

Rory Conolly

Dr. Conolly met in Brussels with a group of 5 scientists from Exxon-Mobil, Proctor and Gamble, and VITO, the Flemish institute for technological research. Dr. Conolly presented an overview of the activities of the NCCT. The attendees at this meeting work for companies that must comply, for their activities in the USA, with EPA regulations. There was this strong interest in the latest EPA work on development of refined methods for chemical prioritization and risk assessment – the bread and butter of the NCCT.

In addition, the attendees, being based in Europe, were interested in learning about activities taking place at the U.S EPA that are relevant to the ongoing development of new regulations for chemical testing in the European Union (EU). In particular, the REACH program, which is being developed in the EU, is a new effort to define responsibilities for toxicological evaluation of new chemicals. REACH specifies that this responsibility will reside largely with the chemical companies themselves. The meeting attendees, who work for chemical companies based partially in Europe, were thus particularly interested in learning about the prioritization and dose-response modeling activities of the NCCT, since these are technologies that will be important components of the REACH program. It is likely that information Dr. Conolly conveyed at this meeting will lead to future interactions between European scientists and the EPA regarding advanced techniques for chemical prioritization and toxicological evaluation.

In summary, Dr. Conolly's presentation provided opportunities for (1) scientists from a regulated industry to learn more about NCCT activities related to prioritization and dose-response modeling and (2) transmission of information about EPA activities that will assist the EU in the development of its own guidelines for toxicological evaluation of new chemicals. The latter point demonstrates that how technology development at the NCCT has implications for chemical regulation on a worldwide basis.