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## Advanced Training for Safety Assessors

Interview with PD Dr. Nicole Braun,  
head of the advanced course  
“Local Compatibility, Immunology  
and Sensitization”, DGK/IKW

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Dr. Nicole Braun

DGK (German Society for Scientific and Applied Cosmetics) and IKW (German Cosmetic, Toiletry, Perfumery and Detergent Association) have been offering further training courses for safety assessors in cooperation with university experts since 1998.

### How long have you been running the course and why do you enjoy charing it?

I hold a degree in biology, a doctorate in immunology and further, I am habilitated in the field of experimental

dermatology in medicine. I have more than 10 years of experience in dermatological research and work as a private lecturer at the University of Witten/Herdecke. At Eurofins, I am passionate about being the point of contact for our clients in the field of cosmetic clinical trials.

My work, such as testing innovative formulations and analyzing how various ingredients and formulations can affect skin health, is very diverse. It can range from general skin care to the treatment of specific skin problems such as acne or skin ageing. Cosmetic products must not only be effective, but also safe and well tolerated by consumers. Therefore, clinical studies to ensure the safety of cosmetic products and to identify potential undesirable effects are very important.

I have been a lecturer of the training course since 2014 and have been leading it since 2023. I am delighted to provide participants a platform to expand their knowledge and exchange ideas with each other in these courses.

### What is the essential content of the course?

In this training course, we teach a lot of basic dermatological knowledge. This knowledge is necessary to understand how skin irritations or allergic reactions can occur. It also deals with the role of allergens and which test methods can be used to prove skin tolerance. Further content of the course deals with advertising claims of cosmetic products and the requirements they must fulfill.

### Why is this knowledge important for safety assessors?

Manufacturers of cosmetic products who market their products in the EU must guarantee the safety of their products through safety assessments. One of the tasks of a safety assessor is to evaluate the skin compatibility of a cosmetic product. Extensive knowledge of the skin, such as skin physiology and skin anatomy, is important for this. Only with this understanding can the reaction of the skin be properly assessed when evaluating the safety of a cosmetic product. Based on physicochemical data and a variety of specific tests as well as in-vitro and - if available - in-vivo data, safety can be proven.

Using practical examples from dermatologists, safety assessors, toxicologists and test institutes, we convey the knowledge as clearly as possible so that the safety assessors are well prepared for the tasks in their daily work.

<https://safetyassessor.info/training-courses/>

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