

The **ALEXANDRA** Association: Mission and action plan



Dr. Bart De Wever, PhD

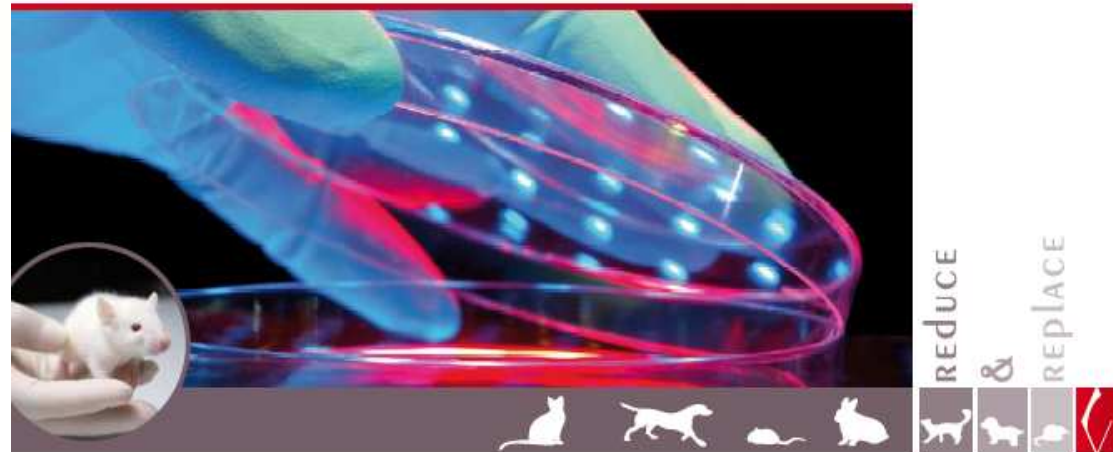
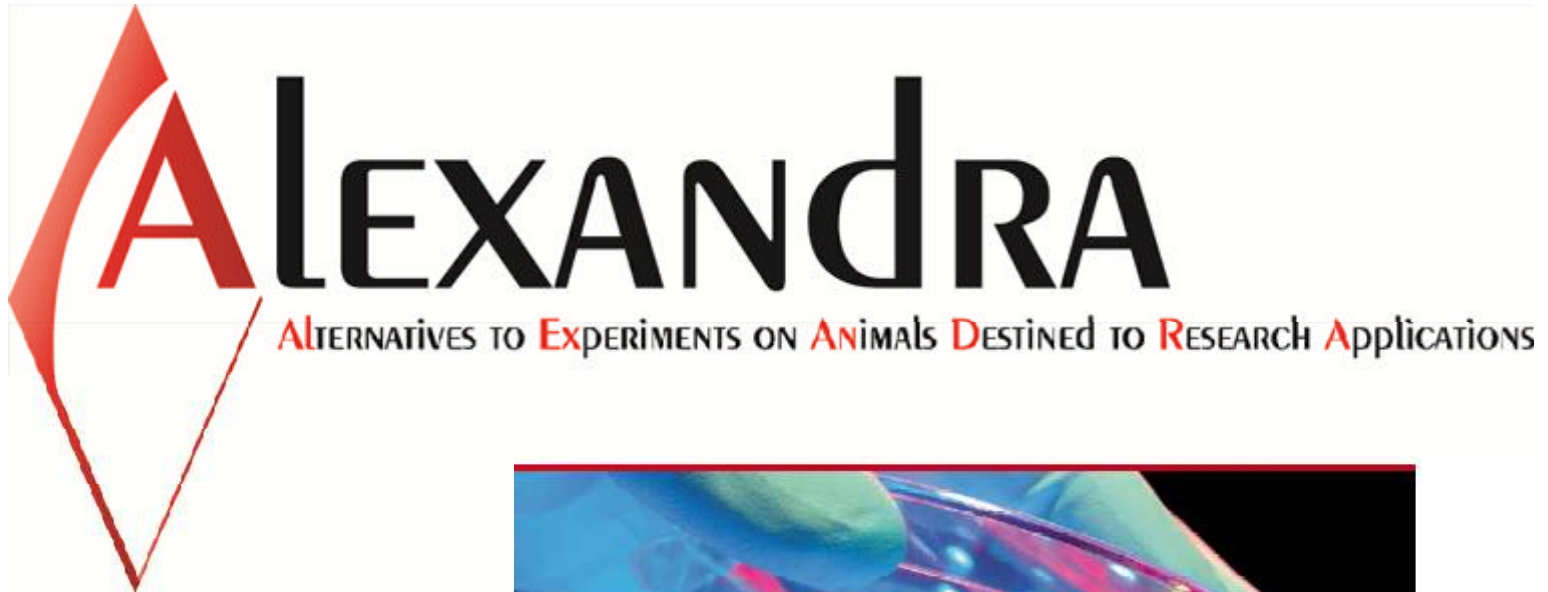
Dr. Constantin Turchina, MD

Novotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco April 26, 2011



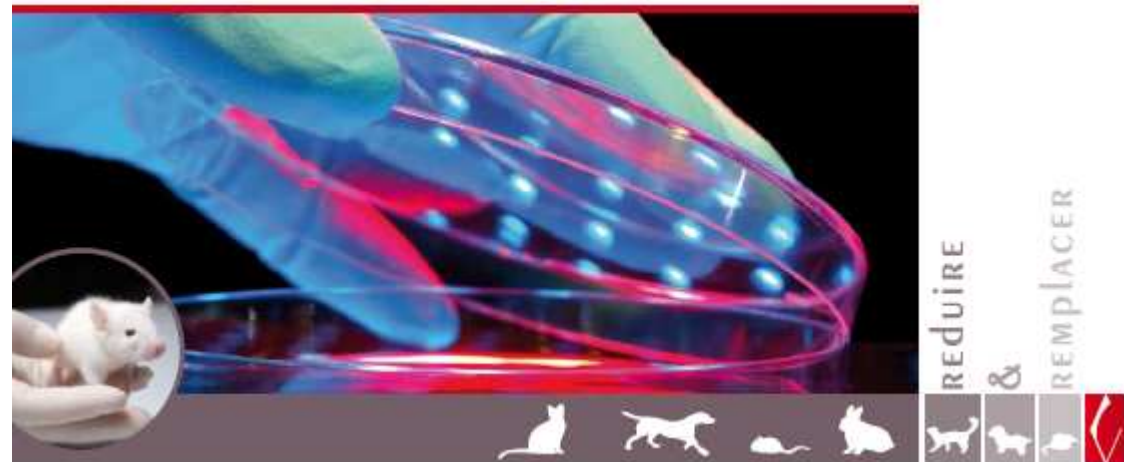
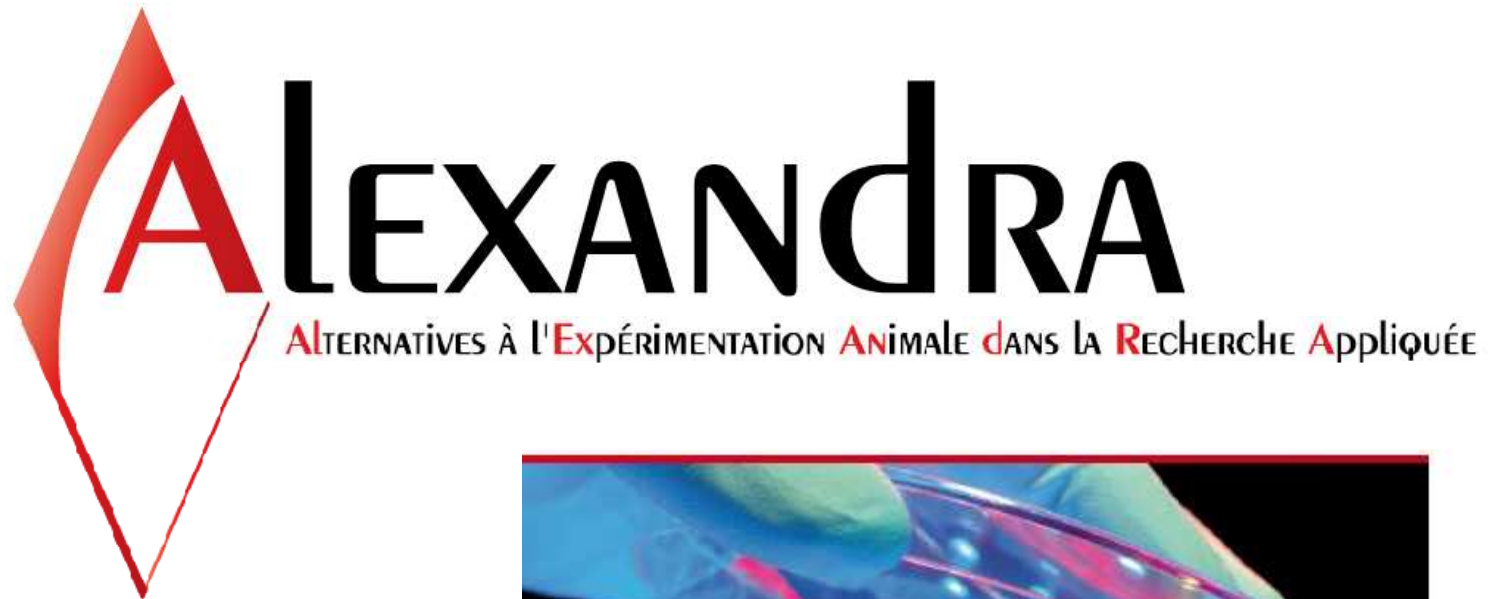
ALEXANDRA: the abbreviation

English:



L'abréviation ALEXANDRA

Français:



Reasons why to reduce/replace animal testing

1. Animal testing lacks predictability



Many drugs do not reach the market because of unreliable animal experimental results that are not predictive for human response

2. Animal testing is time consuming and expensive



The European Commission requires re-testing 100.000 chemicals that will use of millions of animals, and may cost 3-5 billion €

3. Animal testing is ethically unacceptable



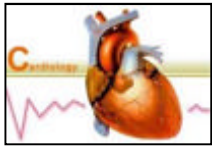
Cosmetic industry has banned animal testing; REACH stimulates animal-alternative testing

Reasons why we need better scientific methods

1. The number of diseases with unknown causes is increasing



Breast cancer / Prostate cancer / Autism are potentially related to environmental chemicals



- Penicillin: erroneous & inconclusive results in animals, however successful in humans
- The caged-ball valve (Starr-Edwards): almost discarded because it killed all the experimental dogs, however successful in humans

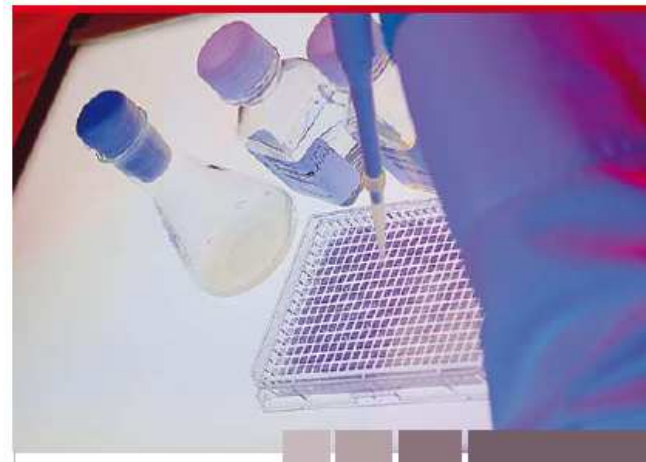
2. Worldwide appeal to better understand and control chemical pollution



Many chemicals do not have enough information in the public literature to make risk-based decisions

L'Association **ALEXANDRA**

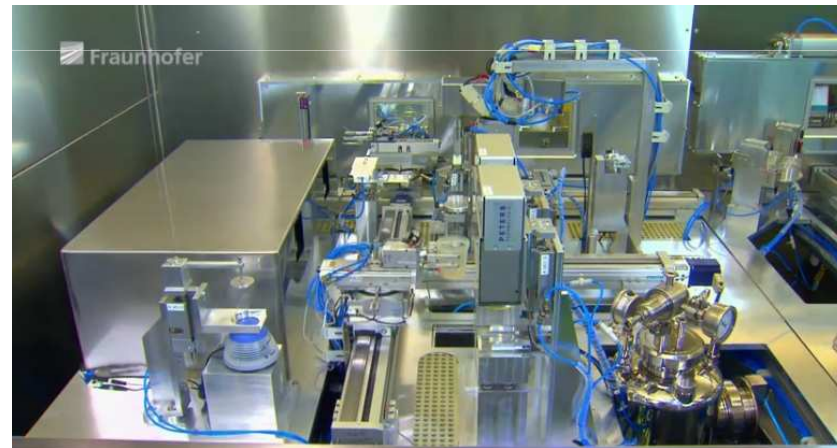
- Officially created March 4, 2011 (Journal De Monaco N°8 006)
- 3 main objectives:
 1. Financial support for research and development on alternative methods
 2. Education and information exchange
 3. Preparation of a Research Centre in Monaco



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1. Financial support of research and development projects on alternative methods based on “Tissue Engineering”

Tissue Engineering: - reconstructed models of human skin, eye, mucosa...



- Demonstrated *industrial need and applicability* in medical and environmental research

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2. Education and information exchange

- ALEXANDRA scholarships: training of students on alternative methods, in collaboration with CAAT, ESTIV and IVTIP
- Education of younger generations, in Monaco and worldwide
- Informing the public: yearly conference on ALEXANDRA projects



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3. Preparation of a Research Centre in Monaco by mid 2012
 - Creation of a “*non-for-profit*” research centre using and developing alternative methods based on tissue engineering
 - Legislation currently in preparation by Monegasque authorities
 - Attracting commercial “scientifically sustainable” tissue engineering initiatives with high economic value



Monaco Private Equity &
Venture Capital
Association



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Action Plan 2011

1. Fund raising: 2 million €/year



- Long-term R&D project support and follow-up
- Incentive for sponsors at market launch of R&D projects

2. Creation of a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)



- Representation of IVTIP, ESTIV, CAAT, ZET
- Opinion leaders in industrial alternative testing development
- Transparent and objective grant approval system

3. Next meetings 2011

- SAB meeting, Monaco, October 2011
- Call for grants January 1, 2012



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Program of this afternoon:

- 3 examples of tissue engineering as alternatives to animal testing

1. Replacement method of eye irritation testing in rabbits



Dr. Philippe Vanparys, CARDAM, Belgium

2. Human tissue engineered skin for therapeutic use & testing



Dr. Lynn Hoffmann, Stratatech, USA

3. Reconstructing respiratory tissues for product evaluation



Dr. Sam Constant, Epithelix, Switzerland

- 16.15h: Cocktail / Reception / Press conference

Thank you for your attention

