

## **EDMVAC CONFERENCE CALL**

### **Introduction to the Background Materials for the 15-Day Intact Adult Male Rat Assay (July 12, 2005)**

#### **Individuals representing the Adult Male Assay:**

Don Bergfelt and Gary Timm, EPA Representatives

John O'Connor and Rick Becker, Industry Representatives

This conference call is sponsored by the EPA in support of Industry's effort to validate the 15-Day Intact Adult Male Rat Assay. The EPA's interest in this assay stems from advice given by EDSTAC that the Adult Male Assay be considered as an alternative in vivo assay for the Hershberger, pubertal female (male) and steroidogenesis assays in a Tier-1 screening battery. Hence, the EPA has agreed to sponsor several chemicals and contract laboratories in a collaborative effort to validate the Adult Male Assay as well as provide an open forum to allow validation results by Industry to be presented and made available to the public.

The focus of the conference call will be on the 15-Day Intact Adult Male Rat Assay as it is being considered for the inter-laboratory phase of validation. Within the allotted time of about 2 hours, it is expected that the industry's overview of the Adult Male Assay will briefly cover the history of the assay, data interpretation, application of the protocol, and rationale for selecting key aspects of the study design for this latest phase of validation which is expected to begin the end of August 2005. Due to time constraints, presentation of data will be limited to select examples of published and unpublished results to emphasize the strengths of the assay and illustrate the transferability of the protocol to other laboratories. Details of the results of specific studies or reference to respective studies can be found in supporting material provided to the EDMVAC prior to this meeting.

Although the scope of the overall presentation will be limited, supporting materials have been provided for review and, therefore, it is the expectation of the EPA and Industry that EDMVAC members will provide professional commentary and recommendations on all aspects of the

assay, especially the study design for the inter-laboratory phase of validation so that any advice by the EDMVAC can be considered before the study design is submitted to the EPA contractor by the end of August and for industry to initiate their supporting in-house studies.

Validation of the Intact Adult Male Rat, Pubertal Male Rat and Hershberger Assays has proceeded independently but approximately in parallel with the expectation that upon peer review and validation their performances will be compared to each other to determine their relative merit before being considered in the Tier-1 Screening Battery. If there is a delay in the start of the inter-laboratory phase of validation of the Adult Male Assay, this assay may miss the opportunity to be compared to the Pubertal Male and Hershberger Assays and, therefore, it may be overlooked for consideration in the Tier-1 Screening Battery.

**Specific aspects of the inter-laboratory study design in which commentary by the EDMVAC is especially welcomed:**

1. **Protocol optimization and transferability:** Considering the number of chemicals and latest efforts that have been run in the various industrial and contract laboratories in which expected results have been documented, does the EDMVAC agree that the protocol is ready for inter-laboratory validation? If not, what additional information is recommended to proceed?
2. **Chemical selection:** Considering the number of laboratories and number and types of chemicals that have been selected to challenge the assay over several modes of action and compare with previous results, does the EDMVAC agree with the selections for inter-laboratory validation? If not, what is recommended?

**Supporting background materials for review:**

1. Short Story of the 15-Day Intact Adult Male Rat Assay
2. Critical Reviews in Toxicology. 2002. 32:521-549
3. Reference list of publications by the lead laboratories pertaining to the 15-Day Intact Adult Male Rat Assay
4. Reference list of chemicals and laboratories that have run the 15-Day Intact Adult Male Rat Assay Protocol
5. Example template of 15-Day Intact Adult Male Rat Assay Protocol
6. EPA report documenting the results with Linuron and Methoxychlor run by a contract research laboratory (RTI)
7. Abstracts of the results from other industry (BASF and Syngenta) and contract research (WIL) laboratories.
8. Proposed study design and rationale for selecting the number of laboratories and number and types of chemicals for the inter-laboratory phase of validation
9. John O'Connor's slide presentation