

Potential Developmental and Early-Life Health Effects of Nanomaterials: Data Gaps and Research Needs for Risk Assessment

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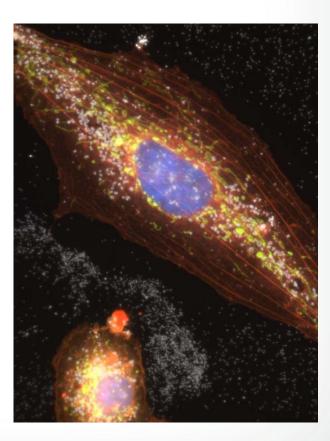
I have no actual or potential conflict of interest to disclose in relation to this presentation.

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Problem Statement

- Chemicals, including emerging (and nano) materials are a lynchpin of innovation in today's economy.
- Sustainable innovation requires designing, producing, and using chemicals in safer ways.
- Information and methods are needed to make better-informed, more-timely decisions about chemicals, many of which have not been thoroughly evaluated for potential risks to human health and the environment.

• Scientific understanding is required to anticipate potential for adverse impacts on human health or wildlife populations based on knowledge from data rich chemicals.



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The Great Chemical Unknown

The Great Chemical Unknown

[Scientific American October 28, 2010]

• Only a tiny fraction of the compounds around us have been tested for safety

Chemicals used by U.S. consumers and industry: 50,000 (80,000)

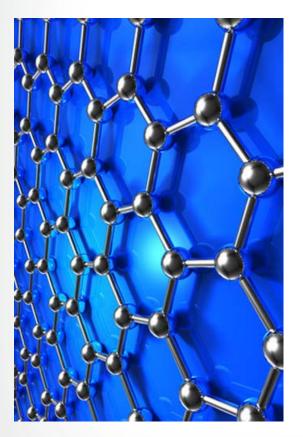
- Tested: 300

What is different about nanomaterials?



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Challenges for Nanomaterials Research



 The rate that new engineered nanomaterials (ENMs) are being developed makes it impossible to evaluate materials individually and traditional testing approaches may be inappropriate for nanomaterials

- Understand how the physical/chemical properties of nanomaterials influence their behavior in complex environments
- Identify intermediate properties of nanomaterials that can predict exposure and/or hazard

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- Identify/develop methods to characterize ENM in complex media
 - Release from consumer products along the product life cycle
 - Fate, transport and transformation in environmental media
- Develop alternative testing approaches to evaluate adverse outcome pathways
 - Potential for adverse human health effects
 - Potential to impact sensitive environmental species

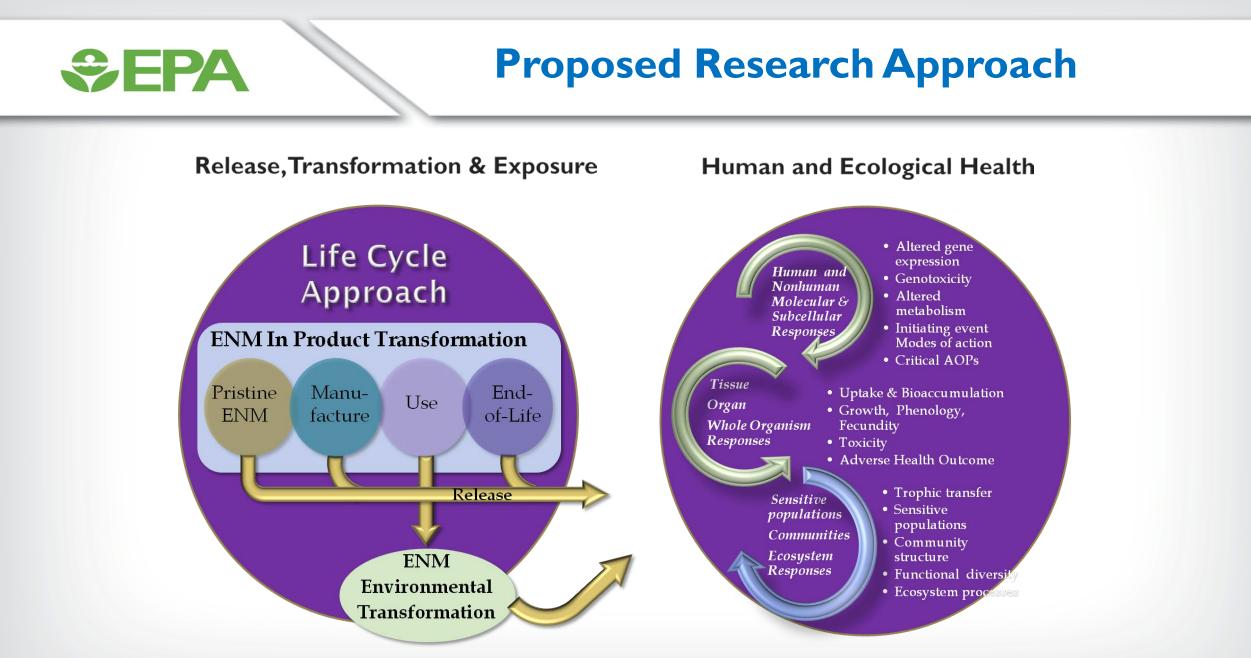


Data Gaps for Risk Assessment of Nanomaterials

Exposure research needs related to understanding and controlling exposures to nanomaterials

Integrate life cycle considerations into risk assessment and management, including stakeholders' values, communication needs, and additional decision makers' input

Incorporating relevant risk characterization information, hazard identification, exposure science and risk modeling and methods into the evaluation of nanomaterials



Ongoing Research in Nanomaterials

• Exposure and Nanomaterials Properties

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- Research on methods to better detect, quantify and describe nanomaterials
- Data to inform an integrated systems approach to assess and predict the toxicity of engineered nanomaterials and their applications
- Guidance on best available methods and approaches for eco-testing of select nanomaterials
- Develop alternative testing approaches to evaluate adverse outcome pathways
 - Potential for adverse human health effects
 - Potential to impact sensitive environmental species

Reproductive and Developmental Effects of ENMs

- Possible direct and indirect effects of maternal exposure on the fetus:
 - Embryonic Development
 - Neurotoxicity
 - Fertility

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- Inflammatory effects

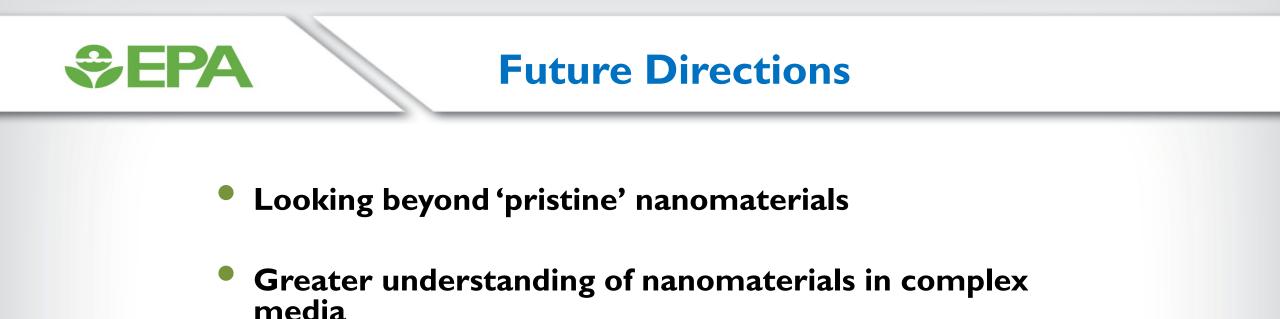


EPA Reproductive and Developmental Effects of ENMs

Potential health effects needing further investigation:

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- Cardiovascular
- -Allergy
- Metabolism
- Genotoxicity



- Greater understanding of the physicochemical properties of nanomaterials that lead to their translocation and potential effects
- Determine sensitive endpoints for reproductive and developmental effects



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