

Head of Division

Environment, Health and Safety Division
Environment Directorate

Prof. Dr. Ellen Fritsche
Director
Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology (SCAHT)
Missionsstr. 64
4055 Basel
Switzerland

ellen.fritsche@unibas.ch

ENV/EHS/BD/sc/2024.143

Paris, 28 June, 2024

Dear Prof. Dr. Fritsche,

I am writing in relation to the project of the Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology (SCAHT) on the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) HUB, a Global Student AOP-support platform. I understand that this initiative aims to create a virtual environment dedicated to assisting students worldwide in the hands-on generation of AOPs, which are important tools in the field of toxicology and risk assessment.

Over the past 12 years, the Chemical Safety Programme of the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) has made considerable efforts to establish guidance for AOP development and scientific review. With the support of its member countries, an online central repository has been made available, using a user-friendly Wiki interface ([AOP-Wiki](#)). The importance of AOPs in understanding the mechanisms by which chemicals and other stressors cause adverse effects of regulatory interest is highlighted by the central role of AOPs in the development of OECD Test Guidelines and integrated approaches to testing and assessment (IATAs) that help member countries implement national chemical safety policies. The delineation of AOPs and their related network is no small undertaking and requires the mobilisation of resources. Therefore, I welcome the SCAHT_AOP_HUB initiative that is expected to speed up AOP development by offering a collaborative, inclusive, and dynamic working and learning environment and engaging with the new generation of toxicologists.

I have witnessed how structural mechanistic knowledge in the form of AOPs can accelerate the regulatory uptake of technologies, leading to better and faster regulatory assessment and management of chemicals. The Global Student AOP-Support Platform represents a significant step forward in accelerating AOP development through knowledge sharing and collaborative learning.

I am eager to see the positive impact it will have on the scientific and regulatory community.



Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diderich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Bob Diderich