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STP-I Continuing Education Webinar: Preclinical Safety Evaluation of Drug-Induced Taste Disorders

Oral healthcare professionals are frequently confronted with patients using drugs on a daily basis. Medications can induce taste disorders in patients. They not only reduce quality of life for those affected, but can lead to malnutrition, severe dehydration and difficulty in maintaining a therapeutic regimen. Nevertheless, the impact of drug candidates on taste is rarely evaluated in preclinical toxicology studies during the early stage of drug development. Moreover, knowledge about how to investigate these adverse effects is scarce in the toxicology field. STP-India sponsored webinar on “Preclinical Safety Evaluation of Drug-Induced Taste Disorders” will provide an overview on physiology of gustation (sense of taste), pathology and preclinical evaluation of dysgeusia (taste disorders) including histological evaluation of taste buds.



Dr. Smitha Pillai, DVM,MS, PhD, DACVP, DABT
Global Pathologist, Pfizer DSRD, La Jolla, California

Dr. Smitha PS Pillai is a board-certified anatomic pathologist (DACVP) and toxicologist (DABT)., and works at Pfizer. Her specialties include toxicologic and investigative pathology; animal model development and characterization, and safety evaluation across different modalities including oncology, anti-inflammatory, metabolic, and anti-infectives. Smitha attained her DVM and MS degrees from Kerala Agricultural University in India, PhD in Veterinary preventive medicine from the Ohio State University, and completed her anatomic pathology residency training at Cornell University. Before joining Pfizer, she worked as a comparative pathologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington. She is the co-chair of the CD3 bispecific sub team within IQ-DruSafe, that advances 3Rs principles in oncology drug development. She also chairs the musculoskeletal special interest group within STP. She has authored about 20 peer-reviewed journal articles to date and is an invited speaker at many national and international scientific meetings, seminars and symposia.

Dr. Smitha Pillai

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