

Editorial

For its 20th anniversary, the executive committee of the French Society of Cellular Pharmacotoxicology (SPTC) organized a congress entitled “Alternative methods: success, failures and promises.” In the last two decades, the use of *in vitro* cultured cell systems has permitted a burst of knowledge in the understanding of pharmacological and toxicological action of many drugs as well as environmental pollutants. Many members of the SPTC have established novel cultured cell models and new methodologies suitable for pharmacological and toxicological studies. Academic scientists and members of industry actively participated in the congress and workshops, which permitted fruitful exchanges and developments concerning safety testing. This special issue of *Cell Biology and Toxicology* includes reviews of the main presentations of the congress, giving several examples of these new developments. They include the application of progenitors cells to en-

dothelial therapy, and the development and use of models of differentiated tubule epithelial cell lines derived from the kidneys of transgenic mice. Several examples of human cell cultures including intestinal epithelial cells, renal mesangial cells and hemicornea primary cells are also presented. Finally, a novel *in vitro* method to study adverse cardiac effects of drugs is given.

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