Dr. Sonja Beken

Sonja Beken obtained her Master in Biological Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium, holds a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences (VUB) and finalised a Master in Applied Toxicology at the University of Surrey, UK. From 1998 until 2000 she worked as Scientific Staff Member at Belgian Platform for Alternative Methods (BPAM). From 2003 to 2009 she acted as member of ECVAM's scientific advisory committee (ESAC).

Today, Sonja Beken is the coordinator of the Unit of non-clinical evaluators within the Belgian Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP). This Unit is responsible for the evaluation of non-clinical data (pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and toxicology) submitted to support all phases of the life cycle of drug development (e.g. marketing authorization applications, clinical trial applications, EU and national scientific advice, paediatric investigation plans, etc).

She is a Member of the Safety Working Party (SWP) of the European Committee on Human Medicinal Products (CHMP) at the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Since June 2011, Sonja Beken is the Chair of the CVMP/CHMP Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on 3R's (JEG 3Rs) at the EMA. Her main areas of expertise relate to regulatory science, (in vitro) toxicology and metabolism as well as alternative models to animal experiments.