



Progress in Validating Alternative Skin Irritation Test Methods

Report Summarizes Status of Non-Animal Tests for Cosmetic, Personal Care Products

May 15, 2003 - MatTek Corp., Ashland, MA, USA, today announced the availability of a report that summarizes recent significant progress made to validate reconstructed skin kits (in vitro skin models) as alternative (non-animal) test methods for assessing human skin irritation of new cosmetic formulations and their ingredients.

"The worldwide drive to refine, reduce and/or replace animal-based testing of cosmetics and personal care products has accelerated and is quickly transitioning from "laudable goal" into validated studies targeted to the interests of the regulatory community in the United States and European Union", stated John Sheasgreen, MatTek's President. "It's very gratifying to see the regulatory process reaching the validation stage, and MatTek's EpiDerm™ in vitro skin model performing so well in the associated independent testing."

This report, "[Assessment of Human Skin Irritation: Validation of In vitro Models](#)", summarizes the scientific findings from two recently published studies performed in support of the European Union's (EU's) efforts to validate reconstructed skin kits (in vitro skin models) as alternative methods for assessing human skin irritation. The 3 year project, "Testing and Improvement of Reconstructed Skin Kits in Order to Elaborate European Standards", is a comprehensive multi-laboratory, multi-country project headed by L'Oreal (France), and including Beiersdorf (Germany), Wella Cosmital (Switzerland) and Leiden University (The Netherlands), and is sponsored by the European Union. Importantly, there is precedence for data generated in EU studies to also form the core data set for submission to US regulators.

A must-read for cosmetics and personal care company executives, product development and product safety managers, as well as their ingredient suppliers, a free copy is available for download from the MatTek Web site at: www.mattek.com

About MatTek - MatTek Corp., founded in 1985, is an industry leader in tissue engineering. The company manufactures human cell-derived three-dimensional organotypic in vitro models for use in product development/efficacy, claims substantiation, safety assessment, drug discovery/development, and target organ research applications in the Pharmaceutical, Biotech, Cosmetics, Personal Care and Household Products industries. The current in vitro product offering includes EpiAirway™, EpiDerm™, EpiOcular™, EpiOral™, EpiVaginal™, and MelanoDerm™. MatTek's in vitro tissue models are used in numerous applications, from skin irritation assessment to transdermal drug delivery and ADME-Tox studies.

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