade federations.

The focus of this year's conference (full programme in annex to this press release) is Reduction and Refinement: combining excellence in science and animal welfare. Policy makers, regulators, scientists from industry and academia met to discuss the potential of 2Rs approaches.

The EPAA annual report, released at the Conference (and now available on www.epaa.eu.com) reports progress made in 2010, as well as main achievements in the first five years of EPAA. The newly agreed Action Programme for 2011-2015 is also available on the website.

For further information:

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