

Invitation For Interview

What We Are Doing:

The University of California, Santa Barbara has contracted with the International Council on Nanotechnology (ICON) to design and administer a survey examining the environmental, health, and safety practices of companies working with nanomaterials. This survey will be implemented internationally during the summer of 2006. Current practices for managing nanomaterial risks will be discovered through this survey. The results will be aggregated according to nanotechnology industry; ICON will then publicly disseminate the aggregated results. Through disseminating knowledge regarding current best practices, this research will contribute to the safety of workers, consumers, the public and the environment.

Who We Are:

We are a research team at the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Our team is comprised of five graduate students and is led by Dr. Patricia Holden and Dr. Magali Delmas, with support from Dr. Barbara Herr Harthorn (Co-director of the Center for Nanotechnology in Society) and Dr. Rich Appelbaum. The project proposal was solicited by ICON and receives their full support.

ICON is an international, multi-stakeholder organization whose mission is to assess, communicate, and reduce the environmental and health risks of nanotechnology while maximizing its societal benefit.

Topics Covered in the Interview:

- How are companies responding to new challenges posed by nanoparticles?
- What types of training do nanoparticle handlers receive?
- What engineering and personal protective equipment are used in the workplace?
- How are companies monitoring ambient particulate levels?
- How are companies disposing of nanomaterials?
- How are companies determining which approaches to take?
- What product stewardship practices are companies using?
- Where are companies finding information regarding best practices?

There's Value in Participating:

Participants can benefit by influencing the debate in current health and safety practices in the nanotechnology industries. This is a benchmark project, and participants will learn how, comparatively, they are approaching health and safety. Workplace safety and product stewardship will be reported on in the aggregate and will not be tied to specific companies. Confidentiality of the participants, products and company will be guaranteed. The project is high-visibility and sponsored by industry.

How to Participate:

The telephone interview will initially require up to 1 hour, with a possible similar follow-up time. Prospective participants will receive a project information package including a letter of invitation, a copy of ICON's press release, and an ICON letter of project endorsement. We also encourage prospective participants to contact us directly regarding interview scheduling by either emailing nanotech@bren.ucsb.edu or by calling Dr. Patricia Holden at (805) 893-3195.