



Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli 620 024

Mahatma Gandhi-Doerenkamp Center (MGDC)

for Alternatives to Use of Animals in Life Science Education

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Mahatma Gandhi-Doerenkamp Center, with a Gandhi – Gruber – Doerenkamp Chair, has been established at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, by the Doerenkamp-Zbinden Foundation, Switzerland, to popularize the concept of alternatives to the use of animals in Life Science and Biomedical Science education and testing. The main aims of the center are: to propagate the message of alternatives among the teachers, scientists and students, and train them in the use of alternatives, to establish a library of alternatives and to develop newer alternatives. Dissection alternatives, *in vitro* alternatives and *in silico* alternatives are emphasized. One of the modalities is for a team from Mahatma Gandhi-Doerenkamp Center to visit places, meet the teachers and the curriculum board members, and motivate them towards the use of alternatives, in a training workshop for one or two days, with an ultimate aim of change of curriculum to replace animal use in laboratory exercises as well as testing with appropriate alternatives wherever applicable, which has already happened in a few Universities/Autonomous Colleges. The cost of travel of the visiting team will be borne by the MGDC. The cost of local arrangements for the workshop is to be met by the host institution, for which registration fee may be collected from the participants and extra funds may be mobilized as donations/grants. It is MGDC's experience that those who are exposed to the alternatives are fully convinced that these alternatives provide for better learning than by using animals. University Departments/Colleges interested in organizing this workshop may submit the proposal to the **Director** through his e-mail address above.

Those who are interested in extended training in dissection alternatives and/or *in vitro* toxicology, at MGDC head quarters, may send in enquiries to the **Director** at his e-mail address.

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ALTEX is the official Journal of Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA), European Society for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EUSAAT) (Vienna, Austria), Transatlantic Think Tank for Toxicology (t⁴) (Baltimore, USA, Konstanz, Germany, Utrecht, The Netherlands), Doerenkamp-Zbinden Chairs in Germany, India, The Netherlands, Switzerland and USA. Edited by the Swiss Society *ALTEX* edition, Switzerland, *ALTEX* is devoted to the publication of research on the development and promotion of alternatives to animal experiments according to the 3R concept of Russell and Burch: *Reduce, Refine and Replace*. For details, please visit website www.altex.ch

The *ALTEX* Board has been magnanimous in accepting the request to permit the MGDC to circulate this journal in India at a highly subsidized rate of subscription. The special rate for India, for the 4 issues per annum, is fixed as Rs 1000 for individuals (against the actual rate of \$120/€80) and Rs 2000 for institutions/libraries (against the actual rate of \$240/€160). Subscription, in the form of crossed DD drawn in favor of MGDC, BDU payable at Tiruchirappalli, along with the correct postal address, e-mail ID and telephone/mobile number, may be sent to the **Director**, MGDC. Sample copies will be sent on request.

Prof. M. A. Akbarsha
(Director and Chair)
Mahatma Gandhi-Doerenkamp Centre