

Center for Nanotechnology in Society

University of California, Santa Barbara

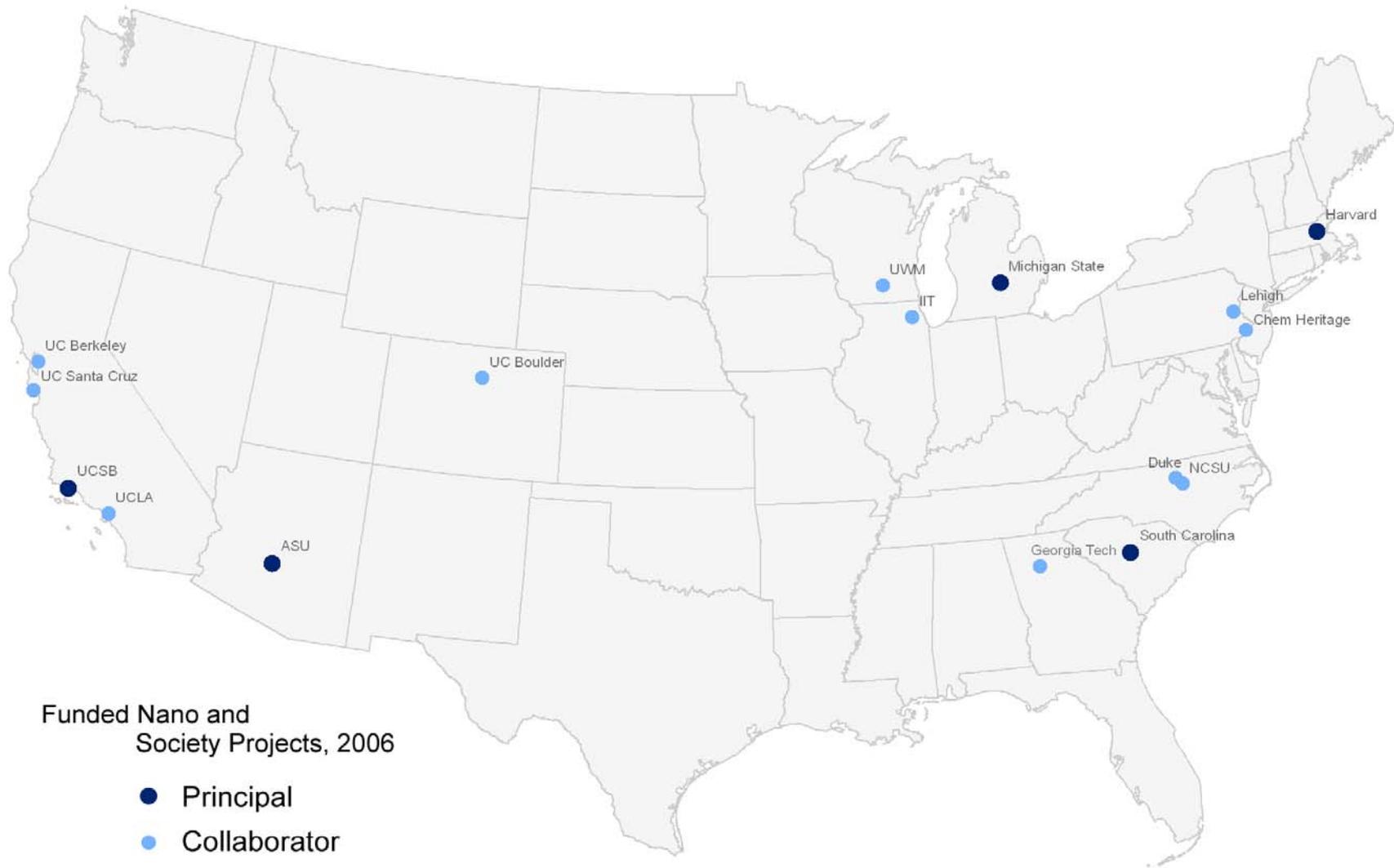
Future directions

Barbara Herr Harthorn, Co-Director



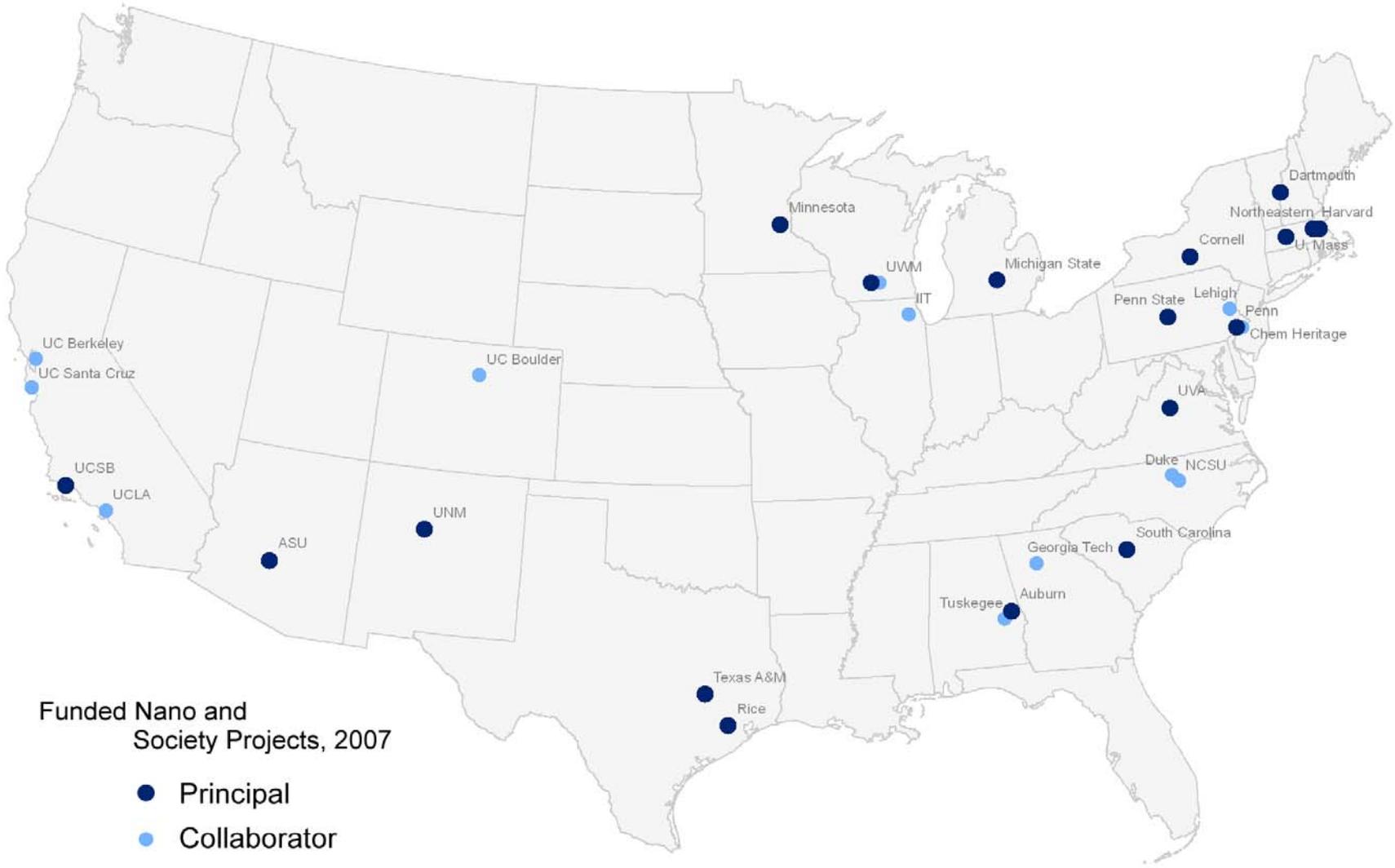
Nano in Society Network

- M. Roco: “use network for more coherence and efficiency” in the ELSI nano research; 2 NSECs for database sharing
- [maps] how to communicate and integrate? Meetings important—team meetings, leadership roles for 2 CNS?
- Database maintenance; Clearinghouse issues remain unfunded, unresolved—NNIN? ASU, UCSB? NanoBank?
- How do we handle the many intersections, interconnections, informing one another about research under way? will there be funding for collaborations that emerge?? Listserves, wikis, blogs, other? Who will lead?
- What comes next??



Funded Nano and Society Projects, 2006

- Principal
- Collaborator



Funded Nano and Society Projects, 2007

- Principal
- Collaborator

Big Picture

- Will funding continue? Is there real commitment to doing this (upstream research and participation); cannot do retrospective—need to do longitudinal, prospective
- PR vs. research; many serious and difficult research questions in the upstream research and deliberation context
- Balance between intellectual merit and broader impacts? Policy needs getting ahead of research??
- Longterm futures—all methods for studying, visualizing, representing, eliciting are experimental, confounded by concerns about hype and unrealizability
- Question: how important is knowledge of the science to our various research? Does it vary by area of research?
- Importance of specificity of what we do to nano; future convergences?

More...

- Business and economics almost completely absent here? Transnational corporations? Getting beyond 'the domestic sphere'
- Relative funding of SEI vs. R&D—how do we make what we do more visible [meta opportunity to reposition social sciences]
- Best publication sources for our work? Who is our audience?
- Even those of us who think it v. important to differentiate am. technologies continue to reproduce 'nano' as a uniform category
- To the extent that we're involved as agents to perform 'outsourced' sci and eng load (SEI), how can we work to change the conditions?

Public participation

- Public participation: Upstream engagement has potential perils as well as promise—downstream engagement has lots of difficulties too; upstream adds to them
- It is likely to matter a great deal how it's done, w/ whom, under what conditions, for what purposes, etc.—this are imp. research questions that require a systematic (and cautious) approach to uncertainty analysis
- Top down sci education likely to fail; it may even work to construct the risk object