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## *Press Release*

### **Kick off of pre-validation of three new methods by Pepper**

In October 2021, The Relevance Committee selected for prevalidation 3 new test methods targeting the identification of potential endocrine disruptors (EDs)

The first meetings between laboratories have taken place and the on-site formation is taking place in June.

- ✚ « **RAR TA** » is developed by INSERM. It is an *in vitro* method that focuses on the retinoic system (involved in multiple functions such as reproduction and development, vision, etc), by measuring the transactivation of the retinoic acid receptor on human cells. TOXEM, Charles River Laboratory and the German BfR are the partner laboratories.
- ✚ « **AVIAN** » is an *in vivo* method dealing with avian sexual development. This method is based on fertilised eggs of white Leghorn (*Gallus domesticus*). The morphology of the gonads and the Müllerian ducts (which differ according to sex) are examined and the production of aromatase is measured. Although *in vivo*, this test does not fall under the European directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. It is supported by the University of Uppsala. INRAE and the Bionos laboratory are the partners.
- ✚ « **hNPC** » is a method developed by the University of Düsseldorf. This *in vitro* method is based on primary Human Neural Progenitor Cells (hNPCs) grown as three-dimensional floating spheres. It targets neurodevelopmental toxicity. The method measures the proliferation of neural progenitor cells. Oroxcell Laboratories and the University of Uppsala are the partners.

This new series of 3 methods is more ambitious than the previous series and requires a strong commitment justified by the importance of the need. In particular, the choice of a method allowing the study of effects on non-human species (birds), with an *in vivo* approach, weighs heavily on the funding, but also on the resources of the Pepper team and on the duration of the pre-validation.

For more information on the Pepper Association : <https://ed-pepper.eu>

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