



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**

# Wat is nanotechnologie en welke zijn de mogelijke gezondheidseffecten voor de werknemers

Peter Hoet

K.U.Leuven

Pneumology, Lung Toxicology

[Peter.hoet@med.kuleuven.be](mailto:Peter.hoet@med.kuleuven.be)



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**

# Wat is nanotechnologie en welke zijn de mogelijke gezondheidseffecten voor de werknemers

Peter Hoet

K.U.Leuven

Pneumology, Lung Toxicology

[Peter.hoet@med.kuleuven.be](mailto:Peter.hoet@med.kuleuven.be)



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**



# Overview

- Introduction:
  - Definition: Nanomaterials – ultrafine particles?
  - Use of nanomaterials
  - Safe Nanomaterials
- Issues in NanoToxicology?
  - Role of size (nano versus larger)
    - Surface
    - Systemic delivery
  - Role of shap
    - One material different shapes
    - CNT ....
- Conclusions



# Overview

- **Introduction:**
  - Definition: Nanomaterials – ultrafine particles?
  - Use of nanomaterials
  - Safe Nanomaterials
- **Issues in NanoToxicology?**
  - Role of size (nano versus larger)
    - Surface
    - Systemic delivery
  - Role of shap
    - One material different shapes
    - CNT ....
- **Conclusions**



# Definition?

- European Academy at Bad Neuenahr: “Nanotechnology (therefore man-made) is dealing with functional systems based on the use of subunits with **specific size dependent properties** of the individual sub-units or of a system of those.”
  - very general; **no exact size**  $\neq$  100 nm
  - **excludes** non purpose made materials such as soot and dust.
- Nanoparticle: one dimension  $<100$  nm (and larger than 1 nm)
  - Spherical
  - Rods & Tubes
  - Surfaces



# Do we “need” nanotechnology

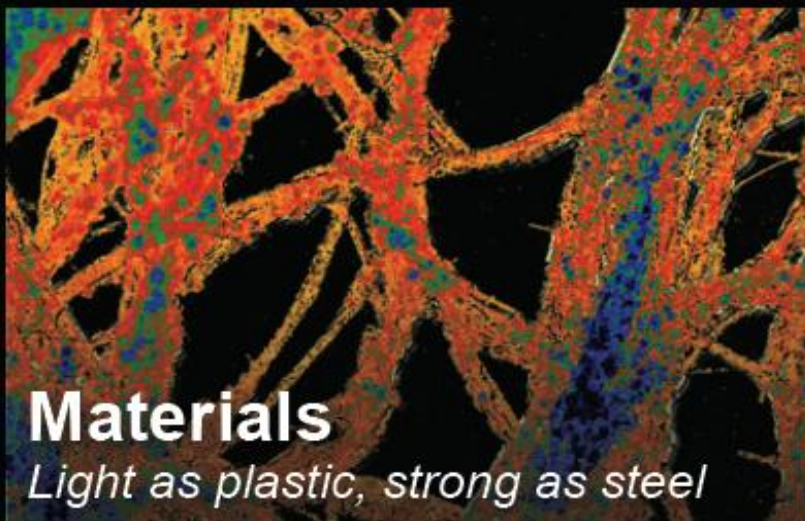


23 Februari 2010

Nanotechnologie en gezondheid op de werkvloer



# Do we “need” nanomaterials



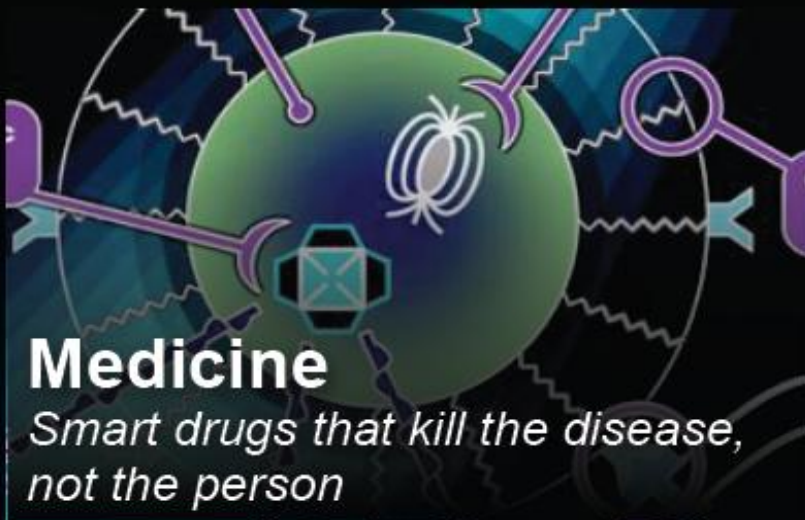
## Materials

*Light as plastic, strong as steel*



## Water

*Clean water any time, any place*



## Medicine

*Smart drugs that kill the disease,  
not the person*



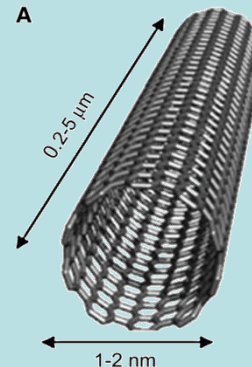
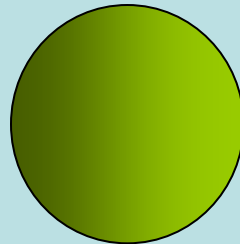
## Energy

*“PowerPlastic™ that converts light  
to energy - anywhere”*



# Definition?

- European Academy at Bad Neuenahr: “Nanotechnology (therefore man-made) is dealing with functional systems based on the use of subunits with specific size dependent properties of the individual sub-units or of a system of those.”
  - very general; no exact size  $\neq$  100 nm
  - excludes non purpose made materials such as soot and dust.
- Nanomaterials: one dimension  $< 100$  nm (and larger than 1 nm)
  - Spherical
  - Rods & Tubes
  - Surfaces

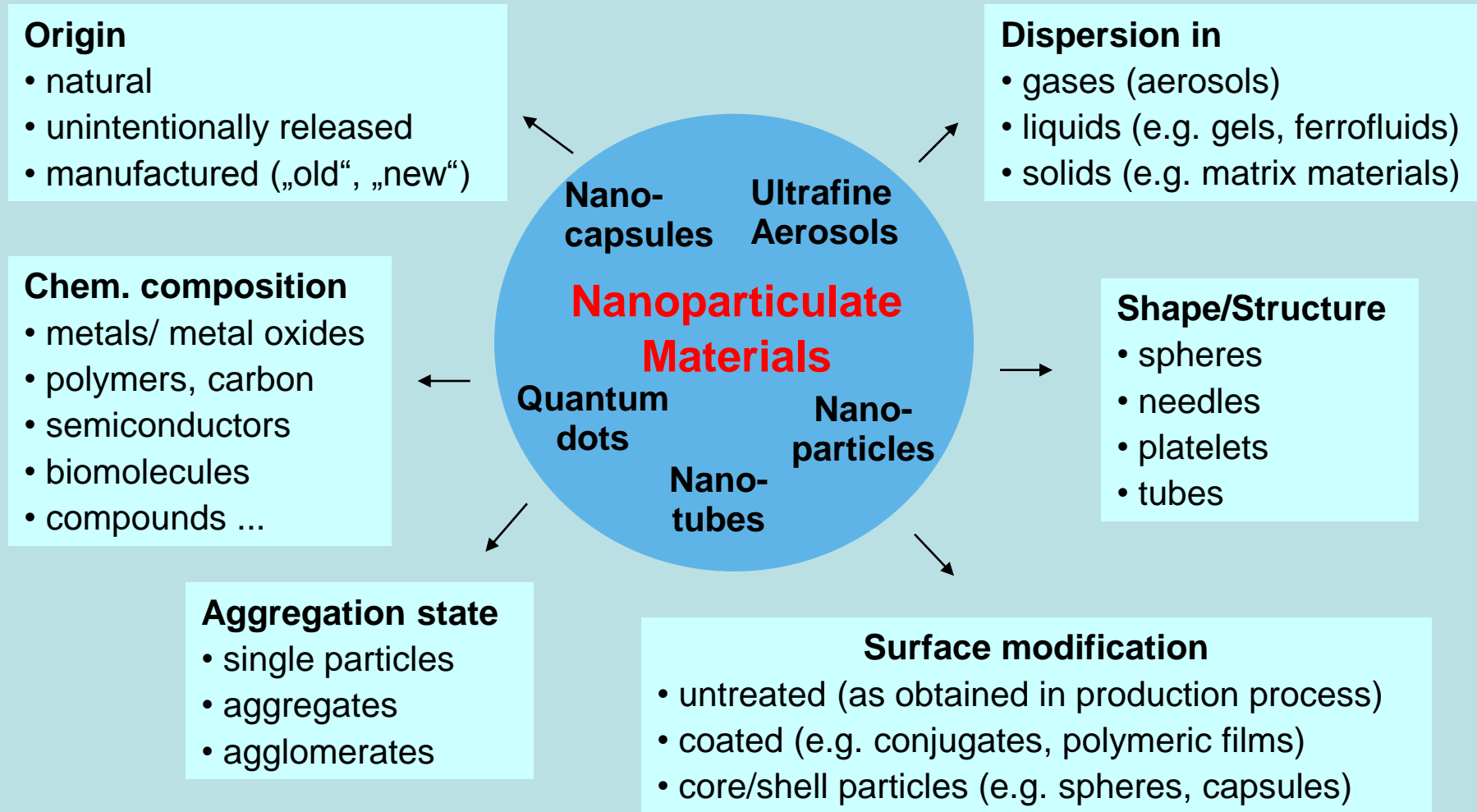






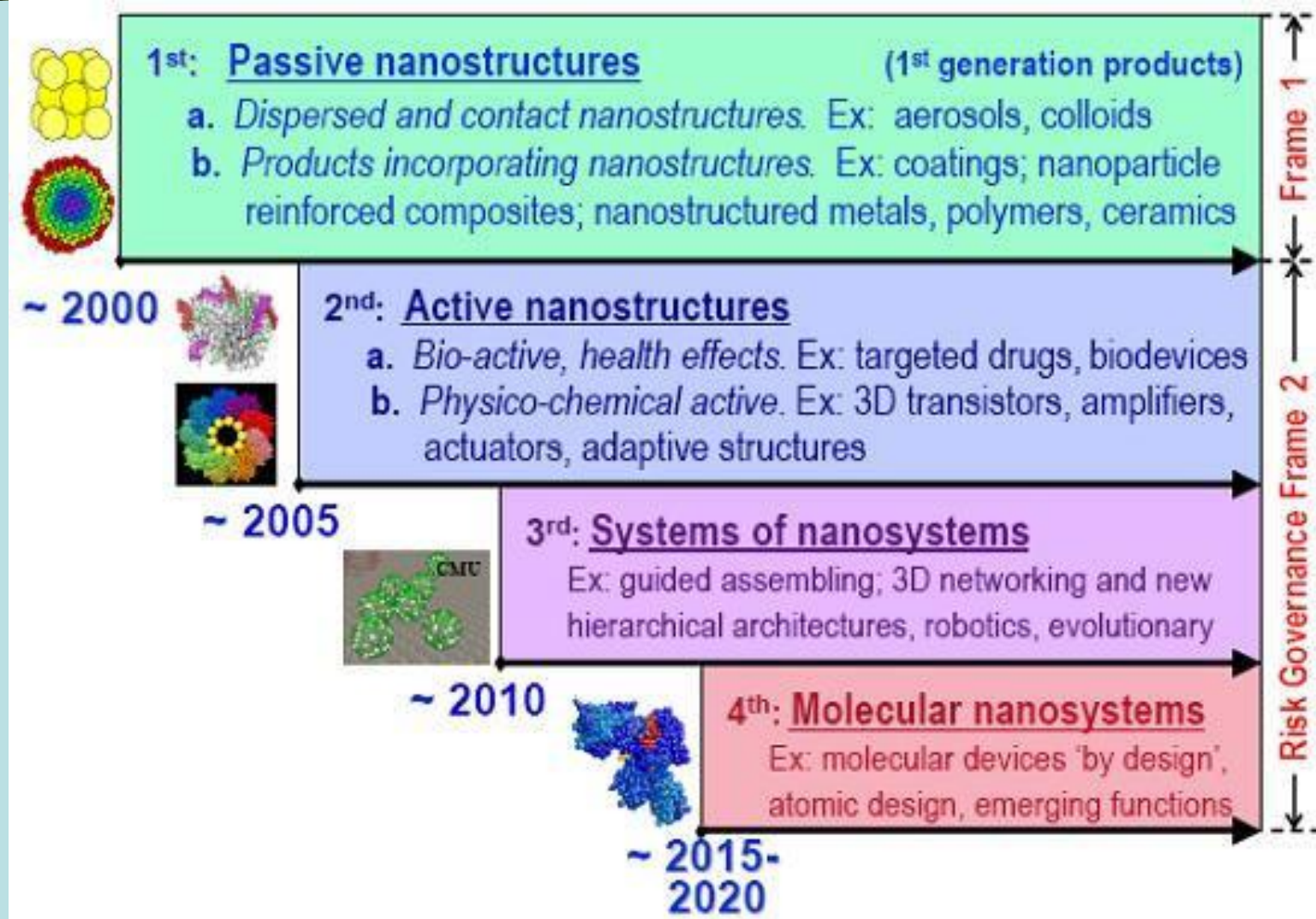
# ≠ Nano materials

# ≠ Nano particles





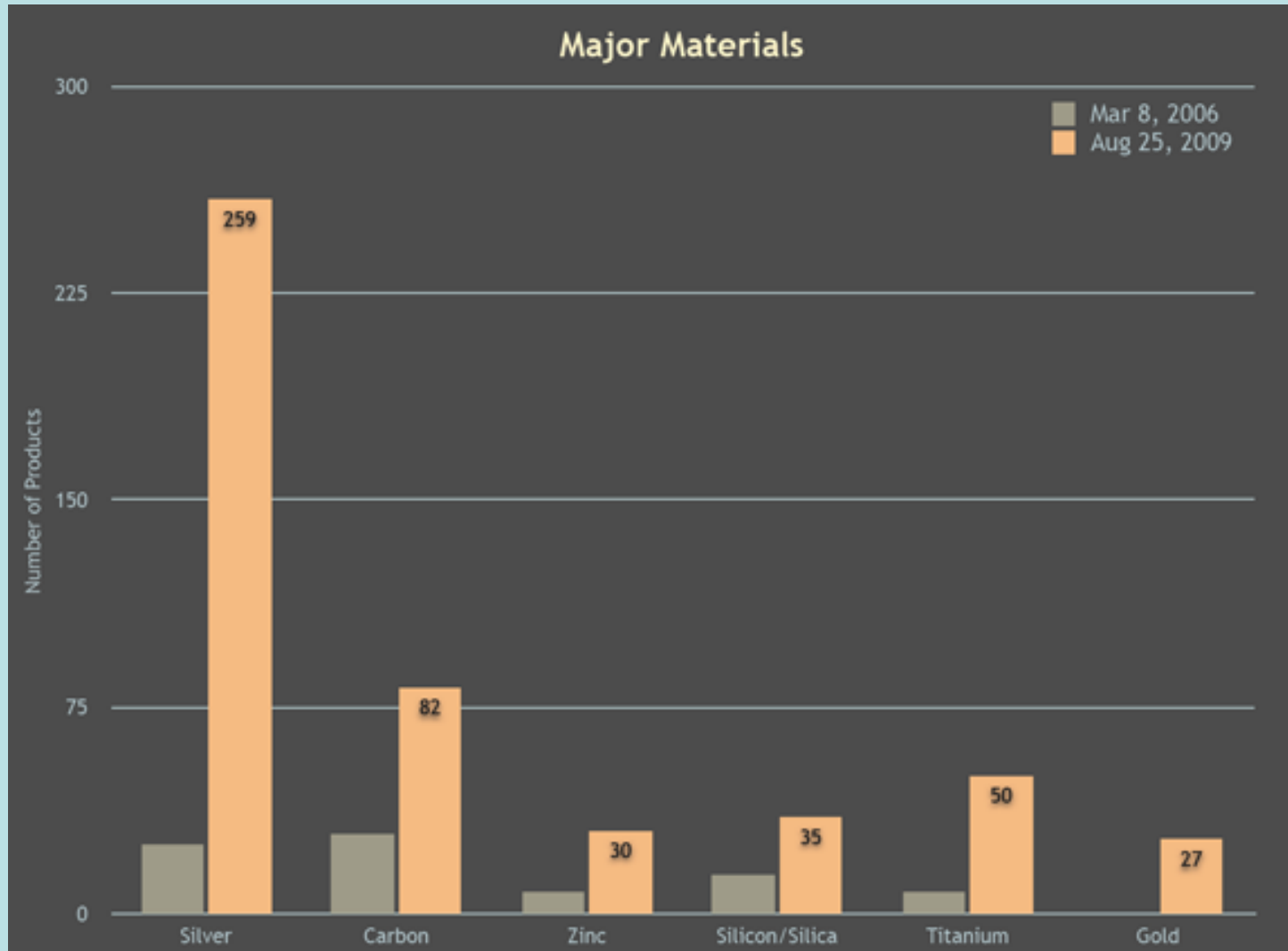
# Nanotechnology = fast evolving





# USE: What is produced?

[www.nanotechproject.org/inventories/consumer/analysis\\_draft/](http://www.nanotechproject.org/inventories/consumer/analysis_draft/)



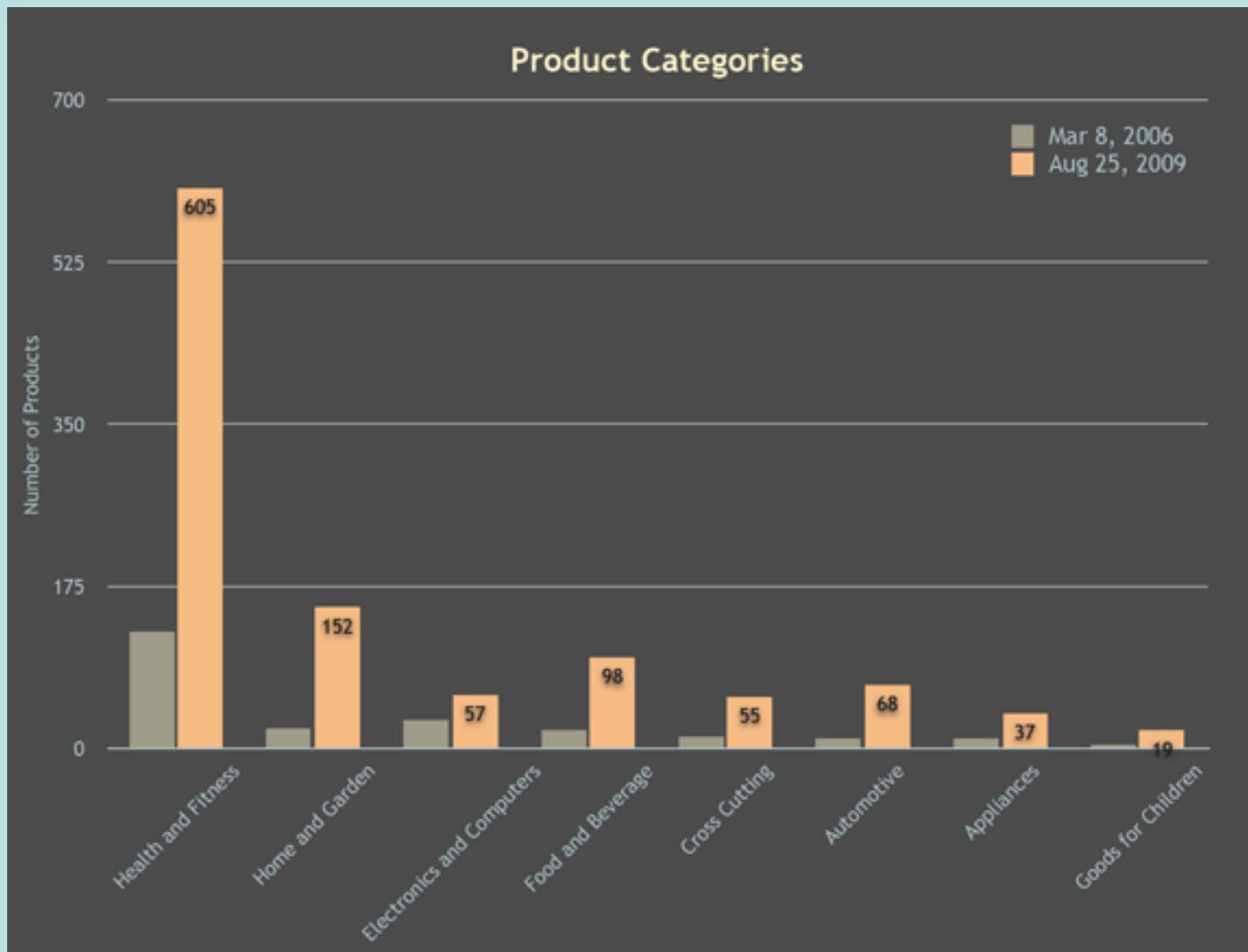
23 Februari 2010

Nanotechnologie en gezondheid op de werkvloer



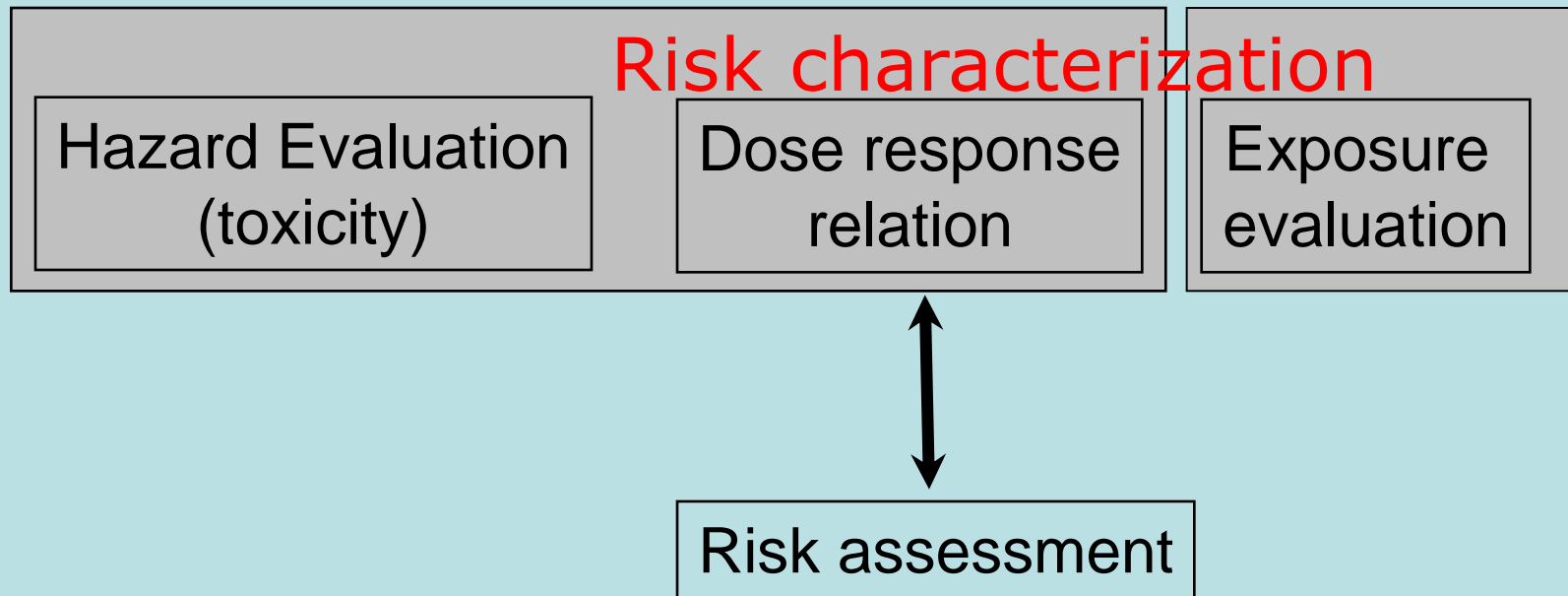
# USE: Main applications?

[www.nanotechproject.org/inventories/consumer/analysis\\_draft/](http://www.nanotechproject.org/inventories/consumer/analysis_draft/)





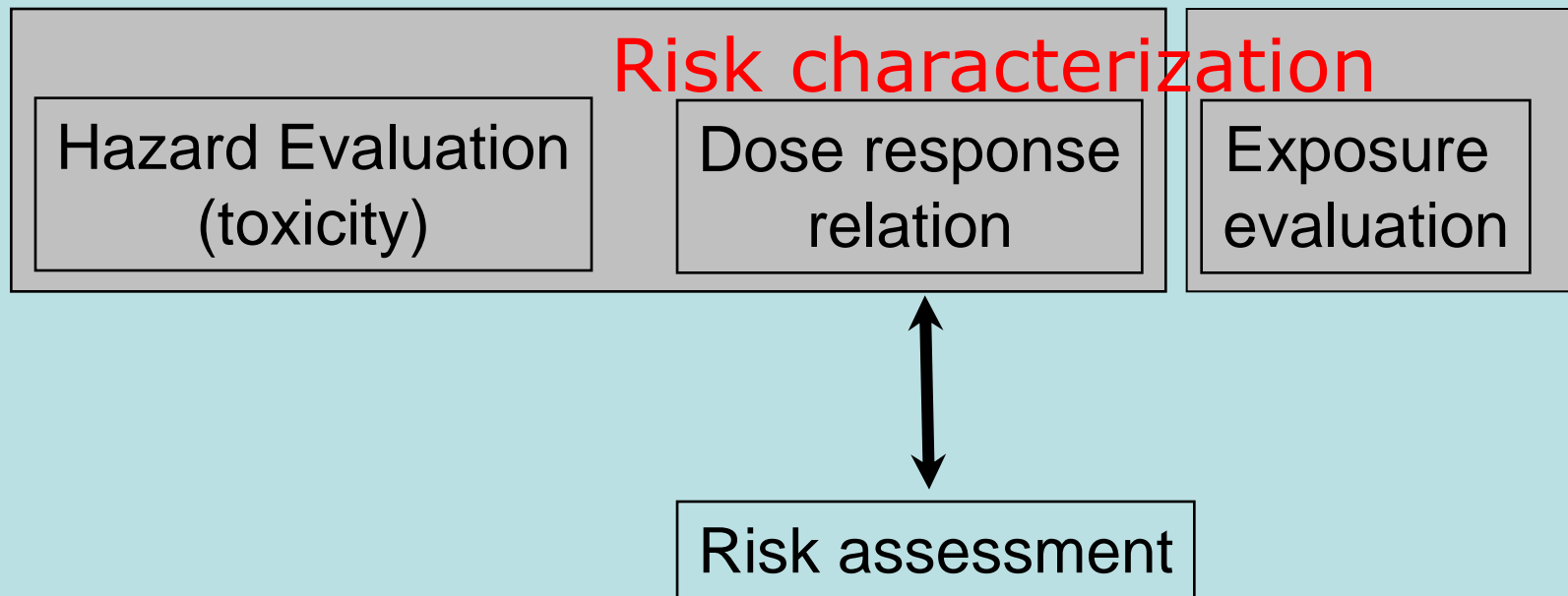
# Safe nanomaterials?



Risk assessment  
Systematic scientific characterisation of  
**potential adverse health effects**  
resulting from human **exposure** to  
hazardous agents (or situations).



# Safe nanomaterials?



Does nano play a role in Hazard?  
Exposure?



# Overview

- Introduction:
  - Definition: Nanomaterials – ultrafine particles?
  - Use of nanomaterials
  - Safe Nanomaterials
- **Issues in NanoToxicology?**
  - Role of size (nano versus larger)
    - Surface
    - Systemic delivery
  - Role of shap
    - One material different shapes
    - CNT ....
- Conclusions



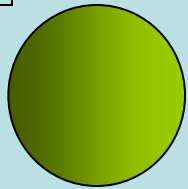
# Issues in NanoToxicology: SIZE

0.01  $\mu\text{M}$  = 10 nm diameter

0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  = 100 nm diameter

1  $\mu\text{M}$   
= 0.000 001 m  
= 0.001 mm  
= 1 000 nm

diameter







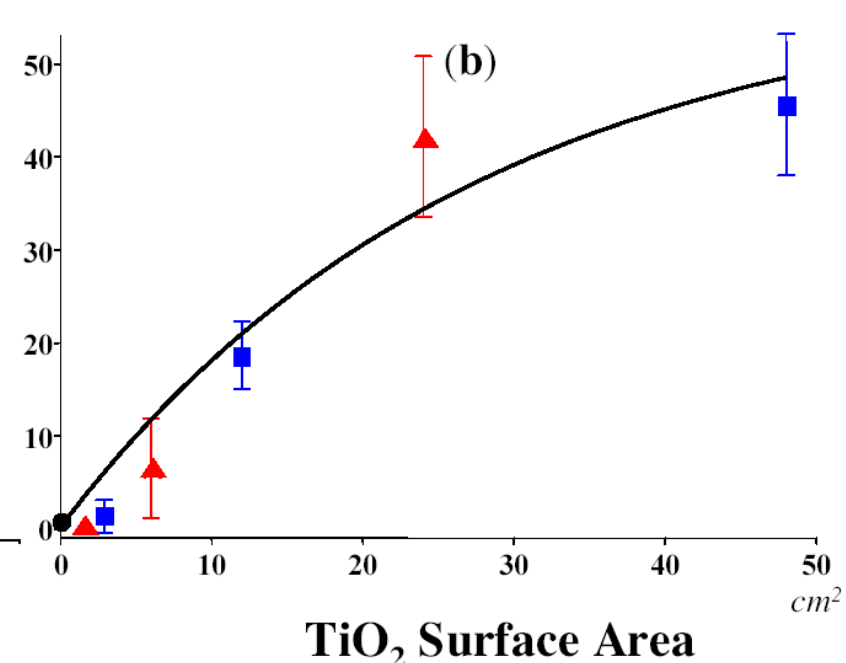
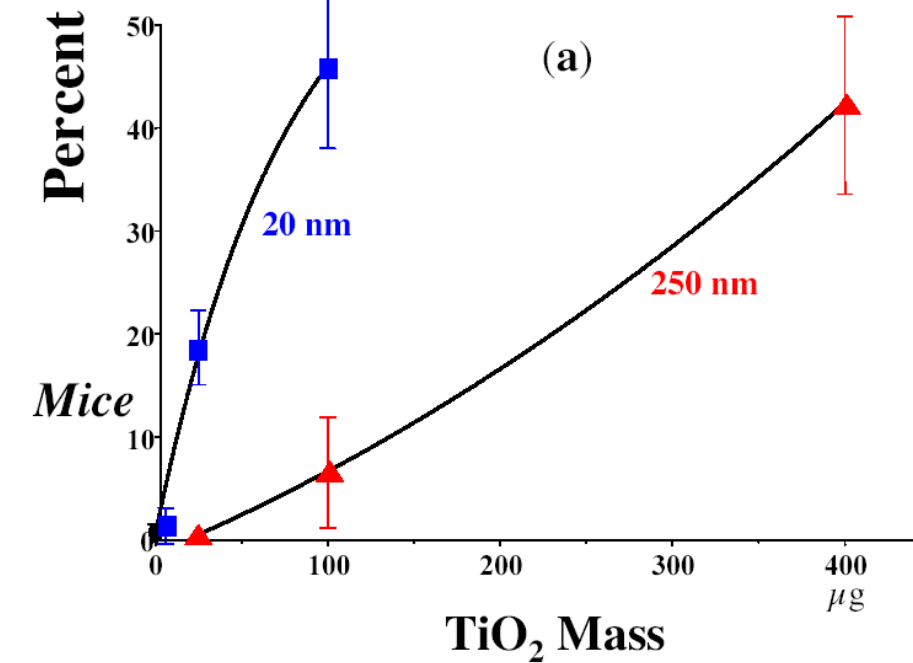
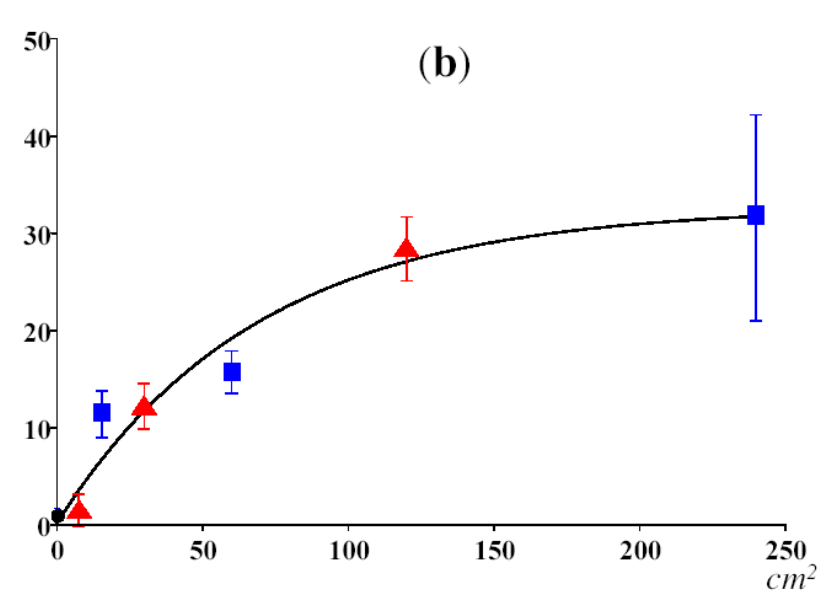
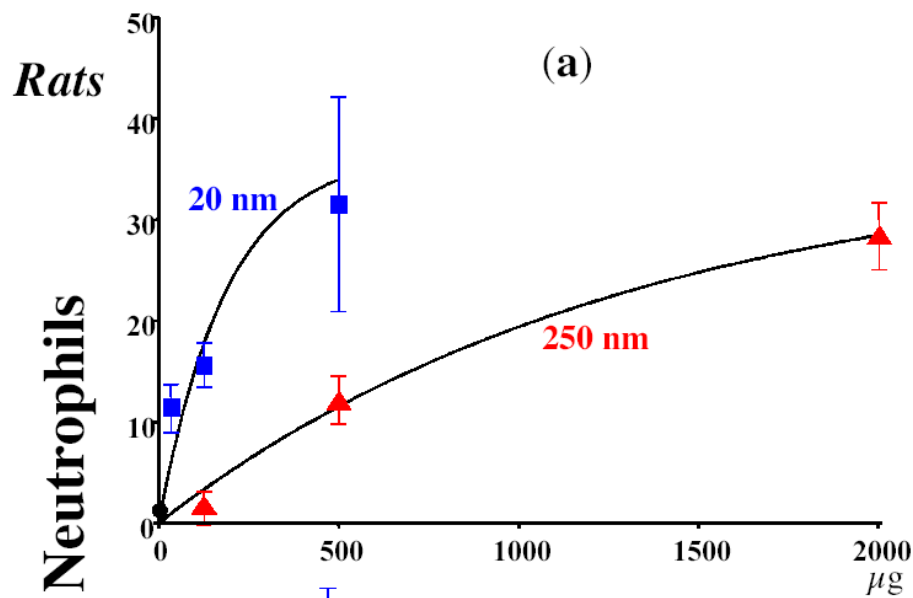
# Issues in NanoToxicology: SIZE

- Existing molecule e.g.  $\text{TiO}_2$ 
  - Known in microsize (low toxicity)
  - Now in nanosize ....?

New risk assessment?

Yes – No?

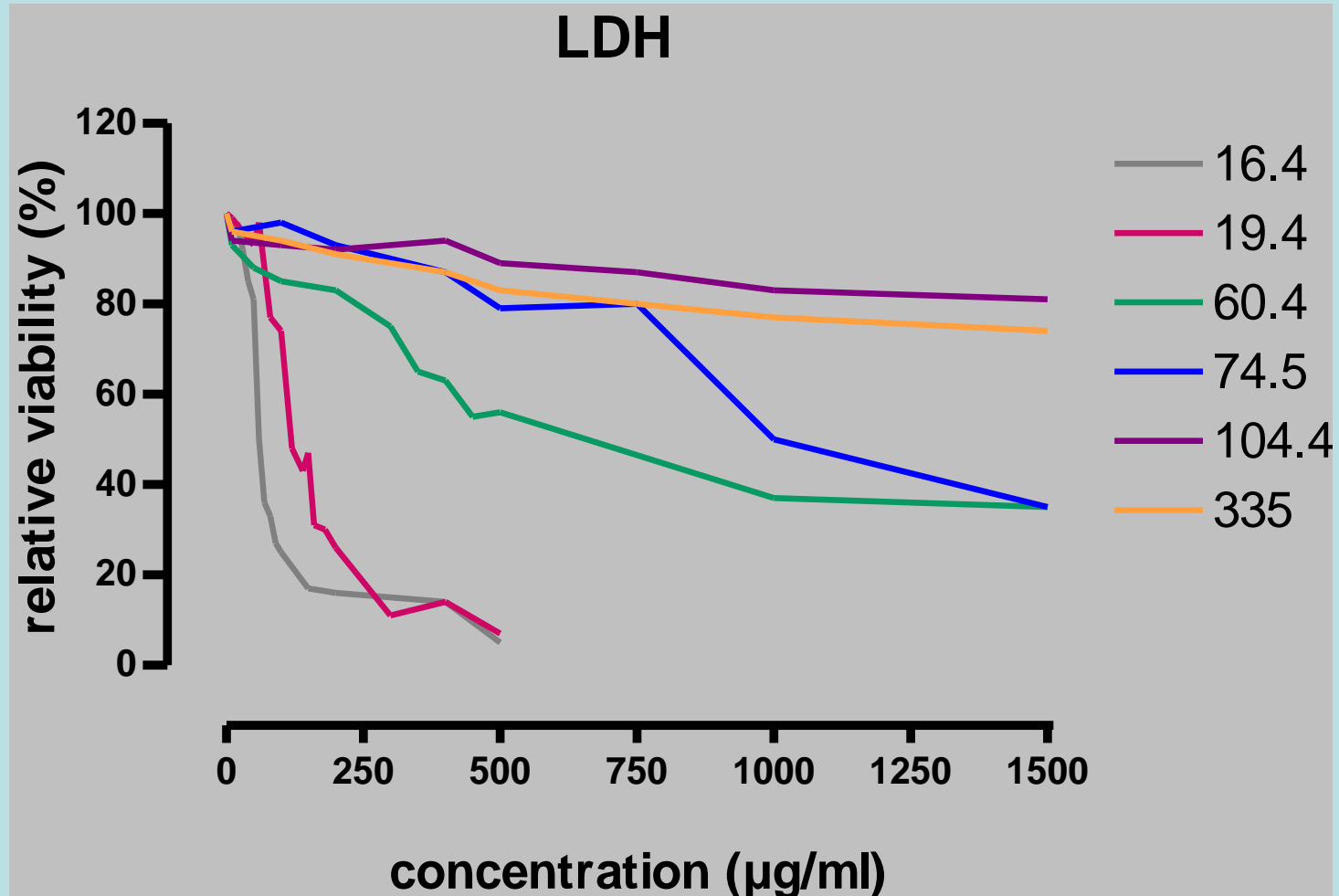
Why yes – Why no?





# Size plays a role!

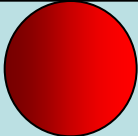
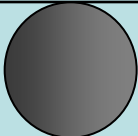
Amorphous monodisperse silica: In press: Napierska et al Small 2008



# Size, number and surface area

Mass = 10  $\mu\text{g}$

Density = 1  $\text{kg}/\text{dm}^3$

	Diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	N° particles	Surface area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ )
	0.01	19 000 000 $\times 10^6$	6 000 $\times 10^6$
	0.05	153 000 $\times 10^6$	1 200 $\times 10^6$
	0.1	19 000 $\times 10^6$	600 $\times 10^6$
	0.5	153 $\times 10^6$	120 $\times 10^6$
	1.0	19 $\times 10^6$	60 $\times 10^6$



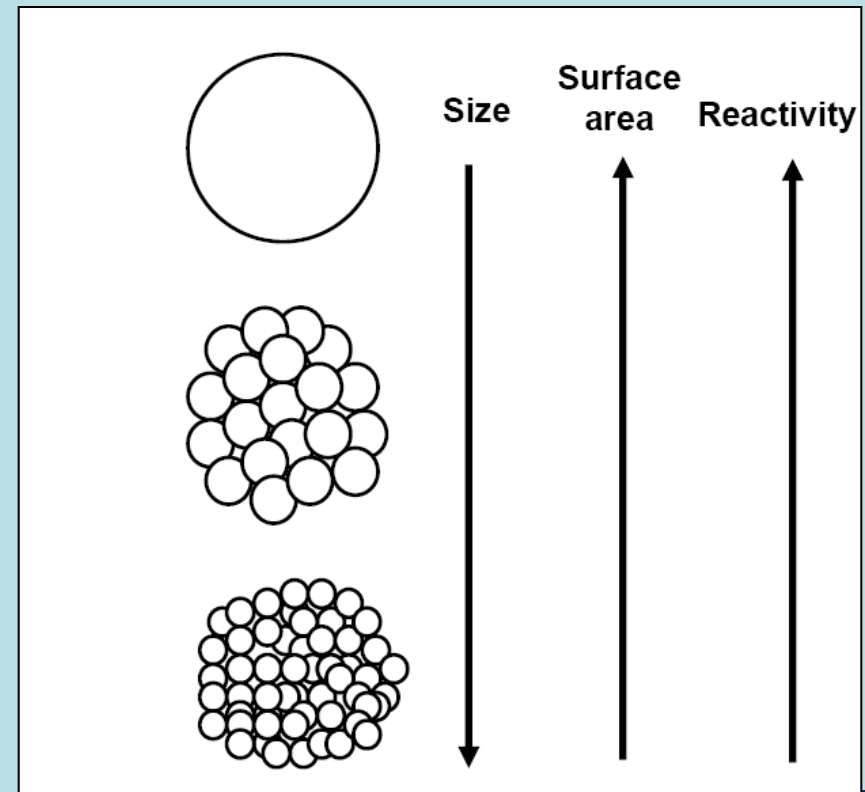
# Issues in NanoToxicology: SIZE

- Existing molecule e.g.  $\text{TiO}_2$ 
  - Known in microsize
  - Now in nanosize

New risk assessment?  
Probably Yes

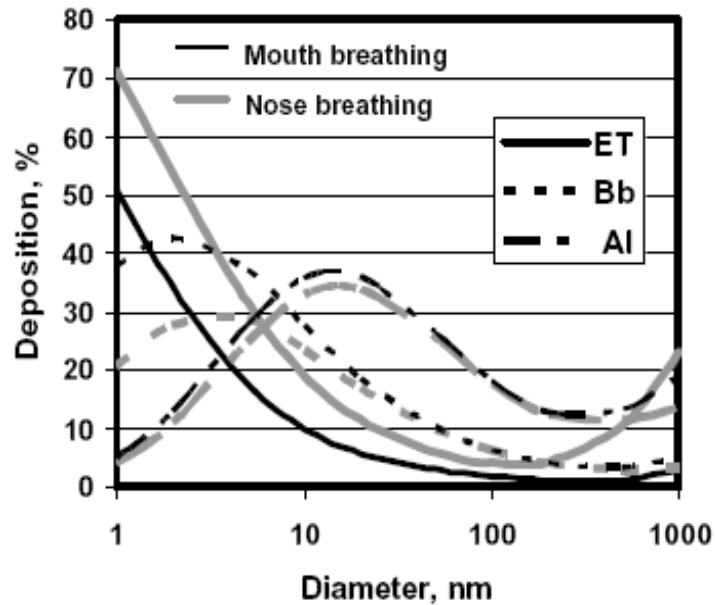
**Why?**

- Different (more) toxicity
  - Surface & reactivity!
- ?





# Bioavailability: deposition in lung



**Figure 6**

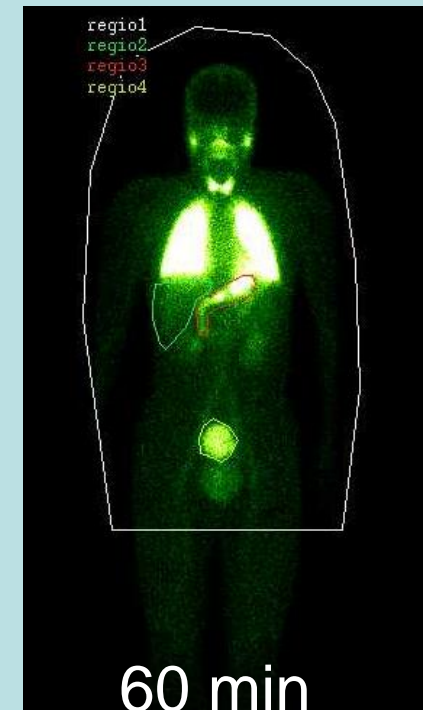
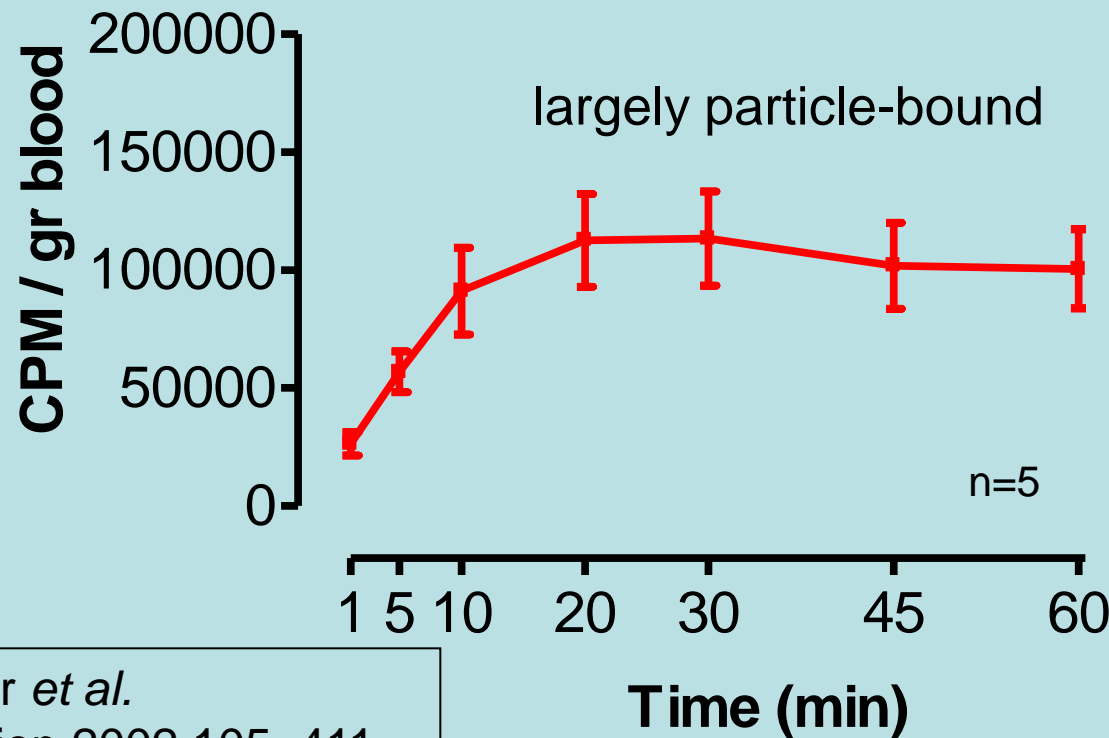
Regional deposition of inhaled NP with diameters between 1 nm and 1000 nm for nose and for mouth breathing in the extrathoracic airways (ET), the bronchial airways (Bb) and the alveolar region (Al) during breathing at rest, as predicted by ICRP 66 model (ICRP, 1994).

Inhalation of particles  
≠  
deposition



# Systemic uptake of nanomaterials after inhalation in humans

Inhalation of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -carbon particles (“Technegas”)



Nemmar *et al.*  
Circulation 2002,105, 411



# Issues in NanoToxicology: SIZE

- Existing molecule e.g.  $\text{TiO}_2$ 
  - Known in microsize
  - Now in nanosize

New risk assessment?

Probably Yes

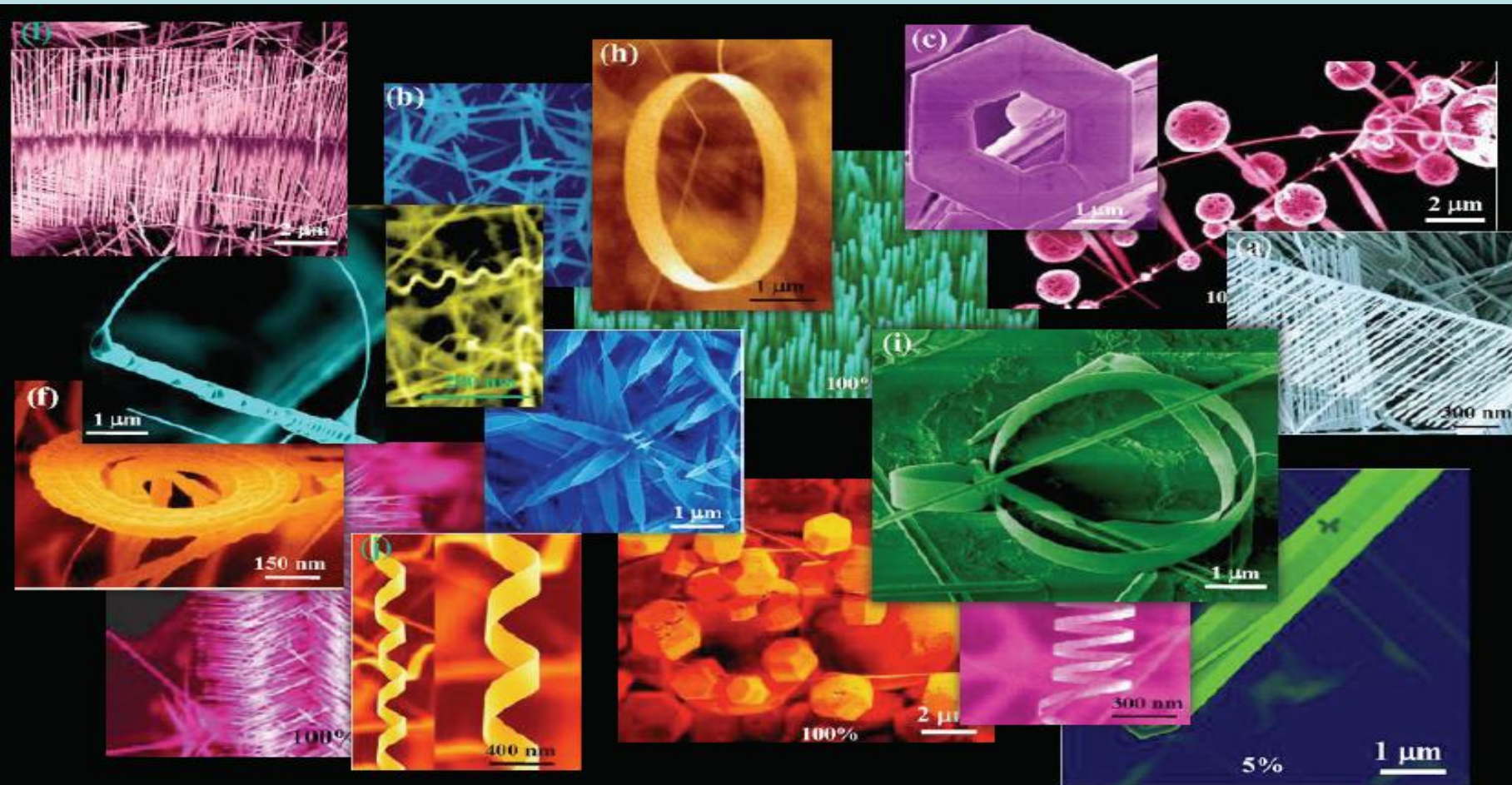
**Why?**

- Different (more) toxicity
  - Surface?
- Systemic delivery
  - Higher/different internal exposure/dose





# Issues in NanoToxicology: SHAPE



Nano-ZnO: One chemistry, many shapes

Courtesy of Prof. Z.L. Wang, Georgia Tech



# SHAPE plays a role

- Delivery
  - Inhalation
  - Skin penetration
- Mechanical damage
  - Needle vs spheres
- Time of exposure
  - Excretion & Biopersistent



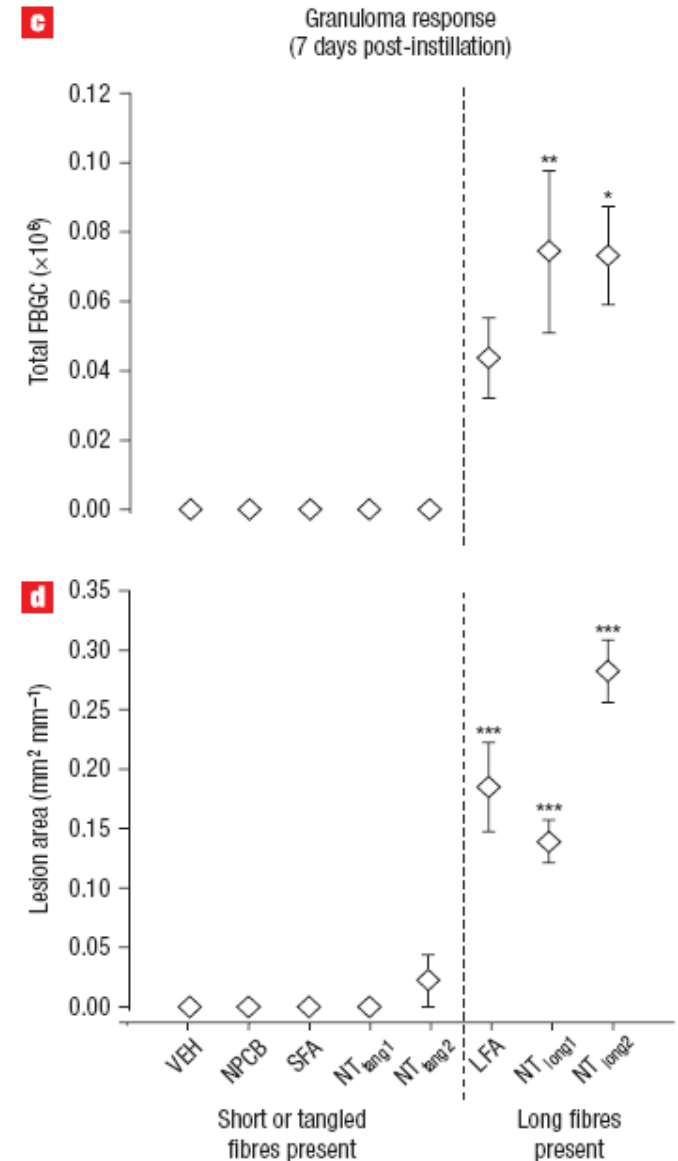
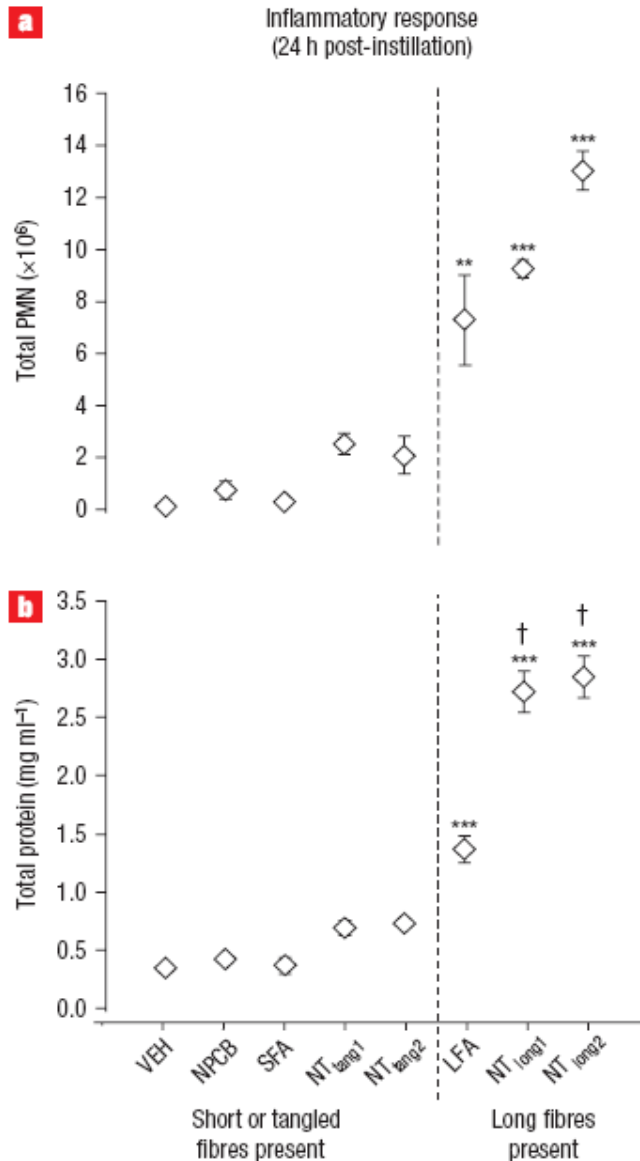
# One study ...

## Carbon nanotubes introduced into the abdominal cavity of mice show asbestos-like pathogenicity in a pilot study

CRAIG A. POLAND<sup>1</sup>, RODGER DUFFIN<sup>1</sup>, IAN KINLOCH<sup>2</sup>, ANDREW MAYNARD<sup>3</sup>,  
WILLIAM A. H. WALLACE<sup>1</sup>, ANTHONY SEATON<sup>4</sup>, VICKI STONE<sup>5</sup>, SIMON BROWN<sup>1</sup>,  
WILLIAM MacNEE<sup>1</sup> AND KEN DONALDSON<sup>1\*</sup>

Nature Nanotechnology May 20 2008

# Nature Nanotechnology May 20 2008





# Other study

TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES **110**(2), 442–448 (2009)

doi:10.1093/toxsci/kfp100

Advance Access publication May 8, 2009

## Absence of Carcinogenic Response to Multiwall Carbon Nanotubes in a 2-Year Bioassay in the Peritoneal Cavity of the Rat

Julie Muller,\* Monique Delos,† Nadtha Panin,\* Virginie Rabolli,\* François Huaux,\* and Dominique Lison\*<sup>1</sup>

*\*Industrial Toxicology and Occupational Medicine Unit, Catholic University of Louvain, 1200 Brussels, Belgium; and †Laboratory of Pathology, University Hospital of Mont-Godinne, Catholic University of Louvain, 5530 Yvoir, Belgium*

Received April 8, 2009; accepted April 30, 2009

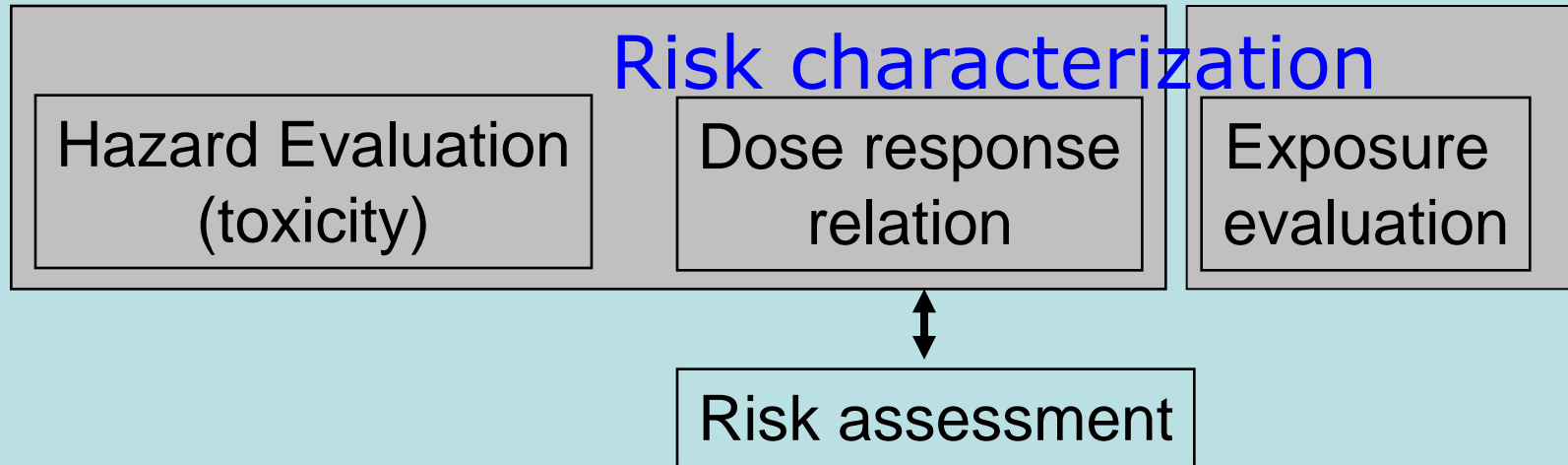
- Crocidolite (positive controls) → expected carcinogenic response
- No clear evidence of a similar activity for MWCNT
- The negative response to MWCNT in the study → critically interpretation + and calls for further studies
  - Different nanotube preparations
  - Different dosing regimens
  - Other bioassays



# Overview

- Introduction:
  - Definition: Nanomaterials – ultrafine particles?
  - Use of nanomaterials
  - Safe Nanomaterials
- Issues in NanoToxicology?
  - Role of size (nano versus larger)
    - Surface
    - Systemic delivery
  - Role of shap
    - One material different shapes
    - CNT ....
- Conclusions

# Conclusion: Safe nanomaterials



Each chemical entity → more than one evaluation!

There is no universal "nanoparticle" to fit all the cases

Physico-chemical characteristics

Crystal structure, Size, aggregation, dissolution, ...

Exposure & delivery micro vs nano

+ (Correct) test conditions



Lung Toxicology (KULeuven)  
Ben Nemery  
Abderrahim Nemmar  
Jorina Geys  
Ernesto Alfaro-Moreno  
Katrien luyts  
Dorota Naprieska  
Barbara Legiest

Centre Molecular  
Vascular Biology (KULeuven)  
Marc Hoylaerts

Pathology (KULeuven)  
Eric Verbeken

Thank You For Your Attention