

## **Prof Dr Ellen Fritsche has been appointed as new Director of the Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology (SCAHT)**



The Foundation Council of the Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology (SCAHT) has appointed Prof Ellen Fritsche MD as the new Director of the Centre. Prof Fritsche is an internationally recognised expert in the development and validation of alternative test methods and their use in chemical risk assessment. She is currently full professor at the Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf and work group leader at the Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine. A focal area of her research is the regulatory use of a test system for the quality-controlled, standardised characterisation of developmental neurotoxicity (DNT), which is an integral part of the DNT In-vitro battery supported by EFSA and the OECD.

After her medical studies, Prof Fritsche worked as a postdoc at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences in the USA for 3 years. She holds a habilitation in environmental toxicology and has over 20 years of experience as a toxicological scientist with more than 90 publications in scientific journals as well as scientific opinions and book chapters. Amongst other functions, she is a member of the German Senate Commission for the Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area (MAK Commission), the Bf3R-Committee of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment and the DNT In-vitro Expert Group of the OECD.

She will succeed the founding Director Prof Martin Wilks, who will retire on 31 January 2024. The position of SCAHT Director will continue to be based at the University of Basel. The SCAHT's Regulatory Toxicology Group is an associated research group of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

We wish Prof Fritsche a good start and every success in her new position as SCAHT Director.