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Letter from Hoffmann - La Roche Inc. to Henry Spira

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HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE INC.

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ROCHE RESEARCH CENTER

January 4, 1988

Dear Dr.

Several of us who are responsible for industrial toxicology laboratories met some time ago to review our activities for the use of alternatives to animals for toxicity testing and research. One of the outcomes of this meeting was a resolve to see that those alternatives which had reached a practical level of use with ongoing beneficial experience should be widely publicized so that our peers could take advantage of this experience.

This letter is an invitation to share in the dissemination of this important activity within our laboratories. We will contact you by phone in the near future to confirm your potential input to the process. Research studies on the topic are of interest, but there are ample opportunities to publish such procedures. We will be interested in those procedures that have become part of your current practice with identifiable benefits relative to alternatives.

We also invite your direct response to this proposal with constructive criticism for its implementation. Several options have been discussed for the dissemination process, but we will await your input before decisions are made.

A second outcome of our earlier meeting was an awareness of the value of dialogue with regulatory agencies. Our personal goal of reduction, refinement and replacement will not be achieved in that component of our work subject to regulatory review if there are agency barriers to these alternatives. Initial informal contacts have resulted in a favorable reaction for an exchange of ideas. We would consider setting it up in the Washington area and inviting members of the regulatory agencies to attend. We will keep you informed as plans develop.


Sincerely yours,



E. A. Pfitzer
Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.



M. A. Mehlman
Mobil Oil Corporation



P. A. Scala
Exon Biomedical
Sciences, Inc.