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InSphero Receives EUR 750K Funding from EU-ToxRisk Consortium

In a large (€ 30 MM) H2020-supported collaborative project, leading 3D cell culture technology provider joins consortium to jointly foster more efficient, animal-free chemical safety assessment.

Schlieren, Switzerland – Oct 21, 2015 – [InSphero AG](http://www.insphero.com), the leading provider of easy-to-use solutions for production, culture, and assessment of organotypic 3D cell culture models, has been awarded € 750,000 in funding over six years as part of the € 30 MM EU-ToxRisk collaborative project funded by [Horizon 2020](http://www.horizon2020.eu).

An international consortium of 39 partner organisations will be funded by the European Commission to work on the integration of new concepts for regulatory chemical safety assessment. These new concepts involve cutting-edge human-relevant *in vitro* non-animal methods and *in silico* computational technologies to translate molecular mechanistic understanding of toxicity into safety testing strategies. The ultimate goal is to deliver reliable, animal-free hazard and risk assessment of chemicals.

Coordinated by Bob van de Water, Professor of Toxicology at the University Leiden (The Netherlands), [EU-ToxRisk](http://www.eu-toxrisk.eu) has the ambition to become the flagship in Europe for animal-free chemical safety assessment. The project will integrate advancements in cell biology, *omics* technologies, systems biology and computational modelling to define the complex chains of events that link chemical exposure to toxic outcome. The consortium will provide proof of concept for a new mechanism-based chemical safety testing strategy with a focus on repeated-dose systemic toxicity as well as developmental and reproductive toxicity. Importantly, novel mechanism-based test methods will be integrated in fit-for-purpose testing batteries that are in line with the regulatory framework and will meet industrial implementation. EU-ToxRisk will develop new *ab initio* quantitative risk assessment approaches based on understanding of so-called “Adverse Outcome Pathways” incorporating all mechanistic toxicity data available in the public domain. It will also achieve a rapid improvement of so-called “read across” approaches as the most important data-gap filling and hence animal-saving alternative method at present. Thus, the project strives towards faster safety evaluation of the many chemicals used by industry and the society.

InSphero CSO and co-founder Dr. Jens Kelm says the award, “serves as a key indicator of the value being placed on advanced 3D models in the project, as they provide greater longevity to enable repeat-dose testing *in vitro*, and improved biological relevance and mechanistic accuracy relative to traditional 2D cell culture models. Much of the *in silico* and predictive modelling algorithms are based upon large amounts of data accumulated using 2D models, so 3D microtissues stand to be a valuable resource in helping to update and refine that data to increase its predictive value. We are excited to lend our expertise in developing and producing a diverse range of organotypic microtissues, implementing state-of-the-art 3D optimized assays, and integrating microtissues into Body-on-a-Chip systems to advance the aims of the consortium.”

For more information about InSphero, visit www.insphero.com.



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About InSphero

InSphero provides superior biological relevance to in vitro testing with its easy-to-use solutions for production, culture and assessment of more organotypic 3D cell culture models. The company's patented 3D cell culture platforms and methods enable large-scale, reproducible production of a broad range of assay-ready 3D InSight™ Microtissues derived from liver, pancreas, tumor, heart, brain and skin. These models and contract research services utilizing them help to identify promising drugs and toxic liabilities with greater predictivity at early development stages, enabling better pre-clinical decision making, saving development cost, and shortening time to market. InSphero's technologies drive significant findings in [peer-reviewed journals](#), through collaborative projects such as [EU Body on a Chip](#) and [HeCaToS](#), and validation in the world's largest government institutions and pharmaceutical, chemical and cosmetics companies. This 3D know-how is now also being applied in the diagnostics field to aid development of personalized chemotherapeutic strategies for the treatment of cancer.

Founded in 2009, the privately held company is headquartered in Schlieren, Switzerland with subsidiaries in the United States (Brunswick, ME) and Waldshut, Germany. It has been recognized for its scientific and commercial achievements with a number of national and international [awards](#).

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