

NNCO Newsletter: What's Big in Small Science?

NNI Highlight

The National Cancer Institute's [Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer](#) has been renewed for a third round, which includes 6 Centers in Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (CCNEs), 7 Innovative Research in Cancer Nanotechnology (IRCNs), and 5 Cancer Nanotechnology Training Centers (CNTCs).

While a primary focus of the Alliance is advancing the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer via nanotechnology, this round is expected to emphasize clinical translation. The Alliance's programs will continue to foster innovation and collaboration among researchers within and between institutions, as well as across scientific disciplines. More information is available on the NCI Alliance website, including the [Cancer Nanotechnology Plan 2015](#).

Following the last round of funding, awardees reported more than 25 distinct nanomaterial delivery vehicles, received more than 40 patents, and started over 75 companies focused on diagnostics, therapeutics, and research materials and services.

Top NNI Stories

Public Outreach—Contests and Videos: The NNI successfully launched three multimedia contests in late 2015. The newest of these, [Generation Nano](#), is an NSF-sponsored, create-your-own-superhero contest, which has recently been championed by comic book icon, Stan Lee. The winner will be announced in April at the [2016 USA Science and Engineering Festival](#). [EnvisioNano](#), a nanoscale image contest, is accepting submissions for the third round through May 13th. The NNI's video contest, [Nano Film](#), has expanded its purview to accept a wider variety of submissions from all members of the public and is accepting entries through June 15th.

In a collaboration between NSF, NNCO, and NBC Learn, a video series entitled "[Nanotechnology: Super Small Science](#)" was launched in January. NNCO also collaborated with Fairfax County public schools on a series called "[Innovation Workshop: Nanotechnology](#)" that will be shown in classrooms around the county. These videos are also available on [Nano.gov](#).

Nanotechnology Signature Initiative Updates: [An executive summary](#) on progress in all five NSIs and a more detailed progress review for [NSI Solar](#) have been published. Additional NSI progress reviews are forthcoming.

Upcoming Events

March 31-April 3: NNI booth at [NSTA in Nashville](#)

April 16-17: NNI booth at [USA Science and Engineering Festival in DC](#)

May 22-25: NNI booth at [Tech Connect Nanotech 2016](#) at National Harbor, Maryland

August 21-25: NNI booth at [ACS National Meeting and Exposition](#) in Philadelphia

The NNI is also planning a Strategic Planning Stakeholder workshop and the U.S.-EU: Bridging NanoEHS Research Efforts joint workshop scheduled for late spring/early summer. Please keep an eye on [Nano.gov](#) for more details.

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NNCO Director, Dr. Michael Meador

Director's Corner

NNI 2.0 is in full swing and NNCO, OSTP, and NNI agencies are working together to chart the future course of the Initiative! In October, the first *Nanotechnology-Inspired Grand Challenge* was announced calling on the scientific community to collaborate to develop a new type of computer that can solve complex problems with brain-like efficiency. This Challenge has received broad support from the nanotechnology community, not just the Federal Government, and organizations are working on plans to make it a reality. Other Grand Challenge topics are under review, so stay tuned.

We have ramped up our education and outreach efforts. Check out the story on the left about ongoing video and image contests and look for the announcement of the winners of *Generation Nano* at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in April. We are working with industry to highlight successes and challenges in bringing nanotechnology products to market and plan to host a workshop on that topic later this year.

The NNI is more than just Federal agencies, it's about the broader community of nanotechnology researchers, educators, students, and entrepreneurs. Help us shape the direction of NNI 2.0 and update the NNI Strategic Plan. A public workshop and series of webinars will be held this spring to get your valuable input and ideas.