

# **Alternatives to Animals in the Development and Control of Biological Products for Human and Veterinary Use**

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The interest in the use of alternative *in vitro* reduction and refinement methods in the development and control of biological products has increased considerably in the last few years. The issues raised are of concern to the Scientific Community as well as to manufacturers, regulatory authorities and those involved in animal ethics and welfare. A large number of physicochemical, immunochemical, biochemical and cell biological methods have been proposed for the replacement, reduction and refining of animal tests in the development and control of human and veterinary vaccines and other biological products. However, the implementation, validation and ultimately regulatory acceptance of these procedures are still at a very early stage. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together research scientists with manufacturers and regulators to promote an exchange of scientific knowledge and to increase awareness of the importance of validation studies.

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