



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON D.C. 20460**

THE ADMINISTRATOR
EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

March 15, 2004

EPA-SAB-CON-04-003

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Consultation on the Office of Research and Development's
Framework for Computational Toxicology, A Science Advisory
Board Notification of a Consultation

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

This Consultation was conducted by a panel convened in response to a request by the Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD) that the Science Advisory Board (SAB) provide a consultation on its Draft Document, "A Framework for a Computational Toxicology Research Program in ORD." The Board formed an *ad hoc* Panel consisted of one member of the SAB and twelve consultants.

The Framework was intended to be used by ORD to implement a research program, and as a means of communicating the Agency's research needs in the area of computational toxicology. Genomics, combined with computational methods and bioinformatics, can be used to integrate modern computing and information technology with molecular biology and chemistry, and help improve EPA's prioritization of data requirements and risk assessments for toxics chemicals. ORD asked the panel to review the framework and provide advice on how such research should be prioritized as ORD begins to shape a research program.

The SAB has developed the Consultation as a mechanism to advise the Agency on technical issues that should be considered in the development of regulations, guidelines, or technical guidance before the Agency has taken a position. There is no attempt or intent to express an SAB consensus or to generate a formal position. Responses by individual panel members to the Agency's charge questions are captured in the meeting minutes.

Overall, the Panel believes that the Framework was a good effort and should prove a useful tool for furthering EPA's mission. The Panel recognizes that the EPA cannot do it all with regard to computational toxicology research in the environmental area. Partnering with

other agencies on fundamental biology issues relevant to creating the scientific foundation for systems biology and molecular pathways applications to computational toxicology are essential.

As is our customary practice, there will be no formal report from the SAB as a result of this Consultation, nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency.

Sincerely,

/Signed/

Dr. William Glaze, Chair
EPA Science Advisory Board

/Signed/

Dr. George Lucier, Chair
Computational Toxicology Framework
Panel
EPA Science Advisory Board

NOTICE

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