

# Mini-intestine replaces lab animal

New food products are subject to extensive safety tests before they are launched on the market. Animal trials are often a compulsory element. Researchers at WUR would like that to change and they are now using human organoids as a replacement. Meike van der Zande of Wageningen Food Safety Research is collaborating with scientists at Wageningen Food & Biobased Research on these mini-organs. In practice, a mini-intestine is a complex set-up with a thin layer of cells as the basis. Van der Zande: 'You can use sensors and chips to guide the liquid flows at the microscopic level. That lets us get much closer to the situation in the human body. We look at the uptake, processing and effect of substances in the intestines.' Van der Zande thinks that lab animals will no longer be needed for food safety research 30 years from now.

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