

NNCO NEWSLETTER: What's Big in Small Science?

Brought to you by the National Nanotechnology
Coordination Office (NNCO)

NNI Highlights

The development of the NNI's new strategic plan is underway! NNI member agencies kicked off the process by hosting the [2016 NNI Strategic Planning Stakeholder Workshop](#) in May at USDA's Patriots Plaza conference center. The goal of the workshop was to obtain input from all stakeholders regarding the vision for the second era of the NNI, known as NNI 2.0. Topics covered included future technical directions, implementation mechanisms, education and outreach activities, and approaches for promoting commercialization. The updated strategic plan is expected to be published late this year.

Top NNI Stories

Publications and Webinars: The NNI published two important documents this spring, the [NNI Supplement to the President's 2017 Budget](#), and the workshop report on "[Quantifying Exposure to Engineered Nanomaterials \(QEEN\) from Manufactured Products.](#)"

The NNI also hosted three recent webinars, including the launch of the [NanoEHS Webinar Series](#), sponsored by the NNI's Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications (NEHI) Working Group, with a webinar

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NNCO Director, Dr. Michael Meador

Director's Corner

The NNI is all about collaborations - not just between Federal agencies, but also with industry, universities, and other stakeholders. Consortia, public-private partnerships, and other activities have been instrumental in advancing the goals of the NNI in areas ranging from technology development and commercialization, to education and outreach, to ensuring safe handling of engineered nanomaterials in the workplace.

NNCO and the NNI agencies are identifying new opportunities to collaborate and more broadly engage the nanotechnology community, both within the United States and globally. A new [NNI Signature Initiative, Water Sustainability through Nanotechnology:](#)

entitled "Applying a Lab Safety Culture to Nanotechnology: Educating the Next Generation of Nanoscientists;" the third installment of the [Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise \(SME\) Webinar Series](#); and the launch of a new nanoeducation series, [Teaching Nanoscale Science and Engineering: A Presentation for Middle- and High-School Teachers](#)."

Student Outreach: This spring the NNI led a number of activities intended to inspire and engage students in nanoscale science and engineering. NNCO Deputy Director Lisa Friedersdorf helped launch the [Student Leaders Network](#) at the [TechConnect Nanotech 2016 Conference](#) at National Harbor, Maryland in May. The Student Leaders Conference brought together undergraduate nano and emerging technology student group representatives from across the country to share best practices and network with like-minded group leaders.

In April, the National Science Foundation and the NNI together announced the winners of the hugely popular [Generation Nano superhero competition](#) at the [USA Science and Engineering Festival](#). This competition for high school students was [championed by comic book legend Stan Lee](#) and the winners were announced on the main stage by Star Trek's Wil Wheaton.

Upcoming Events

July 1: [Escape Velocity](#) panel: "Nanotechnology Can Give You Superpowers"

August 21-25: NNI booth at [ACS National Meeting and Exposition](#) in Philadelphia

[Nanoscale Solutions for a Global-Scale Challenge](#), was announced on March 22nd (World Water Day) to increase coordination and collaboration between Federal agencies together with public and private stakeholders to develop nanotechnology-based solutions that can help address not only our Nation's water challenges but those of our entire planet.

NNCO is engaging with technical and professional societies to mutually advance the goals of the nanotechnology community and the NNI. These collaborations provide a way to reach out to more than a million scientists, engineers, educators, and entrepreneurs and get their help in highlighting not only the past accomplishments of the NNI but also the promise that nanotechnology holds for the future.

International collaborations provide a way to leverage resources, talents, and expertise to address global challenges in nanotechnology. NNI agencies and the NNCO are actively participating in collaborations in nanoEHS, such as the [U.S.-EU Communities of Research](#); standards development, such as ISO TC229; and methods to measure the impact of investments in nanotechnology, such as OECD's Bio-, Nano-, and Converging Technologies Working Party, Task Force on Measurements and Impact.

In what other ways can collaborations help advance the goals of the NNI? We would love to hear your ideas.



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