

NIRT: Evaluating Oversight Models for Active Nanostructures and Nanosystems: Learning from Past Technologies in a Societal Context

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Research Goals

- Assessment of 6 oversight models utilizing criteria schooled by consensus:
 - drugs
 - medical devices
 - chemicals in the environment
 - chemicals in the workplace
 - gene transfer research (“gene therapy”)
 - genetically engineered organisms in the food supply
- Application of oversight lessons to nanobio
- Development of oversight models for nanobio products and research

Thematic Areas

- Oversight assessment and development of new oversight models
- Legal, policy, and ethical analysis of oversight approaches
- Mapping technological and research areas related to nanobio
- Development of criteria to evaluate nanobio oversight

3 Phases

- **Phase 1: Integrated Oversight Assessment of 6 Historical Models (15 mos.)**
 - Collect literature, develop criteria, analyze literature, draft case studies
 - Draw cross-cutting conclusions across 6 oversight models and begin drafting collaborative report and individual papers
- **Phase 2: Mapping the Models onto Nanobiotechnology (15 mos.)**
 - Develop normative recommendations for nanobio oversight using lessons learned from Phase 1
 - Refine collaborative report and individual or group-authored papers, including comparative report and individual case studies
 - Solicit feedback from stakeholders and experts
 - Develop workshop series for UM students
 - Plan Nov. 2009 public conference
- **Phase 3: Performing Scenario Analysis, Soliciting Feedback & Engaging in Dissemination (18 mos.)**
 - Public conference (Nov. 2009)
 - Revise consensus paper based on feedback
 - Finalize consensus paper following conference
 - Present at outside conferences, publish project products

Anticipated Project Products

- Publication of individual papers analyzing 6 historical oversight models
- Publication of comparative analysis across the 6 models
- Publication of group-authored consensus paper on lessons for nanobio oversight
- Dissemination of policy analysis and normative oversight recommendations through hard copy, web-based resources, and targeted efforts to reach key stakeholders
- Creation of workshop series for law & public policy students
- Public conference to present consensus report plus papers authored by Investigators and Working Group members and to seek public input
- Presentation of work by Investigators at outside conferences