NanoImpactNet

The European Network on the Health and Environmental Impact of Nanomaterials

NanoImpactNet Conference
For a healthy environment in a future with nanotechnology

23-27 March 2009 / Lausanne, Switzerland

2nd Announcement and Call for Abstracts

This coming March, international experts in the field of Health and Environmental Impact of Nanomaterials will meet for one week at the 1st NanoImpactNet Conference. To register, please go to http://www.nanoimpactnet.eu/object_class/nano_registration.html. Deadline: 9 March 2009.

You are also invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations on any of the topics listed below at http://www.nanoimpactnet.eu/object_class/nano_abstractsubmission.html. Deadline: 9 January 2009.

Toxicological testing strategies
Best practices in nanotoxicology and nanoecotoxicology
Protocols for assessment of biological hazards
Strategies to assess occupational health effects
Exposure assessment
Environmental dispersion
Standardization of materials and protocols
Most relevant material metrics for different needs
Dispersion guidelines
Impact assessment strategies
Life cycle assessment of nanomaterial-containing products
Strategies to make industrial data available

Conference location

Lausanne is a city situated in the French-speaking part of Switzerland on the shores of Lac Léman, also known as Lake Geneva. This traditional city is located approximately 60 km north-east of Geneva and faces the French Alps while the Jura mountains are to its north-west. The headquarters of the International Olympic Committee as well as the headquarters of the Court of Arbitration for Sport are located here. The region surrounding Lausanne is famous in Switzerland for its wine production.

For further information, contact info@nanoimpactnet.eu or visit www.nanoimpactnet.eu.

Conference at a glance

Monday, 23 March 2009
Training school: Handling protocols and toxicological testing strategies

Tuesday, 24 March 2009
Workshop: Protocols for assessing biological hazards

25 & 26 March 2009
Integrating Conference & Banquet

Friday, 27 March 2009
Dual Workshops:
Strategies to assess occupational health effects
How to make industrial data available

23 March 2009 - Training school: Handling protocols and toxicological testing strategies

This training school will begin with a joint session of all participants.

- The idea of agreed handling protocols and how all can profit from this.
- The distinction between the harmonization of approaches that are based on the same principle and approaches with differing underlying principles.

Participants will then be divided in three groups. Each group will attend three training classes following a rotational scheme.

- **Topic 1: Nano-object dispersion in biological media**
- **Topic 2: Introduction of nano-objects into cells, tissues, animals**
- **Topic 3: Toxicological testing strategies**

The closing session will consist of the wrap up, exchange of lessons learnt and outlook for future NanoImpactNet activities.

24 March 2009 - Workshop: Protocols for assessment of biological hazard

After an introduction to the topics of the workshop, the participants will be divided into three groups. Each group will then treat a different subtopic.

- **Topic 1: In-vitro testing**
- **Topic 2: In-vivo testing**
- **Topic 3: Ex-vivo testing**

A final session will be used to present and discuss the findings of the different groups.

25 March 2009 – Conference day 1

The conference will open with music, welcome addresses by dignitaries and an introduction to the fields covered by NanoImpactNet. The first conference day will be divided into three sessions, each beginning with a summary of NanoImpactNet activities in the field followed by a presentation from a keynote speaker and six presentations selected from submitted abstracts.

- **Session 1: Human health and exposure.** In order to assess the health risk associated with human exposure to nanomaterials, the ideal solution would be that a toolbox of tests is available to characterize the most relevant nanomaterial metric, disperse different nanomaterials, test their persistence, toxicity and variability in response, and to evaluate exposure scenarios to consumers and workers. This session will address strategies and challenges on the road to common methodologies and how NanoImpactNet can promote collaboration in the field.
- **Session 2: Environmental fate and effects.** An understanding of nanomaterials' fate and behaviour in the environment is important to identify compartments within an ecosystem relevant for exposure or accumulation, and to identify potential target and "at risk" species. This session will address strategies and challenges when investigating hazards, the mechanisms of hazard and potential biomarkers for hazard identification that are needed for a proactive assessment of environmental risks.
- **Session 3: Life-cycle and risk assessment.** Life cycle and risk assessment methodologies usually require information about release and exposure as well as the health and environmental effects of nanomaterials. However, currently, many of the impact factors related to nanomaterials are unknown. This session will address strategies and challenges when evaluating the risks and life cycles of nanomaterial containing products with incomplete data in a situation where new, sometimes controversial knowledge is being created continually.

26 March 2009 – Conference day 2

The second conference day will start with several parallel sessions, each with a specific style.

- **Poster Session: Guided poster viewing tours**
- **Stakeholder Session: Risk communications and management**. How is risk communicated to the public and how the communication is managed, given the current state of the art. Briefing industry about stakeholders interests on this theme and vice-versa. How does state-of-the-art research communicate the risk and manage it?
- **Session Good-Wiki on occupational practices by ICON**. This will be a training session for people interested in contributing to the Good-Wiki on occupational practices that is currently in development. Note: this is not a NanoImpactNet event, NanoImpactNet is providing the venue for the International Council on Nanotechnology (ICON). For more information on this event, please contact kk@rice.edu.
- **Hearing of the Swiss TLV commission**. The Swiss TLV commission (chaired by Michel Guillemin) will organize a hearing. Participation is by invitation only.

The conference day will continue in plenum after these parallel sessions.

- **Session 4: From research to policy.** An overview of NanoImpactNet communication activities followed by three keynote presentations by leading representatives of the Swiss government, the EC and the WHO on how different regulatory organisations are acting on nanotechnology.
- **Session 5: Connecting the dots.** Nanotechnology results from the convergence of formerly distinct disciplines. Equally, if one wants to gain a comprehensive understanding of the health and environmental impact of nanomaterials, interdisciplinary cross-talk and collaboration will be needed. This session will exchange ideas about interdisciplinary approaches to gain knowledge, strategies to address gaps in our knowledge or coordination, how disciplines can collaborate to find a common language, and which key concepts need to be shared at an early stage of research.

27 March 2009 - Dual workshop

The day will start with a joint session giving an introduction to the topic of sensitive industrial data, with the example of occupational health data, followed by two parallel workshops:

- **Occupational health workshop**: Scientific approaches to assess occupational health will be discussed and future research strategies will be developed.
- **Industrial data workshop**: Challenges and potential forums via which industry might provide data access will be investigated in the format of a discussion involving stakeholders.

Occupational health workshop

A limitation on determining the health and safety of nanomaterials is the lack of methods to determine or quantify levels of occupational exposure over longer periods and to investigate the health of potentially affected populations. Currently, there is no European system to register occupational health related to nanomaterial exposure. Occupational Health reporting strategies will be discussed and the ethical, legal and social limitations of such reporting will be considered.

The workshop will begin with an overview of currently operating OH reporting schemes in the EU, focusing on the well developed systems in the UK. There will then be presentations by experienced occupational health physicians with knowledge of implementing the existing schemes. Inspired by these presentations, participants will divide into break-out groups to consider the key questions of how to develop and apply such schemes within the nanotechnology field. The break-out groups will come back together at the end of the day to discuss the best ways forward for occupational health reporting in the nanotechnology arena.

Stakeholder workshop on strategies for making Industry data available to researchers, risk assessors and policy makers

Industry data is clearly proprietary information and can be very sensitive because if it were to 'fall into the wrong hands' valuable investments could be damaged. Firms legitimately put great thought into which partners they might be willing to share their data with. Researchers have to maintain a dialogue with industry to create good faith and trust. From the academic's point of view, it would constitute a great leap forward if industry scientists could be convinced to share more of their knowledge in public communications or peer-reviewed journals to enable comparative assessments, and eventually QSARs and predictive approaches, far beyond the current case-by-case approach.

Academics are interested in core industry data on exposure, dose response, etc. By bringing industrial and non-industrial researchers and other stakeholders around the same table, this workshop aims to assess how much information industry is and is not willing to share and what company policies are. Ideally, the industry speakers would bring ideas for a common strategy for making industrial data available and what conditions would be necessary for this to happen: case by case, voluntary code, industry rules, existing regulations or new nano-specific laws. Additionally, an assessment of the minimum amount of data that would be required for this exercise to be useful is necessary, while balancing the needs of industry to protect formulation and other key product-specific information. After a brief introduction and presentations from industry and a regulatory expert, other stakeholders will state their prime, concise question regarding access to industry data to the nano industry participants.

Target audience

Both junior and experienced researchers from institutions that are developing, testing or contributing to methods to investigate the health or environmental impact of nanomaterials. Nanomaterial researchers who want to receive an update about the health and environmental impact of their products. Experts from industry, SMEs, governments, NGOs, etc. that will have to deal in future with methods and strategies to evaluate the health and environmental impact of nanomaterials.

Scientific committee

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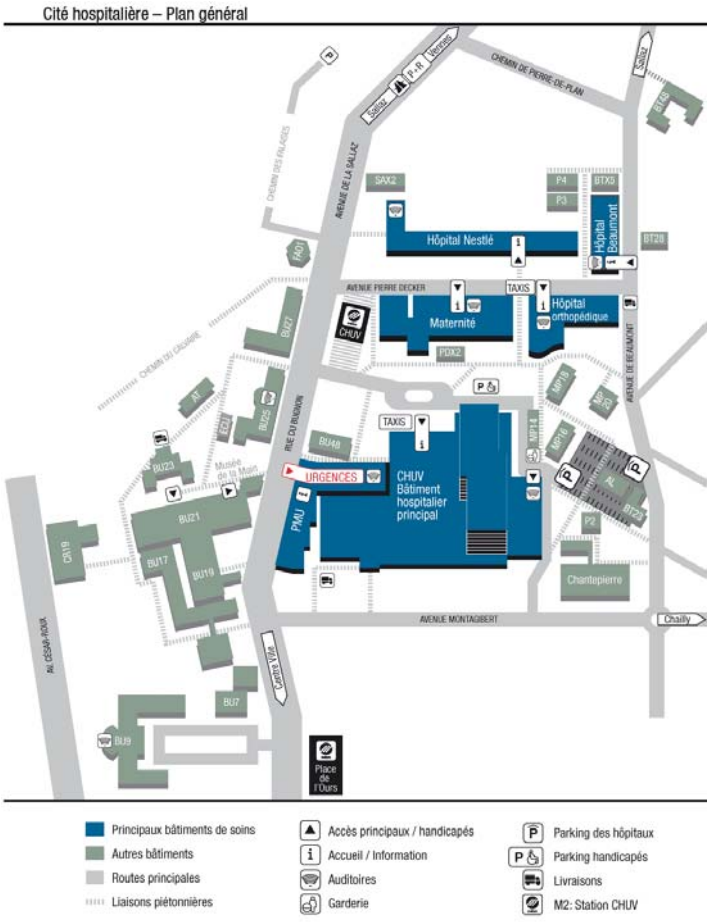
Important dates

09 January 2009	Abstract submission deadline
30 January 2009	Confirmation of abstract acceptance
30 January 2009	Final Program available
09 March 2009	Registration closes

Venue

The conference will be held in the CHUV, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, the University Hospitals of Lausanne. Room locations will be provided at a later date.



NanoImpactNet is a Coordination Action under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme.

This space is still available for sponsors