

## NAM: the contribution of *in vitro* methods

*Prof. Saadia Kerdine-Römer*

Faculté de Pharmacie, Université Paris Saclay  
INSERM UMR-996

## THE 3RS AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS

Russell and Burch in 1959, originated the concepts of 3R  
in *'The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique'*



An alternative method allows:

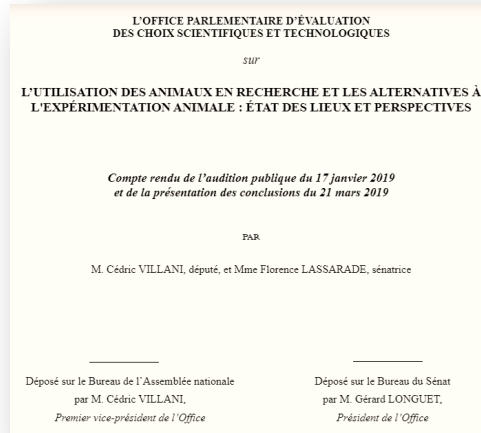
- Replace animal testing
- Reduce the use of animals in specific tests
- Refine a technique to improve animal welfare

Laboratory animals in science is a subject of intense public debate based on legal, moral, and ethical assessments

# THE 3Rs AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS

## The societal context

- Very active animal welfare groups, some of which are "extremist"
- Press campaigns and political lobbying
- Parliamentary investigations: OPECST report 21 mars 2019



**"THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH  
AND ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL  
EXPERIMENTATION: CURRENT  
SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES"**

## The regulatory context

Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes:

- Applies to all uses (basic, applied research, efficacy and hazard assessment of substances)
- Applies to vertebrate animals, including embryonic forms and cephalopods
- Reinforces the 3Rs principle



Need to develop new  
alternative methods  
Problem of the reliability  
of the methods already  
developed

# THE 3Rs AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS

## The societal context

- Very active animal welfare groups, some of which are "extremist"
- Press campaigns and political lobbying
- Parliamentary investigations: OPECST report 21 mars 2019



## "THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION: CURRENT SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES"

OPECST: Office parlementaire d'évaluation des choix scientifiques et technologiques

## The regulatory context

Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes:

- Applies to all uses (basic, applied research, efficacy and hazard assessment of substances)
- Applies to vertebrate animals, including embryonic forms and cephalopods
- Reinforces the 3Rs principle



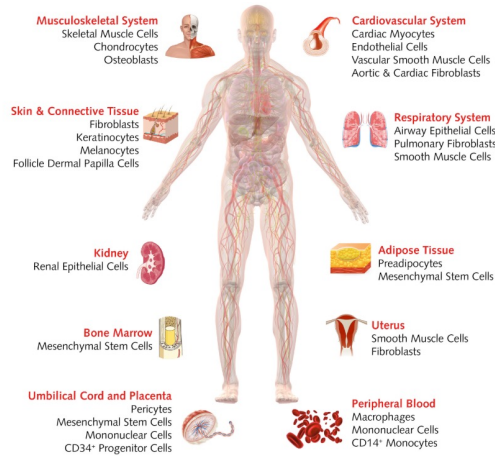
Problem of the reliability of the methods already developed ?

Need to develop new alternative methods and strategy



New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)

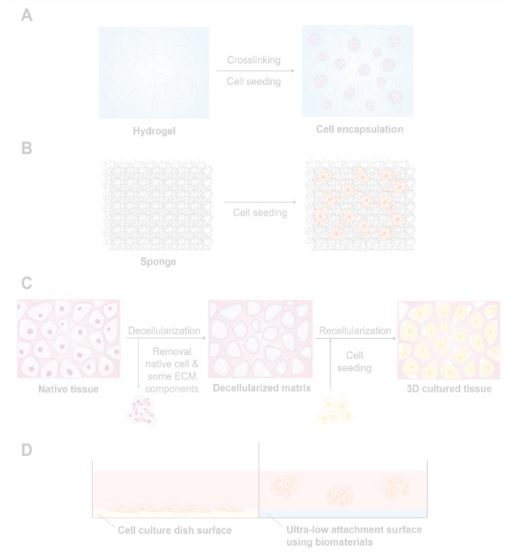
# CELLS SOURCES & ROLE OF THE MICROENVIRONMENT



- CELL LINES
- PRIMARY CELLS
- STEM CELLS

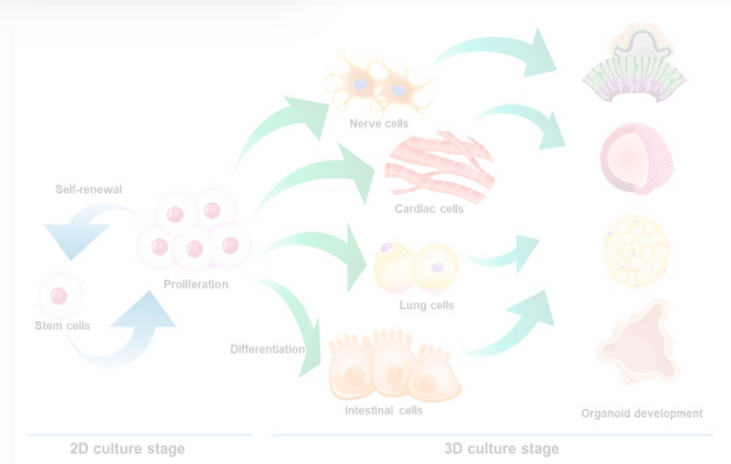
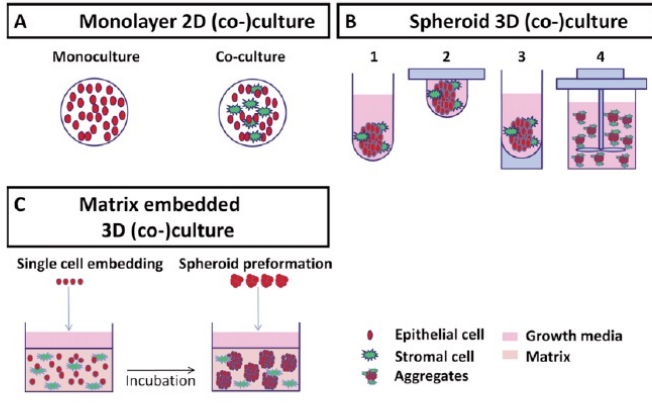
- 2D
- 3D

## ORGANOIDS



Type	Advantage	Disadvantage
Hydrogel	Tissue like flexibility Easily supplies water-soluble factors to cells	Low mechanical resistance
Solid scaffold	Various materials can be used Physical strength is easily adjusted	Difficulty in homogeneous dispersion of cells
Decellularized native tissue	Provides complex biochemistry, biomechanics and 3D tissues of tissue-specific extracellular matrix (ECM)	Decrease of mechanical properties (roughness, elasticity, and tension strength) of the tissues as compared to the native group
Ultra-low attachment surface	Provides an environment similar to in vivo conditions	Difficulty in mass production Lack of uniformity between spheroids

## Cellular Microenvironment





# CELLS SOURCES & ROLE OF THE MICROENVIRONMENT

## ORGANOIDS

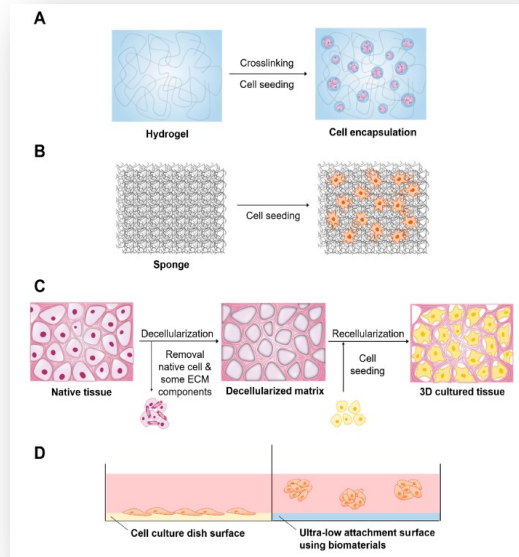
### Two main definitions

(CEI, Octobre 2020)

a. The cells self-organise

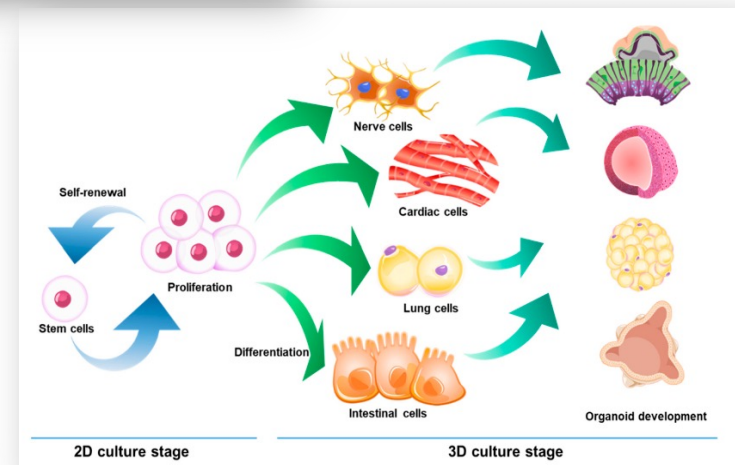
(1) *in vitro* into a 3D structure characteristic of the organ *in vivo*, (2) the resulting structure is made up of multiple cells present in that particular organ (3) and the cells perform at least some of the functions that they normally perform in that organ.

b. Organoids are 3D structures derived from stem cells or progenitor cells that, at a certain point in time progenitor cells that, on a much smaller scale, recreate important aspects of the 3D anatomy and multicellular repertoire of their physiological counterparts, and can recapitulate basic tissue functions.



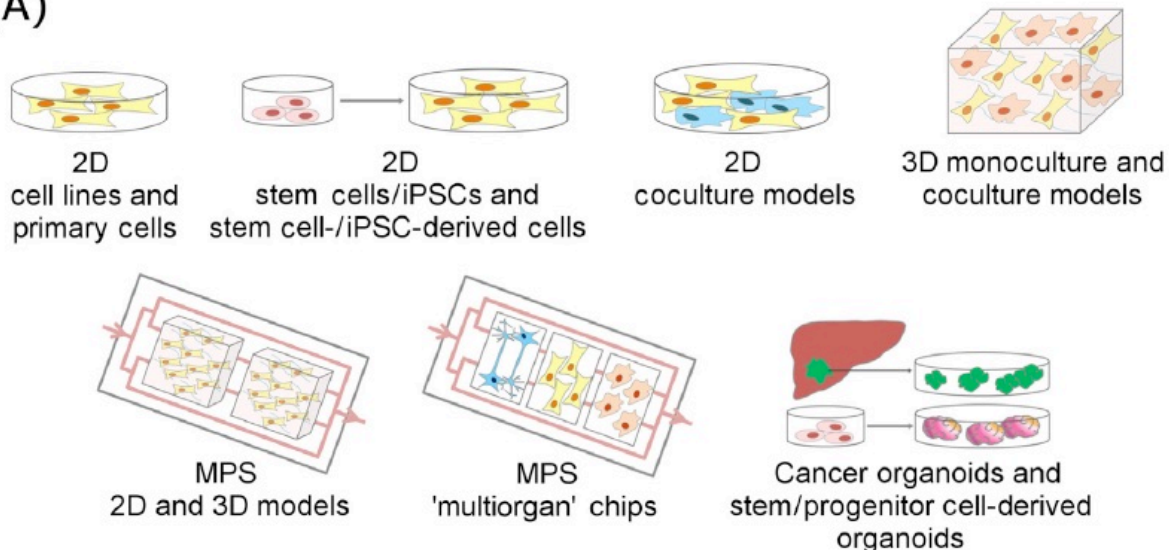
Type	Advantage	Disadvantage
Hydrogel	Tissue like flexibility Easily supplies water-soluble factors to cells	Low mechanical resistance
Solid scaffold	Various materials can be used Physical strength is easily adjusted	Difficulty in homogeneous dispersion of cells
Decellularized native tissue	Provides complex biochemistry, biomechanics and 3D tissues of tissue-specific extracellular matrix (ECM)	Decrease of mechanical properties (roughness, elasticity, and tension strength) of the tissues as compared to the native group
Ultra-low attachment surface	Provides an environment similar to <i>in vivo</i> conditions	Difficulty in mass production Lack of uniformity between spheroids

Park et al., *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, 2021



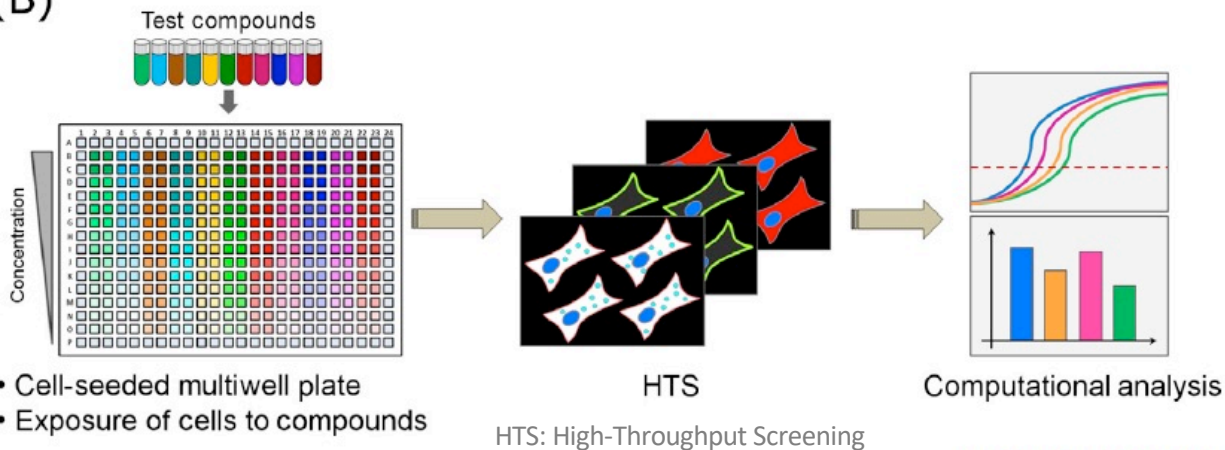
# HUMAN CELL-BASED IN VITRO MODELS

(A)



MPS: MicroPhysiological Systems

(B)



Trends in Molecular Medicine

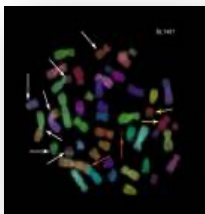
# ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS OF CELL-BASED IN VITRO METHODS

Advantages	Limitations	Potential solutions
Cost effective	No pharmacokinetics/toxicokinetics	Combination with PBPK/TK modeling
Higher/high throughput	Not all mechanisms of toxicity can be covered: limited possibilities to address complex mechanisms of organ damage	More complex organotypic models and use of complementary <i>in vitro</i> assays that cover different mechanisms of organ damage
Human cells applicable: eliminates interspecies variability	Limited possibilities to address interactions between different cell types in tissues	Coculture models and iPSC-derived organoids
Suitable for supporting personalized therapies (patient-specific iPSCs and cancer organoids)	Limited possibilities to address organ-to-organ interactions	Multiorgan MPS
Suitable for detailed examination of toxicity mechanisms/easy experimental manipulation	Cellular functions may be altered	Improved cell and cell culture models
	The concentration response of cells may be altered	Improved cell and cell culture models and use of scaling factors in PBPK/TK modeling-based reverse dosimetry

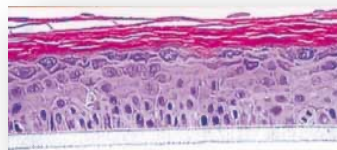


# ALTERNATIVES METHODS VALIDATED: CHEMICAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

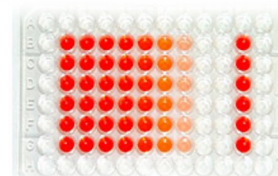
## Genotoxicity



## Corrosion/irritation



## Phototoxicity



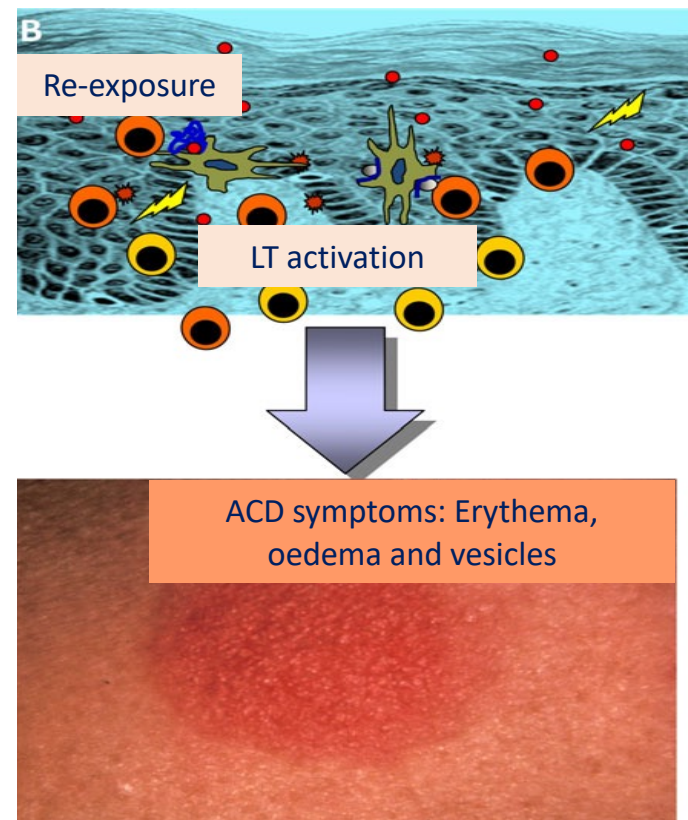
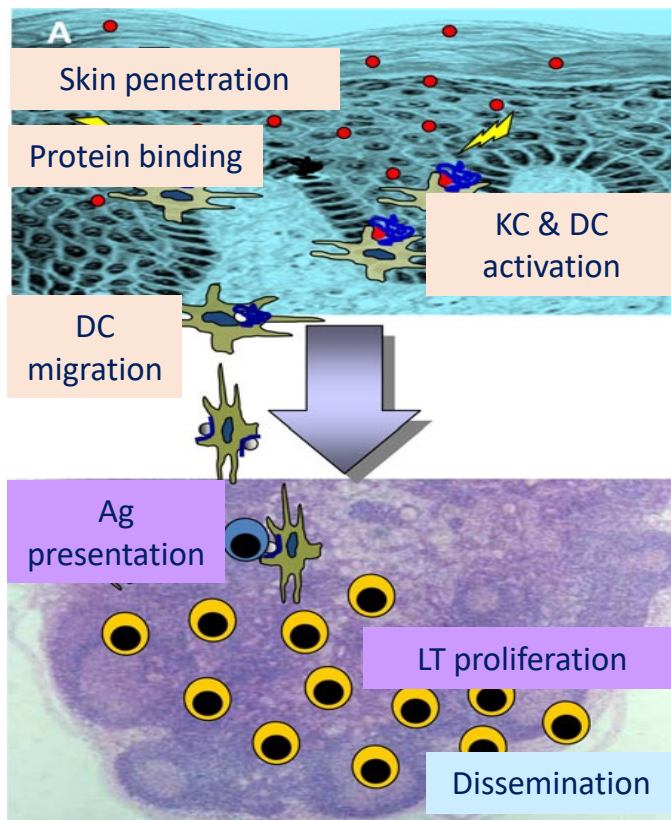
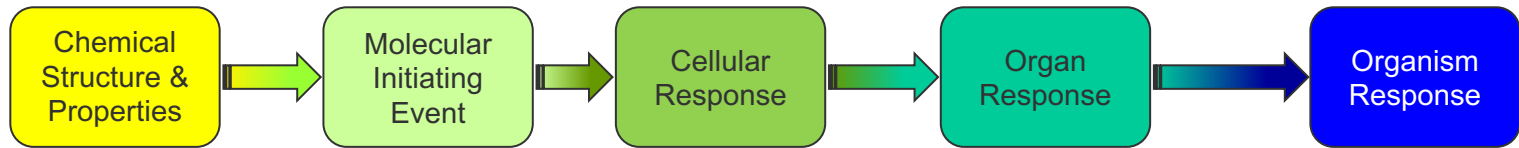
## Toxicity data generally required in regulatory dossiers of chemical substances

Required toxicity data (by endpoint)	OECD test guideline methods using animals	Animal-free OECD test guideline methods
Acute toxicity (3 routes)	401, 402, 403, 436, 425, 423, 420, 433	
Irritation/corrosion (eye and skin)	404, 405	460, 437, 438, 491, 492, 430, 431, 435, 439
Sensitization	406, 429, 442A, 442B	442C, 442D, 442E
Repeated dose toxicity	407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 452	
Genotoxicity	488, 489, 483, 478, 475, 474, 473, 485, 484	471, 490, 487, 476
Carcinogenicity	451, 453	
Reproductive toxicity (fertility and developmental toxicity)	443, 414, 415, 416 (421 and 422 for screening only)	
(Neurotoxicity) <sup>a</sup>	424, 419, 418, (426)	

<sup>a</sup> Only few regulations and directives require neurotoxicity data.

# SKIN SENSITIZATION AND KEY EVENTS

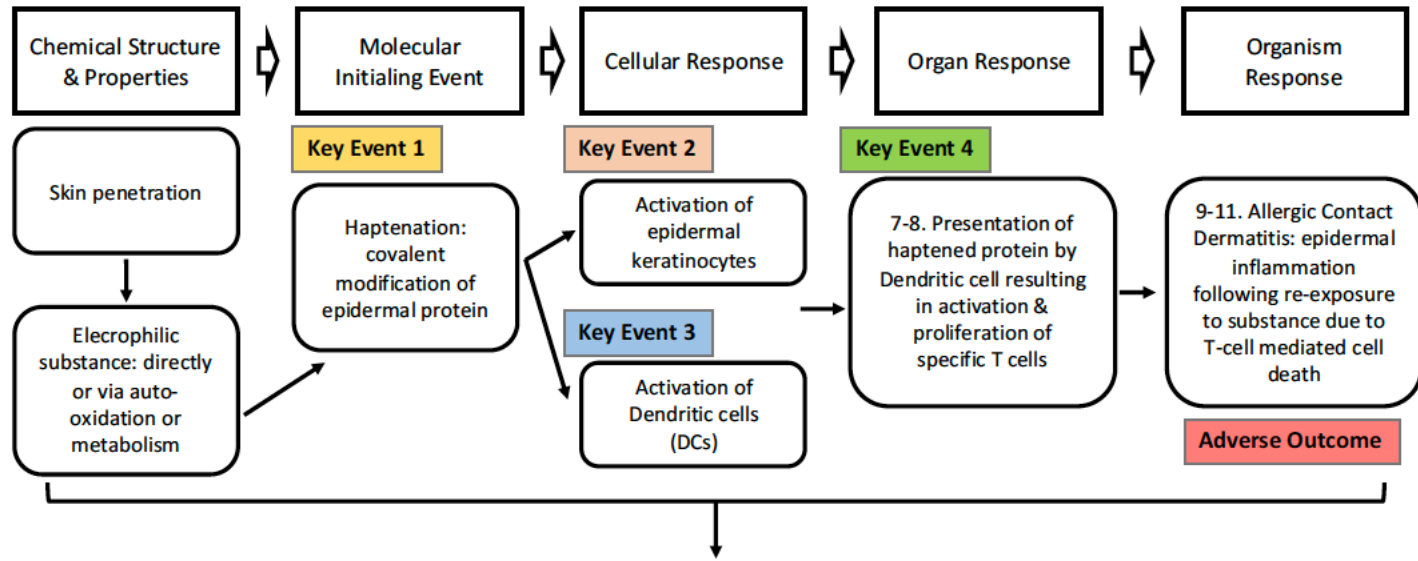
AOP  
(OECD)



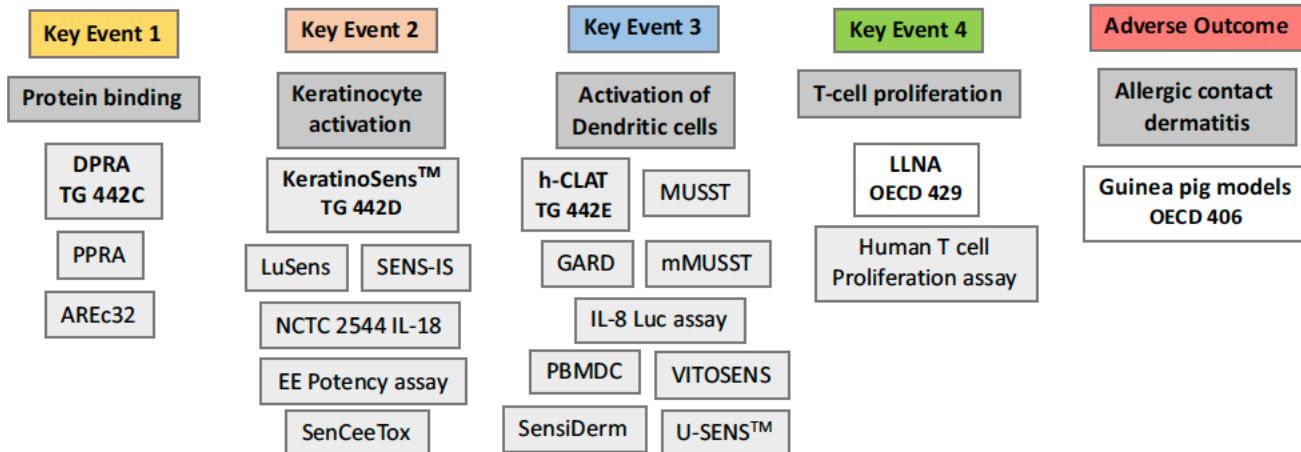
from Kimber *et al.*, *Tox. Sciences* (2011)

# SKIN SENSITIZATION AND AOP

The 7th Amendment to the Cosmetics Directive prohibited the animal testing for cosmetic products since 2004 and cosmetic ingredients since March 2009.

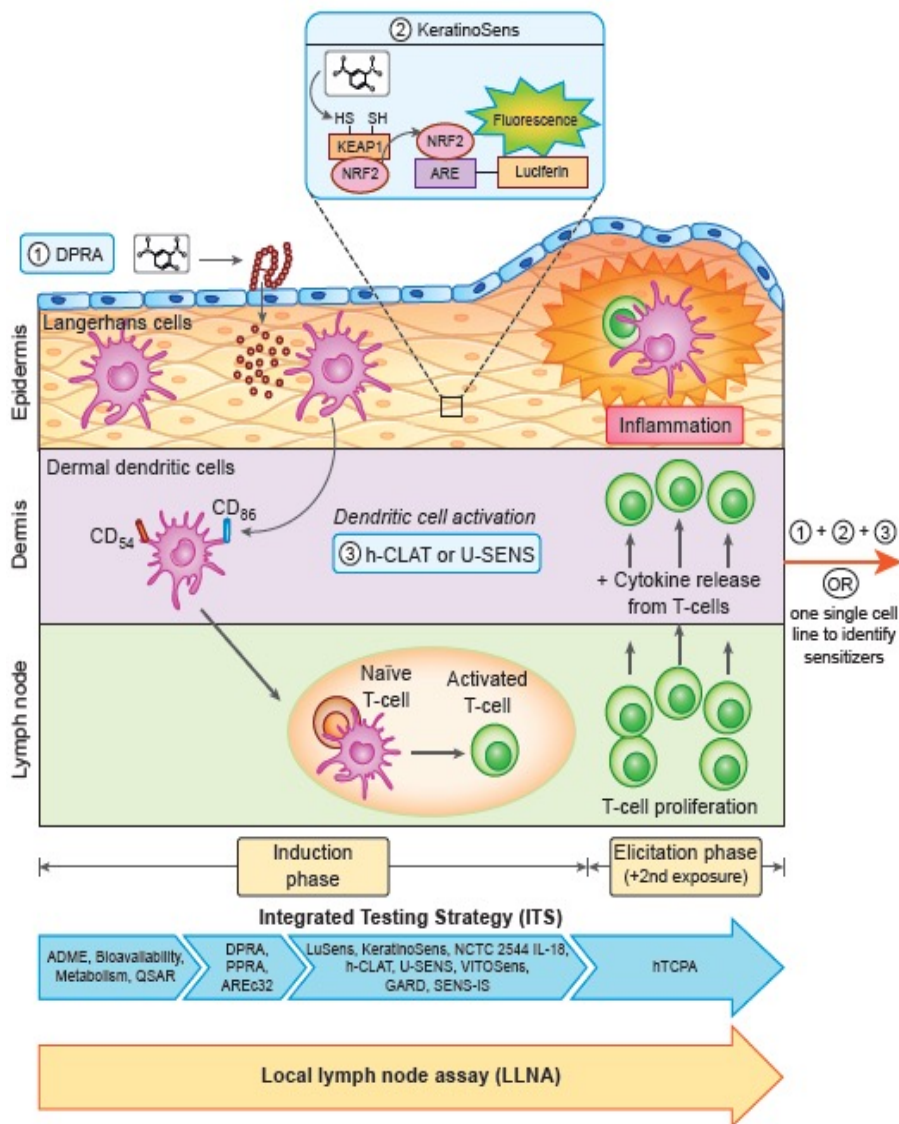


## Adverse Outcome Pathway and associated assays





# INTEGRATION OF A SET OF ALTERNATIVE TESTS WITHIN THE SAME CELL



- KE1- Initial events
- KE2- Nrf2 pathway & gene expression
- KE3- THP1 phenotype modulation
- KE4- LT proliferation

## Characterization of the danger

