



NSRG

Nanotechnology and Society Research Group

# **Nanotechnology in the Public Interest: Regulatory Challenges, Capacity, and Policy Recommendations**

*Nanotechnology Interdisciplinary Research  
Team (NIRT)*

*SES #0609078 (Sept. 1, 2006-Aug. 31, 2010)*



**Northeastern**

U N I V E R S I T Y





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***Purpose of NIRT project.*** Evaluate existing federal and state government regulatory capacity--defined here as sufficiency in scientific expertise, legal authority, organizational design, and relevant regulatory frameworks--to address the societal and policy challenges posed by manufactured nanoscale substances, innovations and products, and, where appropriate, make recommendations for building requisite capacity to address these challenges.

# Intellectual Origins of NEU NIRT Lay in Societal Implications of Nanomanufacturing

## NSF Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing (Award # NSF-0425826)



# NSRG: CHN Related Research

- Intellectual property issues
- Workforce health and safety
  - Appropriate workforce training
    - Knowledge of researchers
    - Knowledge of “first responders”
  - Appropriate waste handling and disposal
- Public health and environmental impact
- New regulatory needs
- Economic viability
- Tradeoffs in light of many uncertainties



## **NIRT Research Goals:**

1. Evaluate existing federal and state regulatory capacity
2. Assess particular regulatory challenges posed by nanotechnology
3. Make recommendations for building capacity to address those challenges

## **Thematic Areas:**

1. Regulatory Issues and Capacity
2. Risk Perceptions and Analyses
3. Ethical Implications and Issues

***Spring 2007 Workshop***  
**Nanotechnology and Public Policy:**  
**Basic Science, Applications, and Regulatory Implications**  
**Tuesday, May 1, 2007**  
**Northeastern University, Boston**

**Purpose:** A one-day workshop directed at scholars of regulation and public policy, journalists who cover science and technology issues, and public sector officials expected to be involved in one way or another with the regulatory consequences (especially environmental, human health, and safety) posed by nanotechnology broadly understood. Sessions will cover basic science, a range of applications, potential environmental, health, and safety effects, and current activities by local, state, and federal regulatory agencies to begin to address those concerns.

See <http://nsrg.neu.edu> for more information.

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