Current Status of Methods for Defining the Applicability Domain of (Quantitative) Structure–Activity Relationships

The Report and Recommendations of ECVAM Workshop 52¹,²


³ECVAM, Institute for Health & Consumer Protection, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy; ⁴RIVM, Bilthoven, The Netherlands; ⁵Experimental and Computational Carcinogenesis Unit, Environment and Health Department, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy; ⁶School of Pharmacy and Chemistry, John Moores University, Liverpool, UK; ⁷Qsar and Environmental Chemistry Research Unit, Department of Structural and Functional Biology, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy; ⁸Central Product Safety, Procter & Gamble, Strombeek–Bever, Belgium; ⁹Accelrys Inc., San Diego, CA, USA; ¹⁰MULTICASE Inc., Beachwood, OH, USA; ¹¹Lhasa Ltd, Department of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK; ¹²Leadscape Inc., Columbus, OH, USA; ¹³Institute of Parallel Processing, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria; ¹⁴SEAC, Unilever, Colworth House, Sharnbrook, UK; ¹⁵Center for Toxicoinformatics, Division of Biometry and Risk Assessment, National Center for Toxicological Research, Food and Drug Administration, Jefferson, AR, USA; ¹⁶Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside, UK; ¹⁷Biological Activity Testing & Modeling Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA; ¹⁸Miami Valley Laboratory, Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati, OH, USA; ¹⁹Food and Chemical Risk Analysis Department, TNO, Zeist, The Netherlands; ²⁰Environment, Health and Safety Division, OECD, Paris, France

Address for correspondence: A. Worth, ECB, Institute for Health & Consumer Protection, European Commission Joint Research Centre, 21020 Ispra (VA), Italy.
E-mail: andrew.worth@jrc.it

Preface

This is the 52nd report of a series of workshops organised by the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM). The main objective of ECVAM, as defined in 1993 by its Scientific Advisory Committee, is to promote the scientific and regulatory acceptance of alternative methods which are of importance to the biosciences, and that reduce, refine or replace the use of laboratory animals.

The ECVAM workshop on the quantitative structure-activity relationship applicability domain was held at ECVAM on 29 September–1 October 2004, under the chairmanship of Andrew Worth. The workshop was attended by experts from academia, industry, international organisations and regulatory authorities. The aim of the workshop was to review the state of the art of methods for identifying the domain of applicability of structure-activity relationships (SARs) and quantitative structure-activity relationships (QSARs), collectively referred to as (Q)SARs. The report is intended to provide a source of input to the development of an OECD Guidance Document on (Q)SAR Validation. The report also makes recommendations for further research needed to understand and apply the concept of the (Q)SAR applicability domain (AD).

Introduction

(Q)SARs are theoretical models that can be used to predict the physicochemical, biological and environmental properties of chemicals.