

Agenda



TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006

8:00 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:10 AM Nanotechnology Primer

Carl Batt, Cornell University

Carl will present an overview of nanotechnology, how it is being used, areas of research, and future potential.

9:10 – 9:30 AM Welcome and Workshop Orientation

Clayton Teague, National Nanotechnology Coordination Office

Douglas Sarno, The Perspectives Group

9:30 – 10:45 AM Panel 1. Why Participation?

This panel will explore reasons why public participation is an important consideration in nanotechnology policy- and decision-making. Each panelist will speak for 15 minutes, followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer period facilitated by a moderator.

Carolyn Lukensmeyer, AmericaSpeaks

Why Do Public Participation?

Why engage the public in policy-related decisions? What are the elements of good public engagement?

David Guston, Arizona State University

What Do We Want to Learn from Public Participation in Nanotechnology?

What challenges and issues face society in the development and implementation of nanotechnology? What meaningful outcomes should we seek when engaging the public?

Rosalyn Berne, University of Virginia

The Ethical Dimensions of Public Dialogue in Nanotechnology

What ethical issues are related to public participation, to nanotechnology, and how can we involve scientists in the discussions?

10:45 – 12:15 PM Breakout Groups A: What Outcomes Should We Seek?

Participants will be divided into six groups that are representative of the full range of interests and perspectives at the workshop. All groups will dialogue about the same questions:

- What key outcomes do we seek through public participation in nanotechnology?
- What are the appropriate roles for the public in nanotechnology policy- and decision-making?

12:15 – 1:30 PM Luncheon Speaker and Lunch

David Ropeik, Harvard School of Public Health

Nanotechnology and Risk Perception

How are risk perceptions formed? What issues will affect risk perceptions related to nanotechnology? How can the scientific complexities of risk assessment be communicated effectively?

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006 (continued)

1:30 – 2:00 PM Breakout Group A Reports

2:00 – 3:15 PM Panel 2. Planning for Public Participation

This panel will explore best practices in public participation as well as what we have learned to date about the public's interest, knowledge, and opinions about nanotechnology. Each panelist will speak for 15 minutes followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer period, facilitated by a moderator.

Douglas Sarno, The Perspectives Group

Best Practices and Processes for Public Participation

How can we plan for successful public participation, including selecting the right level of participation, designing inclusive participation, and matching techniques appropriate to objectives?

Barbara Herr Harthorn, University of California, Santa Barbara

How Do We Identify the Publics To Be Engaged in Nanotechnology?

What issues are involved in identifying and engaging publics? What factors shape involvement, understanding, and opinion?

Dietram Scheufele, University of Wisconsin-Madison

What Do We Know About Public Opinion?

How are public attitudes toward science and technology shaped? What is the role of media in shaping public opinion?

3:15 – 3:30 PM Break

3:30 – 5:00 PM Breakout Groups B: How Should We Approach Public Participation for Nanotechnology?

Three key questions will be considered in six breakout groups. Each question will be addressed by two groups.

1. Which nanotechnology issues should include public input in decision-making? Where does public input on nanotechnology issues have the best opportunity for influence?
2. How do we get the public heard in a bureaucracy? Who should be sponsoring public participation? Who should be listening and how do we get them to really listen?
3. Should nanotechnology be considered by itself or combined with other emerging technologies in a broader societal conversation?

5:00 – 5:30 PM Breakout Group B Reports

5:30 – 7:30 PM Reception

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 AM Panel 3. Engaging the Public in Science and Technology

Rob Semper, The Exploratorium

Semper will present an overview of the challenges and strategies of engaging the public in current research, such as nanotechnology, using exhibitions, media, programs, and other approaches. Panelists will share their experience and lessons learned in public participation, followed by audience questions and discussion.

Larry Bell, Museum of Science, Boston

Carl Batt, Cornell University

Cynthia Needham, ICAN Productions

9:30 – 10:45 AM Participation in Action Presentations

Presenters will each provide a brief overview of a different approach to engaging the public in large, controversial topics.

Kathy Hudson, Johns Hopkins University Berman Bioethics Institute: *Genetic Town Halls*

Tom Beierle, Ross & Associates: *Online Democracy*

Vence Bonham, Education and Community Involvement Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH: *Community-Based Forums*

Carolyn Lukensmeyer, America Speaks: *21st Century Town Meetings*

Chris Toumey, University of South Carolina: *Citizens Schools*

Leslie Bourquin, Michigan State University: *Extension Service Outreach*

10:45 – 11:00 AM Break

11:00 – 11:45 AM Panel 4. Participation in Action Panel Discussion

11:45 – 1:15 PM Luncheon Speaker and Lunch

Phil Macnaghten, Lancaster University

Nanotechnology and 'Upstream' Public Engagement in the UK

Phil will discuss the results of UK focus groups with various publics, conducted between 2004 and 2006. The research indicates a latent ambivalence toward nanotechnology and suggests potential concerns.

1:15 – 3:15 PM Breakout Groups C: How Should We Conduct Public Participation for Nanotechnology?

Three key questions will be considered in six breakout groups. Two groups each will focus on one of the questions to identify what we know now, what we need to find out, and where we need to go next.

4. What does the public need to know about nanotechnology in order to meaningfully participate? How do we build in education as a component of nanotechnology public participation?
5. Is promoting open dialogue on nanotechnology enough? What types of processes and activities for public input on nanotechnology make sense?
6. How do we engage the unengaged? How do we move beyond the traditional special interests and really engage the general public? To what extent should we try?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006 (continued)

3:15 – 3:30 PM Break

3:30 – 4:30 PM Breakout Group C Reports

Groups will each provide a 10-minute report on the key findings and recommendations for next steps on their respective questions.

4:30 – 4:50 PM Reflections Speakers

Several individuals, representing different sectors present at the workshop, will provide short reflections on the workshop and issues raised.

4:50 – 5:00 PM Wrap-up and Next Steps

Clayton Teague, NNCO