Method
The database initiative was set up by a consortium of 10 pharmaceutical companies, along with the charities FRAME (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments) and the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

The steering committee had a list of questions they required the database to answer, including:
- Has a specific component been tested in a specific species by a specific route?
- What is the maximum volume and maximum concentration that a component or combination of components has been tolerated at?
- Which components have evoked convulsions in rats?
- Has liver toxicity ever been noted for a particular component?
- Have studies been carried out using combined administration of two or more specific components?

They also had a list of specific fields they wished to be in the database. Some of these are included in Table 1.

Results
The database has been released to the participants yearly since 2009. The current release contains 1030 data records in the blood compatibility and single and repeat dose tables. These records cover 454 different vehicle compositions. There are data on vehicle studies carried out in 7 different species, by 10 different routes of administration and for varying length of time (see Table 2).

Introduction
For optimal drug presentation, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) are often combined with a complex system of excipients in the final dosage form. While these additional components are considered to be inactive, they are not always inert and may be associated with toxic effects.

Databases are an important tool through which to share data, thereby reducing the need for toxicity testing. A wealth of knowledge on the toxicity of vehicles is currently held in non-searchable archives. By saving this information in database format it could be more effectively searched and used, thereby preventing repetition of a number of toxicity studies. Reciprocal sharing of this data between organisations could further extend the usefulness of this information. Here we report on a data sharing initiative involving a consortium of 10 pharmaceutical companies who are contributing unpublished data on the toxicity of excipients.