The Draft Minutes of the Proceedings of the 3rd Meeting (in the fiscal year from 2007 to 2008) of "The Advisory Council about the Studies on the Development and the Evaluation of Ultramodern Safety Test Methods Considering International Trends (commonly called: The Advisory Council of JaCVAM)"

Date: February 21st, 2008 (Thursday); 15:00 to 17:00
Place: The First Meeting Room, National Institute of Health Sciences
Attendants: Hiroshi Ono, Hiroyoshi Ninomiya, Fumio Sagami, Keiko Yamazaki, Koji Tsuji (substitution for Toshiro Nakagaki)
Chairperson: Yasuo Ohno
Observers: Tohru Inoue, Mitsuteru Masuda, Hajime Kojima

(The persons above are listed in no particular order and their titles are omitted.)

The following references were distributed:

1. The minutes of the proceedings of the 2nd meeting (in Japanese)
2. The list of attendance (in Japanese)
3. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 27th MEETING OF THE ECVAM SCIENTIFIC ADVASORY COMMITTEE
4. ESAC position on ECVAM funding
5. EPAA Annual Conference 2007
6. REPORT OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE VALIDATION MANAGEMENT GROUP FOR NON-ANIMAL TEST (VMG-NA)
7. OECD TEST GUIDELINES PROGRAMS, Standards Project Submission Form, Stability Transfected Transcriptional Activation (TA) assay for detection of androgenic and ant-androgenic activity of chemicals
8. OECD TEST GUIDELINES PROGRAM, Standards Project Submission Form, Stably Transfected Transcriptional Activation assay for detection of estrogen receptor agonist and antagonists
9. OECD TEST GUIDELINES PROGRAM, Standards Project Submission Form, Comet assay in genotoxicity testing

10. OECD TEST GUIDELINES PROGRAM, Standards Project Submission Form, Stably Transfected Transcriptional Activation (TA) assay for anti-androgenic activity of chemicals
11. NICEATM and ICCVAM, Ten-Year Anniversary symposium
12. Scientific Workshop on Acute Chemical Safety Testing: Advancing in Vitro Approaches and Humane Endpoints for Systemic Toxicity Evaluations
13. WC6 follow-up symposium (in Japanese)
14. The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of CVAM (the Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods)
15. ECVAM, Workshop Report 58, ATLA 34, 603-620, 2006
16. Note to the attention of Ms. E. Anklam, Director, JRC, Institute for Health and Consumer Protection, Formal setting-up of a joint peer-review validation body
17. Draft Feb. 8, 2008, International Cooperation on Validation (ICV), Essential Principles
18. Recent newspaper articles concerning the alternative methods (in Japanese)
19. P&G ACTIVITIES, RISK COMMUNICATION, Vol.2, Issue 1
20. WC6 proceedings Draft, JaCVAM: An organization supporting the validation and peer review of new alternatives to animal testing.
21. JaCVAM in 2007: Summary of alternatives (in Japanese)
22. What is Peer Review? (in Japanese)
23. Progress in the test methods having been worked on by JacVAM
24. The activity of JaCVAM from 2007 to 2008 and its plan for future
25. (additional reference): “How fur the alternative methods have progressed” in the report meeting of HS foundation

(no attached files with the references from 15 to 18)

Topics for discussion:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous proceedings

Following the opening address of Dr. Ohno of the Steering Committee, the discussion of the topics started chaired by Dr. Ohno. In confirming the minutes of the proceedings of the 2nd meeting, Dr. Ohno pointed out several issues to be revised. For the pending question whether or not it is possible for JaCVAM to receive financial aid from citizens, the investigation clarified that the direct aid from citizens is not possible and that from foundations applicable is possible. Dr. Yamazaki of the Advisory Council expressed his opinion that public funds have too many limits and donations are better. He also suggested the possibility for Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments to be the window for the donations.

2. Domestic and international movements surrounding the alternative methods and their principle in future

Dr. Kojima of the Steering Committee explained about "the domestic and international movements surrounding the alternative methods and their future" from the last meeting of September till February of this year using the references 3 to 6 and 11 to 20. He also explained that the first conference among the three centers of the alternative methods was held and the plan for the formation of an international organization is also progressing, as shown in the references 14 to 17.

Dr. Ohno questioned about how fur the low volume method is evaluated as an eye test in ESAC, as shown in the reference 3. To this question, Dr. Kojima explained that it was a promising method and examination is in progress to make it suitable for the regulation of 2009 and the REACH problem. Dr. Ono of the Advisory Council made additional explanation on VMG-NA in OECD shown in the reference 5. He explained that a part of the methods is now under validation along with peer reviewing. Dr. Inoue of the Steering Committee explained that, as for the tests for endocrine disrupting chemicals, about 50 examinations in total have been proceeded with and, although taking time, they are progressing efficiently. He also explained that Chemicals Evaluation and Research Institute already obtained patents and is energetic. However, right persons for the chairperson are absent and the institute fails to lead such examinations

rather in Japan. Dr. Tsuji of a substituted member of the Advisory Council made additional explanation on the progress of International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulations (ICCR). He explained that EC hopes to take the leadership among the three centers, and that, while watching the movements of FDA, we Japan will secure the scientific basis to guarantee safety as we will take the alternative methods in.

3. The report of the activity of JaCVAM

Dr. Kojima reported the contents of the present activity of JaCVAM using the references 21 to 24. He explained that, while increasing the numbers of the methods to be validated and evaluated, JaCVAM is proceeding with these works in cooperation with related persons. He also explained that Standards Project Submission forms of the four methods shown in the references 7 to 10 were submitted to OECD, as an activity for the establishment of international methods.

4. Requests and opinions on the activity of JaCVAM

Based on the explanations above, opinions on 3Rs were exchanged. The opinions are listed in no particular order.

4-1 Effects on education

Dr. Ninomiya of the Advisory Council pointed out that alternative methods are used in the basic studies in medicine and veterinary medicine, but they are not worth considering in clinical studies. In pharmaceutical sciences, the educational effects of the alternative methods have been increasing, but the opinions are divided into positive and negative ones. The view that, if two curricula are drown up, the cost will also doubles and aid and support will be necessary was shown.

4-1 Application to the education concerning sacrificed animals

Dr. Ninomiya introduced the present situation that the training using sacrificed dogs and cats leads to high educational effects, but the usage of the sacrificed animals for disposition is not allowed by the office in charge: it is necessary to gain a social consensus. Dr. Yamazaki of the Advisory Council showed his view supporting the importance of the usage of the sacrificed

animals for the promotion of 3Rs, and claimed that the problem is that Japan Veterinary Medical Association has not been determined the criteria for euthanasia. He continued that, although the transfer of the animals is not possible due to regulations and the pressure from organizations for the prevention of cruelty to animals, the usage of the sacrificed animals is able to increase educational effects on students and to promote the concept of refinement without pains to the animals. The problem is how to make succession of informing this to public, spreading the information and gaining a social consensus. In addition, although "the right of animals" and "the welfare of animals" are different, there is no compromise between them. Furthermore, the system of law concerning experimental animals has not been sufficiently prepared, and there are a lot of unclear points. It is explained that the understanding of investigators about the request for the public opening of information from the organizations for the prevention of cruelty to animals is desirable.

Dr. Sagami of the Advisory Council explained that the self-control of the industry according to the guideline of is progressing according to the Science Council is progressing, and the industry is also positive for 3Rs. Dr. Inoue provided additional explanation that the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) performs study meetings, and tries to enhance the reliability by introducing the evaluation from a third party.

Dr. Ohno introduced that the follow-up symposium of WC6 shown in the reference 13 was held to clarify these issues, and the activity of JaCVAM is a part of the clarification. Dr. Kojima also explained that the activity of JaCVAM is not particular about the concept of replacement, but is aimed at the enhancement of 3Rs in Japan, and asked continuing cooperation with the general contribution to 3Rs of JaCVAM.