



**NER: Contours of Nano-problems and  
Solutions and the Societal and Educational  
Challenge of Active Nanoscale Technology  
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# Research Goals

- Explore the linkage between nanotechnology as a solution and the strategic definition of problems.
- Understand what problems are being linked to nanotechnology as a solution, and by whom.
- Broadly address questions related to the ANN program in regard to the interaction of engineering, science, technology and society from the problem definition framework.

# Thematic Areas

- **Political science**
- **Problem definition and strategic solution definition**
- **Science and technology policy (nanotechnology)**

# Methodologies

- Literature and media search (longitudinal) for tracking the evolution of nanotechnology definitions (as solutions and linkages to problems).
- Network definition and stakeholder identification for understanding what the nanotechnology network looks like and for development of the interview sample.
- Content analysis of nanotechnology related articles, reports, hearings, and policy statements.
- Stakeholder interviews and discussions with a representative sample from the nanotechnology network.

# Recent Research Findings

**This project is still in the early stages. Current activity focuses on data collection and the development of a viable sample for interviews.**

# Challenges & Opportunities

- **Narrowing down the significant number of nanotechnology “solutions” on which to focus.**
- **Developing an innovative baseline understanding of how stakeholders link nanotechnology solutions with specific problems for public policy.**