

NTP BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC COUNCELORS (BSC) NANOTECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP

Purpose

In recent years, nanotechnology has become an increasing focus of U.S. and global research and development efforts. As with many technological advances, novel materials are created, and as a result, the potential exists for new and unanticipated human exposures for which the impact on human health is unknown. The National Toxicology Program (NTP) is developing a broad-based research program to address potential human health hazards associated with the manufacture and use of nanoscale materials. This research program will include studies of nanoscale materials that apply existing and novel toxicological methods to assess potential health effects associated with exposure to these materials.

In order to enhance public and stakeholder input into the nanotechnology research program, the NTP intends to establish the Nanotechnology Working Group of the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors (“the NWG”). The NWG is a technical advisory body established to provide a structured and formal mechanism for bringing stakeholders together to learn about NTP nanotechnology research related to public health, address issues related to that research, and promote dissemination of those discussions to other federal agencies, nanotechnology stakeholders, and the public. Specifically, the NWG will provide advice to the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors (“the Board”) on NTP nanotechnology research. The Board is a federally chartered advisory committee whose members are appointed by the Secretary, Health and Human Services. The Board provides primary scientific oversight to the Director of the NTP and evaluates the merit of the NTP’s intramural and collaborative programs.

The NTP anticipates meetings of the working group will generally include presentations intended to educate the NWG and the public about nanotechnology research efforts related to environmental health within the federal government. The NWG may use this information as it evaluates the adequacy of the NTP testing program.

Function

The NWG shall advise the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors on matters of scientific content of the nanotechnology research program. The NWG shall conduct periodic reviews of this program advising on the overall merit and quality of the activities and whether they address areas of public health concern, needs of U.S. regulatory agencies, or issues of product development as they relate to public health.

Structure

The NWG’s membership shall be sufficiently broad to promote input and exchange of ideas and information. NWG shall consist of up to twelve members, including the Chair. Voting members may include representatives from industry, non-profit public health and environmental organizations, the International Council on Nanotechnology (ICON), Federal agencies represented on the NTP Executive Committee and the Nanotechnology Environmental Health (NEHI) Working Group of the Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee¹, and others with relevant experience. The Director shall appoint the Chair from

¹ The Nanoscale Science Engineering and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee of the NSTC coordinates planning, budgeting, program implementation and review of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). The NNI is a federal R&D program established to coordinate the multiagency efforts in nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. Eighteen agencies participate, 10 of which have R&D budgets. The NNI is

among the members of the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors represented on the NWG. A quorum of business shall consist of a majority of currently appointed members. The NWG shall report its activities to the Board on an annual basis or as deemed necessary.

Management and support services will be provided by the NTP Liaison and Scientific Review Office within the Office of the Director of the Environmental Toxicology Program.

Meetings

The working group is expected to meet annually or at the call of the Chair as need dictates. A government official shall be present at all meetings. The NTP will make the NWG meetings as accessible as possible to the public and follow appropriate National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines for the management, oversight, and conduct of working groups.

Compensation

NWG members shall be paid at a daily rate equivalent to that of Board members, plus per diem and travel expenses. Members who are officers or employees of the U.S. government shall not receive compensation for service.

Termination

The NWG shall continue until deemed by the Board as no longer necessary with approval by the Government official.

managed within the framework of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). Additional information about the NNI is available at <http://www.nano.gov/>.