



Foundation for the promotion of alternatives to animal testing

Stiftung zur Förderung der Erforschung von Ersatz- und Ergänzungsmethoden
zur Einschränkung von Tierversuchen

Mainzer Landstraße 55, 60329 Frankfurt am Main
www.stiftung-set.de

Activity Report 2008

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Supported projects

In 2008 twelve new applications were submitted to the foundation. Out of these and further applications already received in the previous year, only one application concerning a prolongation of an existing project had been approved. For the first time in the history of the set foundation the financial means necessary to support all qualified projects exceeded the available funds. Several very interesting projects could not be supported because of the financial limitation. The other applications were rejected, due to lacking relevance to animal welfare or because of lacking the perspective of broad implementation.

In 2008 the following ongoing projects were supported:

- Pharmacological screening with human embryonic stem cell derived cardiomyocytes
Dr. Michael Reppel, Institut für Neurophysiologie, Uni Köln
- Tumor-induced angiogenesis studied in confrontation cultures: A new model for screening of anti-angiogenic substances
Prof. Dr. Heinrich Sauer, Uni Giessen and Prof. Dr. Maria Wartenberg, GKSS Forschungszentrum Teltow
- In vitro model of rheumatoid joint destruction
Prof. Dr. Thomas Pap and Dr. Uwe Hansen, Universität Münster
- Improved genotoxicity tests with the Phenion full thickness skin model
Dr. Kerstin Reisinger, Phenion GmbH & Co. KG
- Development of Reverse Transcriptase Real Time-PCR-assay for the detection of Clostridium botulinum Type A, B, E und F neurotoxin-production in foods as an alternative method to the mouse bioassay
Prof. Dr. Michael Bülte, Universität Giessen

Further activities supported:

- Like in the past, the 15th Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing in Linz/Austria was supported with a donation.
- SET supports the periodical ALTEX (alternatives to animal testing, a quarterly magazine for new ways in biomedical sciences).

Meetings

In the period under review, two meetings each took place of the foundation board (Stiftungsrat) and of the scientific advisory board (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat). One meeting of the trustees (Kuratorium) was held.



Participation in EU Research Projects

ForInViTox

Together with the Spanish organisations REMA (Red Española para el Desarrollo de Métodos Alternativos) and IVTIP (In Vitro Testing Industrial Platform) and with the Swedish consultancy company Experträdet AB, the set foundation continued the EU's 5th Framework Programme project ForInViTox (Forum for Researchers and Regulators to meet manufacturers of toxicology test methods). ForInViTox wants to examine completed and ongoing EU projects on alternatives to animal testing, evaluating if those projects resulted in a wider use of newly developed methods or why this was not the case, respectively. At the same time potential users and producers are asked for their opinions about specific problems. Together with an expert group the results of these surveys were analysed with the objective of summarising these findings into a white book for the EU. At the same time a concept for a forum was developed, aiming to provide a market place for potential users and commercial suppliers of such test systems, in order to exchange their respective needs, ideas and offers.

START UP

The EU-project START UP was started by the umbrella organisation *ecopa*. This project tries to identify bottlenecks in the pharmaceutical industry preventing the implementation of the reduction, refinement and replacement of animal experiments. Three expert meetings to identify the main topics were organised to provide starting points for the following workshops, one for each of the three Rs. The organisation of the third workshop regarding "Replacement" in autumn 2009 was assumed by the *set* foundation and the Hungarian platform *hucopa*.

Income from donations

Like in the previous years, the income of the foundation consisted almost entirely of donations from the four participating industry associations.