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Update on ACES Bioassay design

The following changes have been made to the design proposed in RFP 06-1. Applicants should consider them as they develop their application to RFA 06-2.

Only rats will be used for the chronic study. Sacrifices will be at 1, 3, 12, and 24 months. At 1, 3, and 12 months 20 rats will be used, at 24 months 28 rats (equally divided between males and females) will be used. There are 34 currently unassigned rats; of these 16 have to be removed by the 3-month sacrifice and the remaining 18 can be removed at any time.

A group of 120 mice (equally divided between males and females) will be used for studies of short-term exposure (up to 90 days). The plan is to sacrifice 60 mice at 1 month and 60 at 3 months, but numbers could be modified based on applicants' needs. It is important that the endpoints measured in the rats are also measured in the mice. However, because these mice will not be used for histopathology they are available for additional endpoints not measured in rats.

Budget considerations

A total of \$500,000 is available under RFA 06-2 for all proposed studies combined. We anticipate that individual studies would generally range from \$30,000 to \$75,000, with a maximum of \$100,000 in direct costs for an important, well justified study. Any proposal with a request for a budget in excess of \$100K would need to be discussed with and approved by the Director of Science prior to submission.