

**Eye irritation: Three-year research program to improve the Bovine Cornea Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) Assay (2009 – 2012)**

**CARDAM** obtained a grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (<http://www.snfoundation.org/>) for a three-year research program to improve the Bovine Cornea Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) Assay by using a new constructed opacimeter with laser-light and adapting the cornea holders to create a real *in vivo* situation when eyes are exposed to compounds. These modifications should allow a more accurate definition of the eye irritating potential of compounds and a more precise ranking of mild to non-irritating compounds, eventually positioning this modified BCOP as a valuable alternative to the Draize animal test for predicting chemical class eye irritation.

 STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

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