Next-Generation Governance Challenges for Engineered Nanomaterials

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"The Pacing Problem" of Technology Governance



No matter how sophisticated risk assessment becomes, a gap will always exist between new material introduction and risk characterization & management.

Adaptive Governance:

Iterative improvements to governance of materials or activities as more information becomes available



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Further Complications – Decision Making & Regulation Under Uncertainty?

- We've learned quite a bit about engineered nanomaterials and their exposure pathways over the past 20 years, but challenges remain:
 - *i.* Filling knowledge gaps for nanomaterial exposure scenarios
 - *ii.* Prioritizing and utilizing available data to inform risk especially when that information is incomplete
- What can we do about these challenges?
 - Bottom-up approaches: Lab experimentation to evaluate specific material
 - ► *Top-down approaches*: Decision support tools to fit stakeholder needs



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Drivers of Governance



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A Survey of Nano Tools: 2002-2016



Tools are helpful, but not necessarily "Good" Governance

- Quantitative methods and tools help drive risk assessment
- However, data on hazard, exposure, and effects is not always readily available for the exact material in question
- Also need to consider non-risk considerations of cost, societal benefit, ethics, implications, etc.
 - Challenging via Frank Lautenberg amendments to TSCA in 2016
 - Consider <u>all elements</u> of risk governance to drive "good"





