

Introduction

The aim of the IDEA project can be summarised as ‘to establish and adopt a transparent and robust risk assessment framework, based on the best available science, for the identification of use conditions of individual and mixtures of fragrances (alone and in different formulations) that will prevent induction and consequently skin sensitisation of all consumers and others who may be exposed’. This is no easy task and will inevitably take some considerable time to achieve however it is one where significant progress can be anticipated.

It is recognised that there has been a history of distrust between the key stakeholders for various reasons. However we must move forward to achieve everyone’s objective of a high level of consumer safety. It is evident that the aims of IDEA, which **all stakeholders** should be able to accept as highly desirable, will only be achieved through the development of trust in the process and the continuing commitment by all stakeholders i.e. industrial scientists, dermatologists, academic scientists, regulators and consumer representatives.

The focus of this first year has been to characterise the scope of the task, to identify priorities for action and by whom and how the actions should be taken forward.

The **Supervisory Group**, which I have the privilege to chair, is an independent group of very experienced scientists whose role is to oversee and scrutinise the IDEA process to ensure that:

- The project remains founded on high quality, up to date science.
- There is active involvement of key experts in the field from different disciplines, organisations and countries.
- Through the workshops priorities are identified and actions taken to fulfil them.

In a project of this nature misunderstandings can arise from time to time and therefore transparency and a prompt response by the SG to concerns is crucial. To try to ensure complete transparency:

- The workshop participants and presenters are drawn from many disciplines and organisations and the discussions are open.
- The workshop report is produced by a member of the Supervisory Group and is circulated to all participants for their comments prior to it being made accessible to all stakeholders via the website without delay.
- Actions taken and progress towards completing them are published on the website.
- There is an annual meeting where stakeholder views are followed up with the active involvement of the Supervisory Group. This meeting provides a crucial opportunity to chart the best way forward.

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