

WORLD INFORMATION

THE JOHNS HOPKINS CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING

Director: Alan M. Goldberg, Ph. D.

Associate Director: John M. Frazier, Ph. D.

Assistant to the Director: Joanne Zurlo, Ph. D.

The mission of the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing is to:

1) Develop, to the extent consistent with the public's health and safety, *in vitro* alternatives to the use of whole animals in evaluating commercial and therapeutic products. Alternatives are new tests that refine existing ones or reduce or replace whole animal tests.

2) Validate alternative methods and encourage their use.

3) Disseminate scientifically correct information about alternatives and their use.

It should be recognized that *in vitro* methods act in concert with whole animal and clinical studies to:

1) advance science;

2) develop new products and drugs; and

3) treat, cure and prevent disease.

The Center was founded in 1981 by a grant from the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, Inc. (USA). Since that time, support for the Center has broadened to include over 70 corporations, United States government agencies (the National Institute of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency) and private individuals. The activities of the Center are divided into four categories: (1) Research, (2) Communication, (3) Education and (4) Validation and Technology Transfer. Over the past year the Center has been engaged in a wide variety of activities including:

1) The seventh international symposium held in November, 1990 had the largest attendance in the history of CAAT with almost 300 registrants from across the United States and 14 countries including Europe, Australia, China, Japan, India

and Israel. The size of the poster sessions more than doubled since the last symposium with 80 scientific posters presented during the course of the 1990 symposium. The proceedings will be published as Volume 8 in the *Alternative Methods in Toxicology* book series.

2) Three newsletters were published this past year. The CAAT newsletter Volume 8, Number 2 highlighted a guide to resources on animal welfare and the use of animals in product safety testing and research. In addition to the regular CAAT mailing list, this issue was mailed out to 12,000 names purchased for a one-time use from *Animals Agenda* publication. The response from this mailing has been very encouraging. There were 171 requests to be added to our mailing list.

3) In September, CAAT mailed a survey to its 14,000 United States readers for the Purpose of (1) targeting scientists who will receive future technical reports; (2) learning how our readership feels about the content of the newsletter and (3) learning whether readers would be willing to subscribe to the newsletter. The results of the survey will be analyzed in the near future.

4) In June, the CIBA-GEIGY Corporation sponsored a 2 day workshop on Structure-Activity Relationships in Predictive Toxicology. An article about the workshop appears in Volume 8, No. 3 of the CAAT Newsletter and a report of the workshop, prepared by Dr. Shelley Sehnert of Johns Hopkins University is now available as Technical Report No.2.

5) CAAT continues its research grants program and a description of the projects funded for the 1989-90 period is attached. The scope of this program is international. In the last 9 years, over

100 research projects have been funded in the United States, Europe and Canada. Many of these projects have advanced the science of *in vitro* toxicology and a number have resulted in promising assays. It has become increasingly clear to the Center that validating these assays is the next step in achieving regulatory acceptance and technology transfer.

6) CAAT continues to respond to requests from students in elementary, high school and college, for information about alternatives. Many of these requests are for the purpose of writing school reports. Other efforts to educate the public about alternative issues are carried out through the dozens of speaking engagements throughout the year by the director and associate director. These presentations are made to corporate, scientific and academic groups. This is in addition to the numerous interviews which are given to the media. CAAT is planning to build an educational outreach program. This will be initiated at the local level so that we may obtain information which will contribute to the development of educational materials with the ultimate goal of making contacts and expanding nationally. We feel that this is an opportune time to become involved in the educational issues regarding alternatives and animal use.

7) Dr. John Frazier, Associate Director of the

Center, has pioneered CAAT activities in the area of validation and technology transfer. Dr. Frazier was invited by the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development) to prepare a manuscript on the "Scientific Criteria for Validation of *In Vitro* Toxicity Tests" (OECD, Environmental Monograph No. 36). The OECD is an international organization which establishes internationally acceptable methods for the testing of chemicals for regulatory purposes. The Validation and Technology Transfer Committee maintains a liaison network of over 50 international organizations including government agencies, professional societies, trade associations, animal welfare groups and others.

8) In June, 1990, CAAT and the Tissue Culture Association jointly conducted a technical workshop on Cell Culture Systems and *In Vitro* Toxicity Testing. A technical report of this workshop will be published within a few months.

9) CAAT was pleased to add Dr. Joanne Zurlo to its staff. Dr. Zurlo is the Assistant to the Director of CAAT and Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. She will develop educational programs and oversee the grants research program.

10) Date to Remember: The CAAT 10th Anniversary Symposium will be held April 14-16, 1992.