The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is dedicated to improving the mental health of the American people; fostering better understanding of effective diagnosis, treatment; rehabilitation of mental and brain disorders; and supporting research on interventions to prevent mental illness or to reduce the frequency of recurrent episodes of mental illnesses and their disabling consequences.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the NIMH Toxicological Evaluation of Novel Ligands Program is to accelerate the discovery, development, and application of novel ligands for imaging by providing toxicology and safety assessment of promising, target-selective compounds. These would utilize: Positron Emission Tomography (PET), Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT), and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). The program also provides early assessment of lead compounds, using in vitro assays that are predictive of in vivo effects in ADMET studies supporting drug and ligand discovery efforts.

In addition, the program will provide limited assessment of novel psychoactive agents for clinical research and their therapeutic potential. Toxicology and safety data generated by the program is to be used either to support an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or for Radioactive Drug Research Committee (RDRC) evaluation of a compound for human studies.

The services available under this program fall under five general phases: (1) predictive in vitro ADMET studies, (2) analytical, (3) pharmacokinetics, (4) preliminary safety, and (5) IND-directed toxicity, including safety pharmacology.

For more information on SRI Toxicology and Pharmacokinetic protocols, visit www.sri.com/biosciences/nimh

**For More Information, Contact:**

NIMH and SRI Biosciences Division
Toxicological Evaluation of Novel Ligands Programs

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About SRI Biosciences

SRI International Biosciences teams with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, academia, foundations, and government agencies to solve important problems in global health. SRI Biosciences conducts basic research, drug discovery, and drug development, including contract research. SRI has all of the resources necessary to take R&D programs from idea to IND® —from initial discovery to investigational new drug applications to start human clinical trials—and specializes in cancer, immunology and inflammation, infectious disease, and neuroscience research.

To date, SRI has helped advance more than 100 drugs into clinical trials, including a number of its own discoveries, several of which have reached the market. SRI is also working at the nexus of science and technology to create new technology platforms for the next generation of drug discovery and development in areas such as diagnostics, drug delivery, medical devices, and systems biology.