

Nanotechnology Policy: Near-term and Beyond

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The Conference

- This is the Foresight Institute's 13th Conference on Advanced Nanotechnology
- It is the grandfather (and grandmother) of nano conferences
- It remains the only one dedicated to exploring mid- and long-term implications

Today's Program

- About Policy and Applications
- Policy
 - Regulation
 - Research Funding
 - Societal implications
 - International consequences
- Applications
 - Energy
 - Medical
 - Water and Environment
 - Materials

Policy (for Nanotech)

- Who can do what...
 - To whom...
 - Under what circumstances...
- Who gets what \$ from whom
- Whether (and how) government can help or hinder

Who Can Do What...

- Allow or disallow research
 - Bill Joy and relinquishment
 - ETC, Greenpeace, Royal Astronomer
 - SciFi writers
- The “Golden Rule”
 - He who pays gets to make the rules

Under What Circumstances

- So far, so good
 - No relinquishment
 - No stem cell-like research ban
- Toxicology studies mixed
- Tiny amounts of \$ for ELSI
- International competitiveness

Money, money, money, money... (Who gets what \$ from whom?)

- Government
 - Basic research
 - Old boy networks
 - Renamed research
- Industry
 - Profit (near-term)
 - Buy to shelve
 - IP vs. trade secrets



Money (continued)

■ VCs

- Risk capital
- IP is critical
- You can have the \$ if you don't need it
- VC \$ is VERY expensive



The Valley of Death

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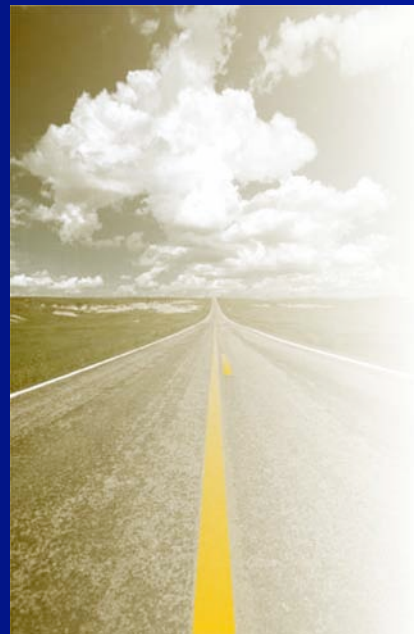
How Can The Government Help?

- SBIR/STTR
- ATP
- Agency BAAs
- Education
- Networking

Applications

- “Normal” science (what the NNI funds)
- Real world problems that need solving
 - Energy
 - Water
 - Health
 - Environment

Money Will Follow Solutions



How to reach the speaker

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Our Next Speaker