

EPA Chemical Prioritization Community of Practice

In 2005 the National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT) organized the EPA Chemical Prioritization Community of Practice (CPCP) to provide a forum for discussing the utility of computational chemistry, high-throughput screening (HTS) and various toxicogenomic technologies for chemical prioritization and Agency use. The CPCP has brought together experts and interested parties throughout the Office of Research and Development to discuss chemical prioritization research. In addition, the CPCP has afforded various groups the opportunity to consider the ToxCast program for chemical prioritization: EPA Program Offices; external stakeholders such as the American Chemistry Council, the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, CropLife America, and Environmental Defense; and colleagues at the European Centre Validation for Alternative Methods, the National Institute of Health Sciences (Japan), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Molecular Libraries Initiative, and Pfizer Inc. One of the CPCP's greatest benefits has been in building key partnerships with the National Toxicology Program (NTP), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the NIH Chemical Genomics Center (NCGC). The CPCP roster currently includes 54 members who participate in a monthly meeting and teleconference. Every other month, this meeting is held jointly with the NTP HTS Faculty, a similar group formed around the NTP HTS program. This partnering with NTP and the NCGC extends to three joint workgroups, focused on Toxicity Targets and Bioactivity Assays, Chemical Selection, and Informatics, respectively. The CPCP is also coordinating both the Chemoinformatics and Modeling Communities of Practice on issues relevant across these groups. In these ways the CPCP is helping NCCT develop a biologically and chemically based system for predicting toxicity and chemical prioritization.