

THE BRAZILIAN CENTER FOR VALIDATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS (BRACVAM) AND THE NATIONAL NETWORK ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS (RENAMA): THE FIRST YEARS OF ACTIVITIES

Presgrave O^{1,2}, Moura W^{1,2}, Caldeira C^{1,2}, Balottin L³, Delgado I², Granjeiro J³, Santos E⁴, Villas-Boas M²

¹ Brazilian Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (BraCVAM), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

² National Institute of Quality Control in Health (INCQS), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

³ National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

⁴ Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Background

Animals are still used in Brazil for many purposes but the Law 9,605/1998 and the Law 11,794/2008 state that when there is a validated alternative method, animals are not allowed to be used. Although BraCVAM was proposed in 2008 (1) and its organization was subsequently described (2,3), its creation only occurred in 2013. In 2012, the National Network on Alternative Methods (RENAMA) was created. In the same year, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) and the National Council on Research (CNPq) published the first specific calling for funding alternative studies. Ten laboratories received fund for introducing already validated assays and one laboratory was funded for developing a “Brazilian” reconstituted human skin model, since, due to the expiration period, it is very difficult for Brazilian labs to import this kit. Also in 2012, BraCVAM and RENAMA organized (with other institutions) the I Latin American Congress of Alternative Methods to Animal Use in Education, Research and Industry (COLAMA 2012). The way of working is being designed so that RENAMA organize all the studies, BraCVAM recommends the approval of the study and the Council for the Control of Animal Experimentation (CONCEA) becomes the test officially accepted in Brazil.

Objective

The aim of this work is to show the activities of BraCVAM and RENAMA during the first 2 years of existence.

Actual Scenario

Nowadays Brazil counts on 3 entities directly responsible for validating alternative methods. It is important to notice that there is not a clear hierarchy, but, a synergism and a working relationship (Figure 1).

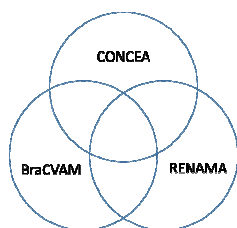


Figure 1 – Relationship of the National Council for Controlling Animal Experimentation (CONCEA), the Brazilian Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (BraCVAM) and the National Network of Alternative Methods (RENAMA).

BraCVAM and RENAMA web sites are to be used as a tool for updating researchers and population about the developments of their works as well as join scientific information about alternative methods around the world (Figures 2 and 3). Since both institutions are recently created, the web sites are in constant changing and updating.

References

- 1 - Presgrave OAF, ATLA, 2008; 36:705-708.
- 2 - Eskes C, Sá-Rocha VM, Nunes J, Presgrave O, De Carvalho D, Masson P, Rivera E, Coecke S, Kreysa J, Hartung T. ALTEX, 2009; 26:295-298.
- 3 - Presgrave O, Eskes C, Presgrave R, Alves E, Freitas JCBR, Caldeira C, Gimenes I, Silva R, Nogueira S, Nunes J, Rivera E, Sá-Rocha V, Coecke S, Hartung T. ALTEX, 2010; 27 (Spec. Issue):47-51.



Figure 2 – BraCVAM web site: <http://www.incqs.fiocruz.br/bracvam>



Figure 3 – RENAMA web site: <http://renama.org.br>

RENAMA is composed, nowadays, by 3 Main Laboratories (INMETRO – National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology; LNBio – National Laboratory of Biosciences; and INCQS – National Institute of Quality Control in Health) and 27 signed up Laboratories (Figure 4) that may be directly involved in the validation process in Brazil.

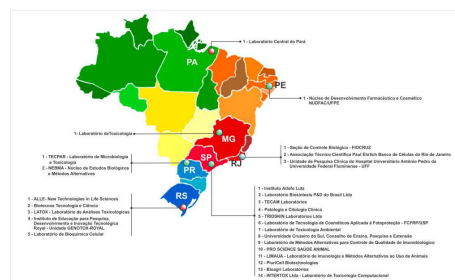


Figure 4 – Composition of RENAMA and location of laboratories in Brazil.

Recently (May,2014), BraCVAM indicated 17 already internationally validated assays for being recognized by CONCEA and to be officially accepted in Brazil.

BraCVAM proposed to MCTI a project for the first validation study in Brazil, following the OECD 34 Guideline, as a way of learning about the process and integrating Brazilian and international institutions.