

# Alternatives to Animal Testing in Food Safety, Nutrition and Efficacy Studies Task Force

## ABOUT THE TASK FORCE

A lot of debate has surrounded the use of animal studies in nutrition and food safety, especially regarding identifying when they are mandatory and when they can be replaced by alternative methods. There is a global call from regulatory and governmental bodies (e.g. JRC and EFSA) and also from animal welfare stakeholders to ensure that animal testing is reduced and used only when necessary, urging academic and industry laboratories to find alternatives. The development of alternative strategies that avoid animal testing offers new opportunities for assuring food safety, as well as investigating the nutrition and efficacy of foods and ingredients.



## WHAT'S NEW?

### NEW EXPERT GROUP

A new activity on 'Holistic Approaches to Develop Alternative Strategies That do not Rely on Additional Animal Testing' has started in April 2017.

### WORKSHOP

A workshop to present the outcomes of the first activity on 'Holistic Approaches to Develop Non-Animal Tests' will be held in Brussels on 6-7 September 2018.

### SESSION PROPOSALS

The Task Force is working on several session proposals for EUROTOX and SOT 2019, jointly with the New Approaches to Chemical Risk Assessment for Food & Food Ingredients, and the Threshold of Toxicological Concern Task Forces, to present its first outcomes.

## ACTIVITIES

### Creation of a unique task force

This new task force is unique within ILSI Europe by its composition. It brings together key stakeholders from national and international organisations (FRAME, CAAT, European Commission), academia and industry. All involved members will thus join forces to define the best strategy that will allow us to find alternatives to animal testing

in food safety, nutrition and efficacy studies. The anticipated impact will be substantial for all both public and private stakeholders to foster a change in attitude across the food industry and authorities towards non-animal approaches, reducing the use of animal tests in food and beverage development.

### First activity on 'Holistic Approaches to Develop Alternative Strategies That do not Rely on Additional Animal Testing' – **NEW**

This first activity intends to cover food safety (toxicology), efficacy studies and nutrition. Through a holistic approach, it aims to identify existing approaches that can be applied to the current regulatory frameworks and summarise the existing regulations for various aims (e.g. genetically modified crops, novel foods, claim approval...) by addressing specifically the

requirements (or not) for animal testing. Where possible, case studies involving applied tools should be used as examples.



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## TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- 3R's Center Utrecht
- CAAT Europe
- Danone
- DSM
- European Commission
- Firmenich
- FRAME Alternatives Laboratory
- Free University of Berlin
- FrieslandCampina
- Monsanto Europe
- Roquette Group
- Unilever
- University of Applied Sciences Utrecht
- WALA Heilmittel

## ACTIVITIES (*continued*)

### One ILSI Initiative

The subject gathered interest from several ILSI branches and brings the opportunity to leverage the project impact by building a global initiative. This initiative would lead to the organisation of an international workshop in 2019 to share the situations worldwide and suggest some research ways. This will allow to:

- Build a global consensus on how and what is needed to reduce animal testing in food and beverage development;
- Evaluate potential strategies and approaches that ultimately could replace animal testing across food safety, nutrition and efficacy/health claim development.

**All information on this task force is available on our website:**  
[www.ils.eu](http://www.ils.eu).

**For more information on ILSI Europe's activities, don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@ILSI\\_Europe](https://twitter.com/ILSI_Europe) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ils-eu).**

## CONTACT

Dr Lucie Geurts  
Scientific Project Manager  
[lgeurts@ilsieurope.be](mailto:lgeurts@ilsieurope.be)  
Tel. (+32) 2 771 00 14

ILSI Europe  
Avenue E. Mounier 83, Box 6  
BE – 1200 Brussels  
BELGIUM

*Scan the QR code  
for more information  
on this task force*

