NanoESH Research Needs Assessment Project

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NanoESH RNA

ICON is convening a pair of workshops to build upon the work articulated in the NSET's "*Environmental, Health, and Safety Research Needs for Engineered Nanoscale Materials*" as well as other efforts to develop research agendas. The ultimate goal of the ICON project is to prioritize research needed to establish a science-based assessment of potential risk of different classes of nanomaterials (both current & emerging) and to validate the classes of nanomaterials and the principles that relate properties to predicted risk factors.

Developing a prioritized, international strategy for nanomaterial risk research

Research needs will be prioritized to determine the validity of nanomaterial classes, their bio-interaction principles, and on commercial and research relevance as well as hazard and exposure potential.

Workshop 1: Correlating Material Properties with Bio-Interactions

The participants will identify potential "hot spots" in the life of the nanomaterials, i.e., situations and processes that may lead to unacceptable exposure and hazard. Special attention will be given to materials produced in high volume and/or of greatest hazard. The outcome will be a matrix of the material attributes vs. behavior & bio-interaction. More information can be found at http://icon.rice.edu/centersandinst/icon/events.cfm?doc_id=10003.

Workshop 2: Research Needs & Priorities

The second workshop, anticipated for Spring 2007 in Europe, will build upon the matrix produced in Workshop 1 and ultimately produce a science-based assessment of potential risk of different classes of nanomaterials (both current & emerging) so that research gaps can be easily identified.

About ICON

The International Council on Nanotechnology (ICON) is an international, multi-stakeholder organization whose mission is to develop and communicate information regarding potential environmental and health risks of nanotechnology thereby fostering risk reduction while maximizing societal benefit. The council has evolved into a network of scholars, industrialists, government officials and public interest advocates who share information and perspectives on a broad range of issues at the intersection of nanotechnology and environment, health and safety. We maintain a public portal for information on nanomaterial environmental health and safety (EHS) at http://icon.rice.edu.