

News Flash - Strategic award launched: Development of an AOP for Cardiotoxicity

We are inviting applications to our latest strategic award call – to develop the AOP ‘L-type Ca²⁺ channel block leading to heart failure’

Cardiotoxicity was identified as an area of potential interest for AOP development at the 2014 NC3Rs workshop ‘Applying pathways-based approaches across the biosciences’. In collaboration with the European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL-ECVAM), a ‘Cardiotoxicity Brainstorming meeting’ was held in July 2015, bringing together experts in the field of cardiovascular research from industry, academia and clinical sectors.

Two topics – negative cardiac contractility and structural cardiotoxicity – were chosen for further exploration, and examined in detail at a further workshop in November 2015 by expert subgroups. Initial literature mapping created skeleton AOPs for further development. In June 2016, the cardiac contractility AOP was accepted as a project onto the OECD work plan, entitled ‘L-type Ca²⁺ channel block leading to heart failure’.

We are now seeking to fund a UK-based researcher to develop the AOP on ‘L-type Ca²⁺ channel block leading to heart failure’ by:

- Conducting detailed literature searches to define the key events and build the weight-of-evidence for key event relationships along the pathway.
- Defining the methods that can be used to observe or measure the key events along the pathway.
- Providing evidence for the AOP using reference substance information from literature.
- Providing outputs in the form of a completed OECD application template and a comprehensive review manuscript describing the AOP pathway.

A total budget of £30k is available for this Strategic award. A maximum of one award, of up to six months in duration, will be made. The financial support requested should be dictated by the scientific need of the project.

The deadline for applications, via Je-S, is Wednesday 26 April 2017. For further information, including expected timelines, eligibility criteria and [call-specific guidance](#) please visit [our website](#).

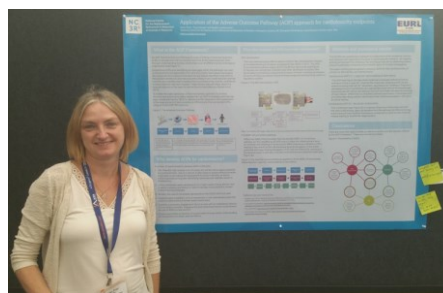
Event

EUROTOX 2017

10 – 13 September 2017, BRATISLAVA, Slovakia



We are sponsoring a session entitled ‘[Towards widespread application of mechanistic approaches for identifying cardiotoxicity](#)’ at this year’s EUROTOX Congress. The session will outline some of the non-animal approaches that are being developed and utilised to increase the understanding of mechanisms of cardiotoxicity. These could ultimately be used as part of the safety assessment process, and have potential to be applied across the pharmaceutical industry.



NC3Rs programme manager [Helen Prior](#) presented a [poster](#) on this work at the 2016 Safety Pharmacology Society Annual meeting.

Links & Resources

- [NC3Rs AOP resource page](#)
- [OECD’s AOP framework](#)
- [AOP-Wiki](#)
- [New Human Toxicology Project Consortium AOP online course](#)