

Prof. Vera Rogiers* is Head of the Department of Toxicology, Dermato-Cosmetology and Pharmacognosy at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel(VUB). She is professor of toxicology and organizes on a regulatory basis postgraduate courses on risk assessment in Europe of cosmetic ingredients and finished products (<http://safetycourse.vub.ac.be>). Her main research activity is situated in *in vitro* experimental toxicology. Her research team is specialized in the development of *in vitro* models for pharmaco-toxicological purposes as an alternative to the use of experimental animals in biotransformation and toxicity studies of drugs, cosmetics and other chemical substances. In particular, the actual focus is on two strategies, namely epigenetic modification of primary hepatocytes to stabilize their specific phenotype in culture and production of fully functioning human hepatocytes from mesenchymal progenitor cells of adult human tissues such as bone marrow . She is author of more than 190 publications in international peer-reviewed journals and is editor of several scientific books. She has been invited speaker for more than 120 times and actively participated in the organization of more than 30 international congresses. She has obtained several international scientific awards and is reviewer of a number of international scientific journals in toxicology, pharmacology and dermatology. She is, at the EU level, co-chair of the SCCP (Scientific Committee on Consumer Products) and is member of ESAC (Scientific Advisory Committee of ECVAM, the European Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods). She is chairperson of *ecopa* (European Consensus Platform on 3R-Alternatives), bringing together Academia, Industry, Animal welfare and Governmental Institutes in the different EU Countries under an European umbrella.

Prof. Vera Rogiers is coordinator of the FP6 CONAM project (SSA) ,and is also research partner in the FP6 projects Predictomics (STREP) ,LIINTOP (STREP) and Carcinogenomics (IP) . Recently, she has obtained two patents for the use of histone deacetylase inhibitors in order to (i) stabilize the phenotype of primary hepatocytes in culture and (ii) to differentiate mesenchymal stem cells of adult bone marrow cells and other origins into mature hepatocyte-like cells.

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