



NCI Alliance for  
**Nanotechnology**  
in Cancer

*“Engineering safe nanoparticles”*



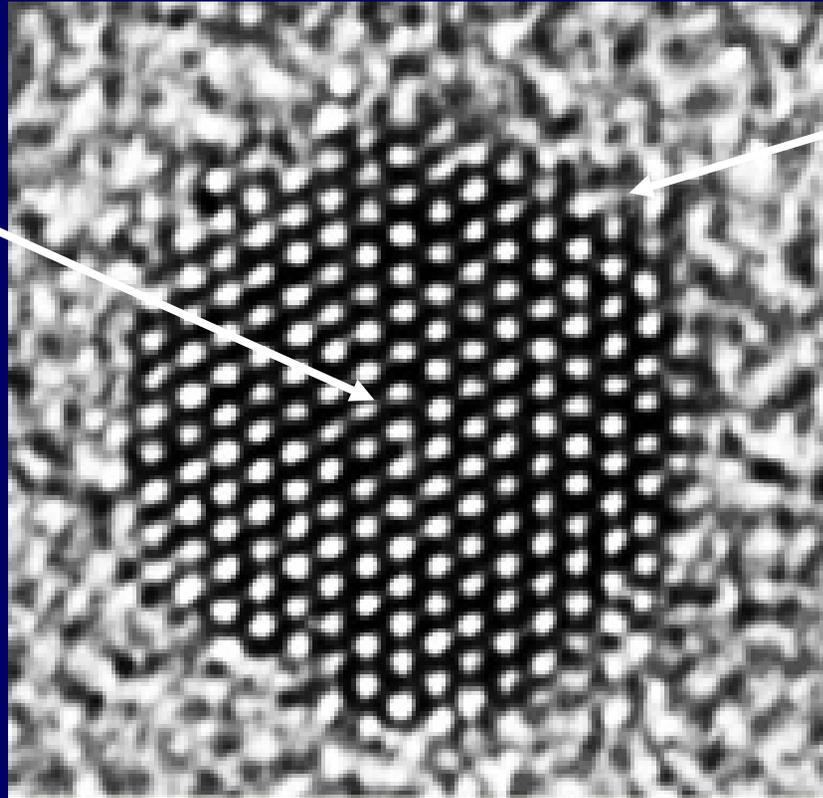
**CBEN**

Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology

Dr. Vicki Colvin  
Director, CBEN  
Professor of Chemistry  
Rice University

# Nanomaterial features

*Highly crystalline*



*Huge surface areas*

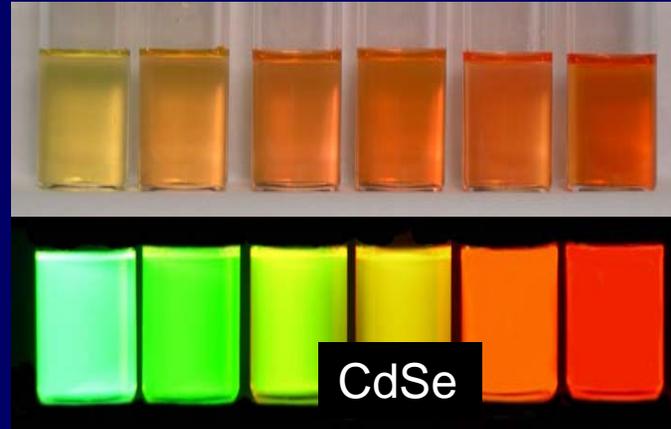


*C-sixty*  
*1nm*

*Cadmium Selenide nanocrystal*  
*6 nm*

*Lysozyme*  
*3 nm*

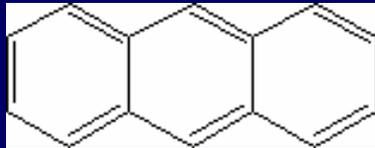
# Nanotechnology and Cancer



- Public fear of nanotechnology
- Sweeping claims about safety or danger by scientists

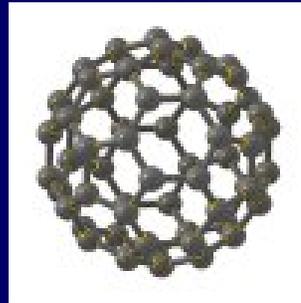
*Make safety and testing part of early stage research*

# Central Question



*Molecular*

?

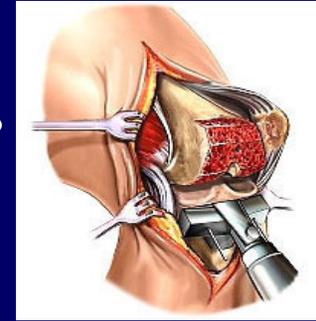


*Foreign particles*

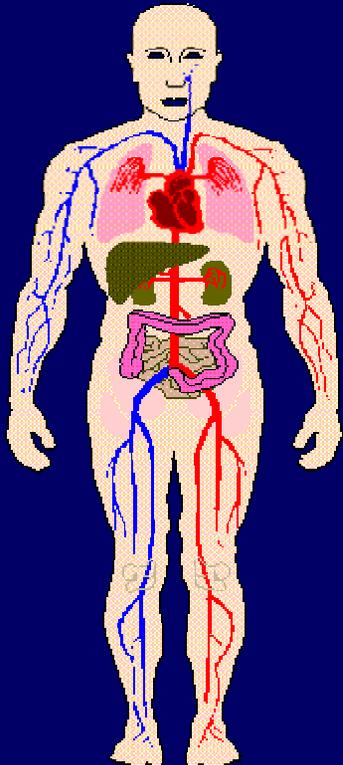
*Will biocompatibility be more like a molecular question, or like a larger particle?*

# Disease results from foreign particles

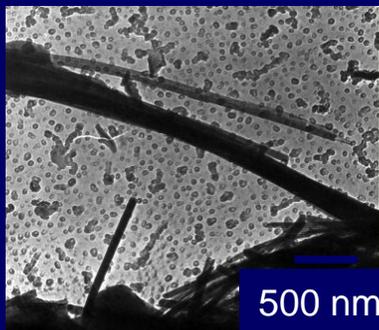
**Auto-immune diseases:** Wear debris is generated by orthopedic implants. Patients with such implants have a statistically significant rise in the incidence of auto-immune diseases.



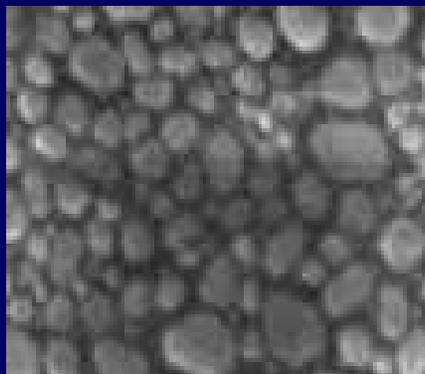
**Tissue Damage:** Industrial workers who breathe particulate matter (i.e. silica dust) develop fibrosis in their lungs, and other respiratory problems.



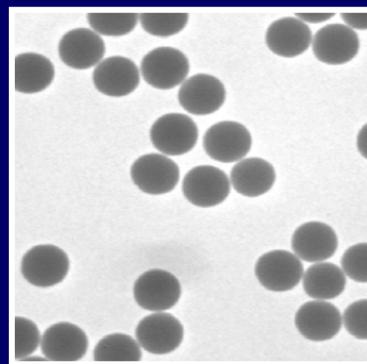
# Ultra-fine Particles & Engineered Nanomaterials



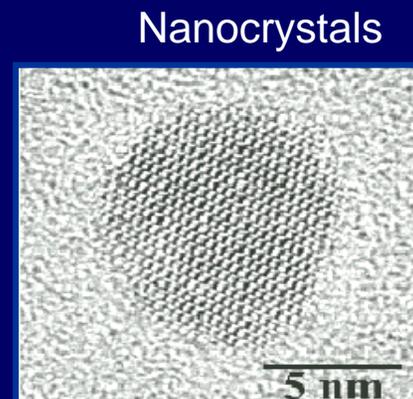
Asbestos



Crystalline particles



Silica colloids



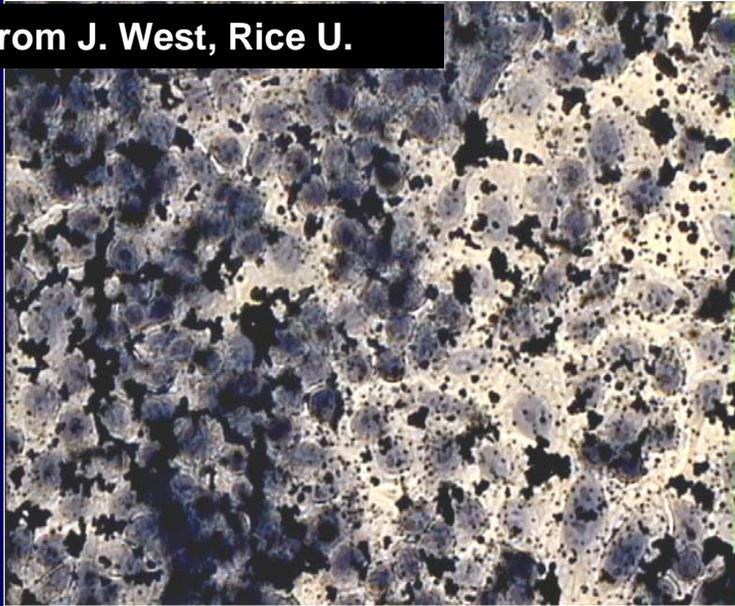
Diameter < 100nm  
Complex composition  
Exposure significant  
Microns to sub-microns  
Ill-defined surface chemistry

Diameter << 100 nm  
Pure materials  
Small quantities  
Monodisperse  
Controlled surface chemistry

Data on aerosol generated nanoparticles does not easily extrapolate to engineered nanoparticles

# General observations for nanoparticles

From J. West, Rice U.



*100 nm particles, intercellular space*

Bruchez, Alivisatos et al Science 281 (1998) p. 2013



*10 nm particles, inside cell*

- **Receptor mediated endocytosis**
  - o  $d > 100$  nm colloids don't
  - o  $d < 50$  nm do
- **High reactivity of nanoparticle surfaces**
  - o Strong oxidizing/reducing agents
  - o Free radical activity

# In-Vitro Cytotoxicity



C<sub>60</sub> colloidal  
Particles (4 ppm)

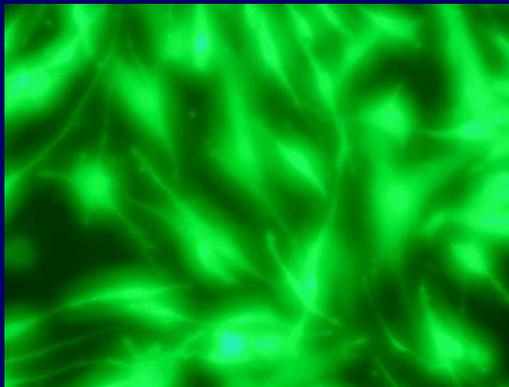
+



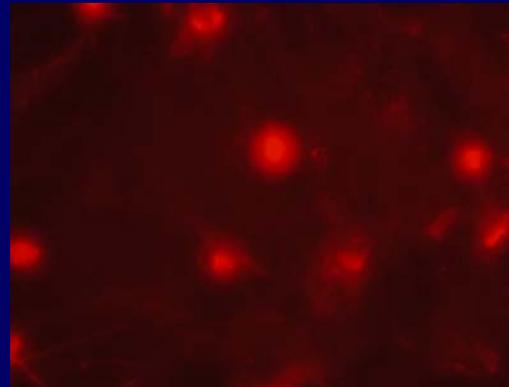
DMEM



HDP cells, seeded  
(Human Diploid Fibroblasts)

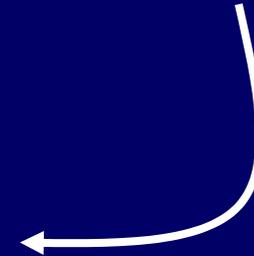


Live

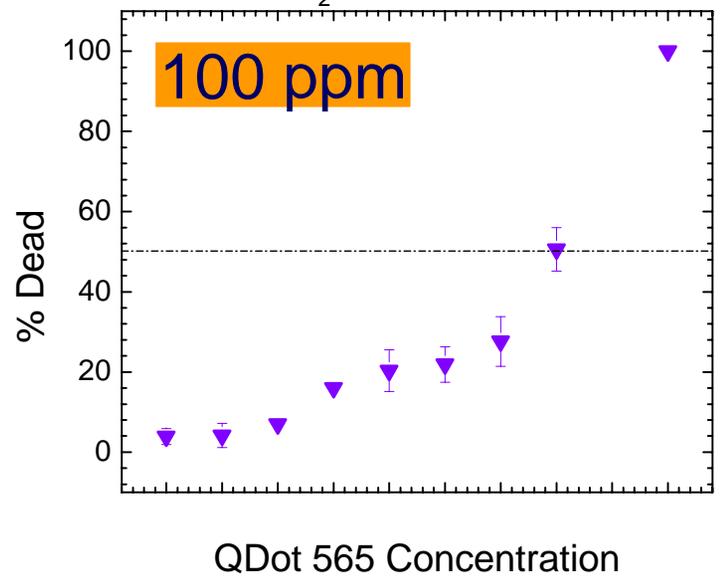
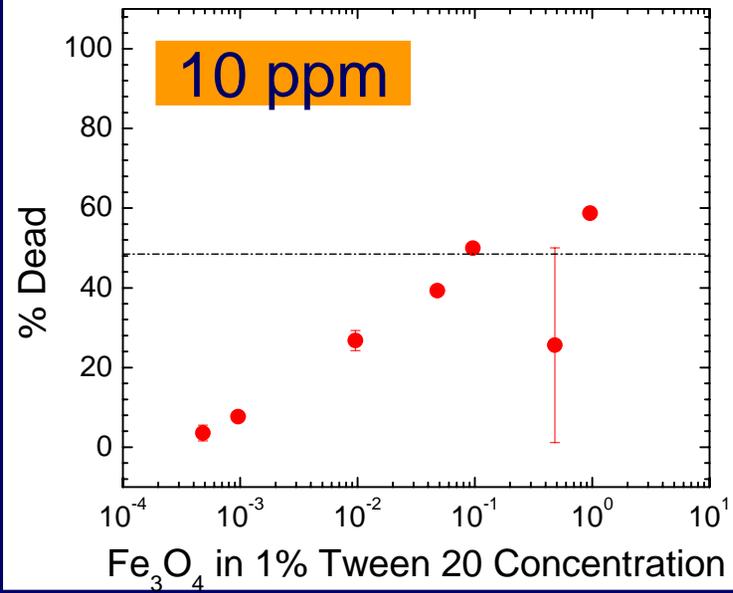
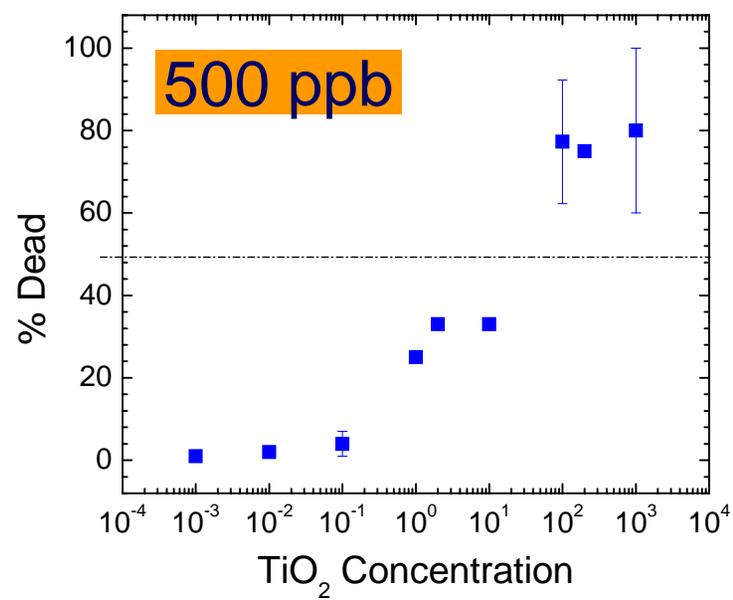
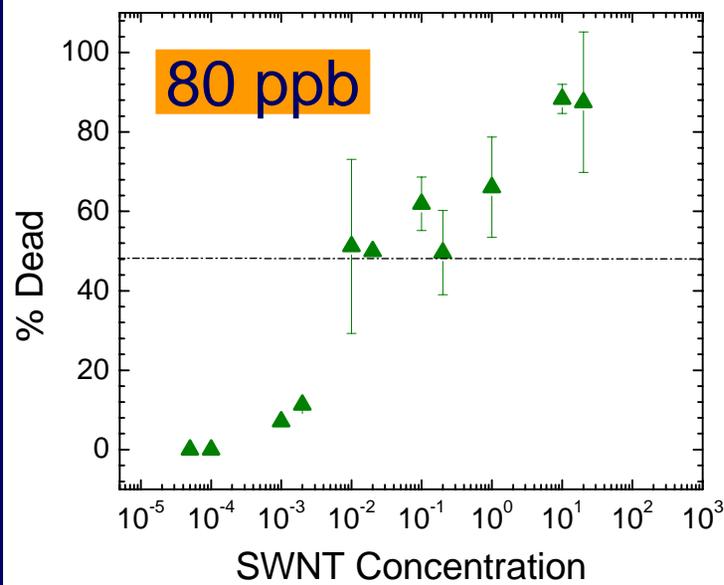


Dead

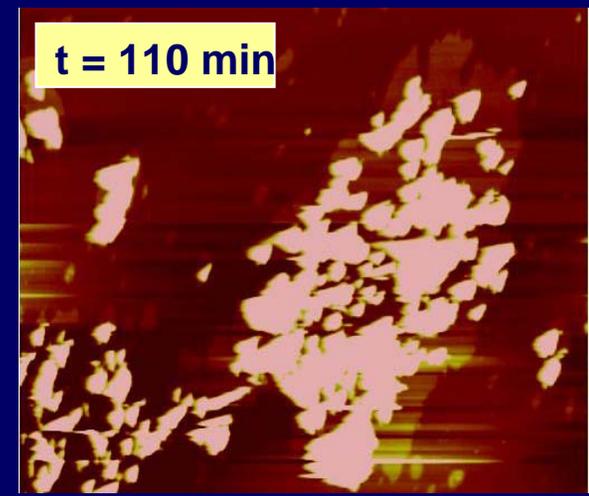
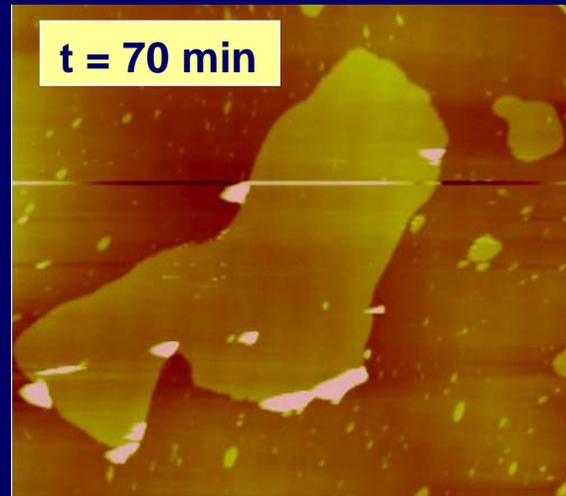
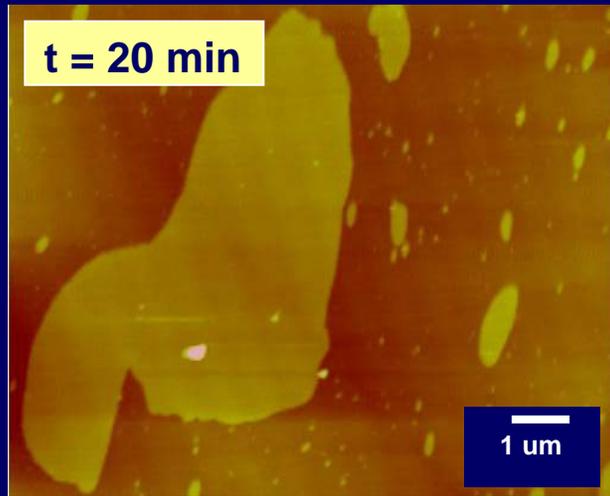
48 Hours



# In-Vitro Screening for Nanoparticles

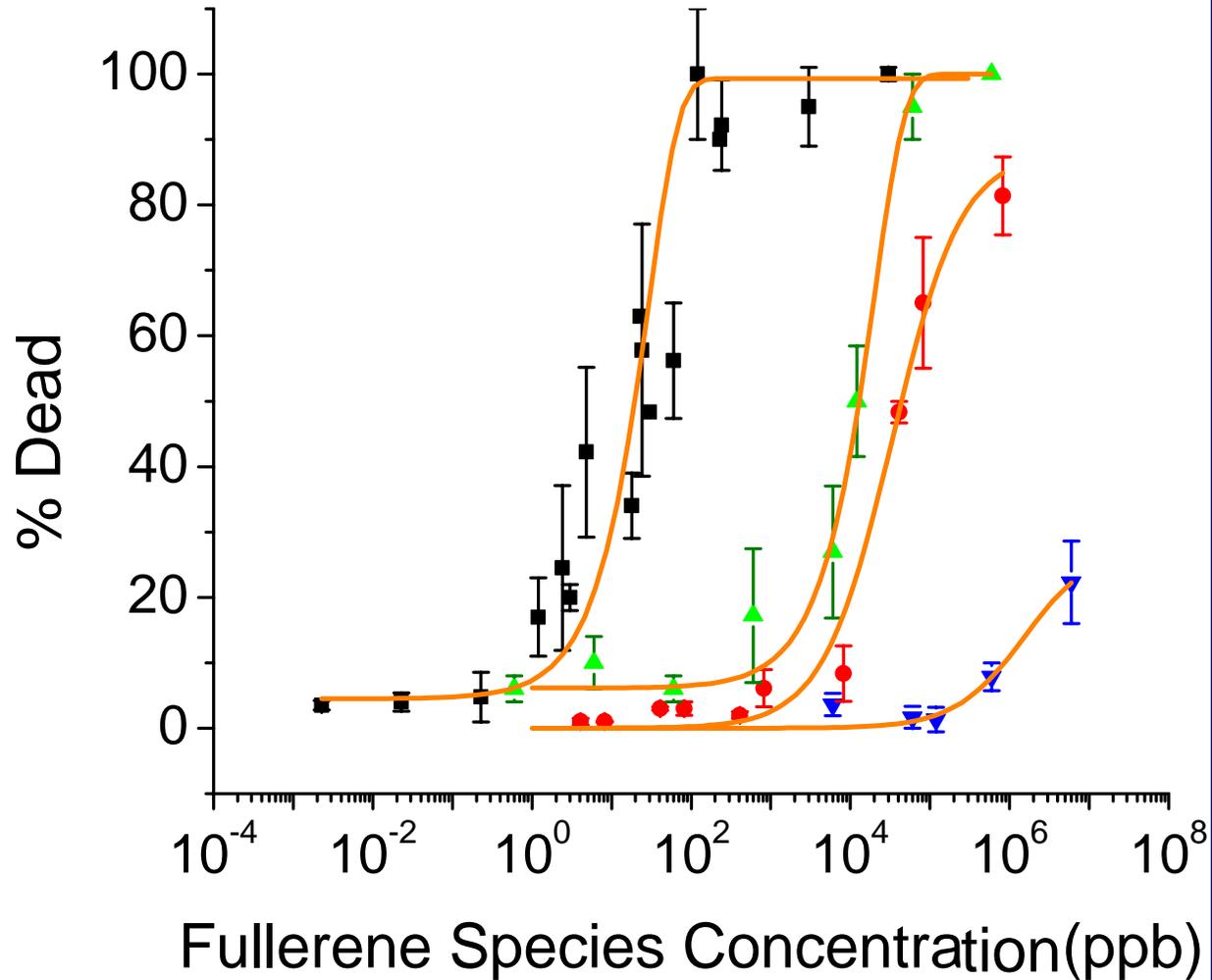
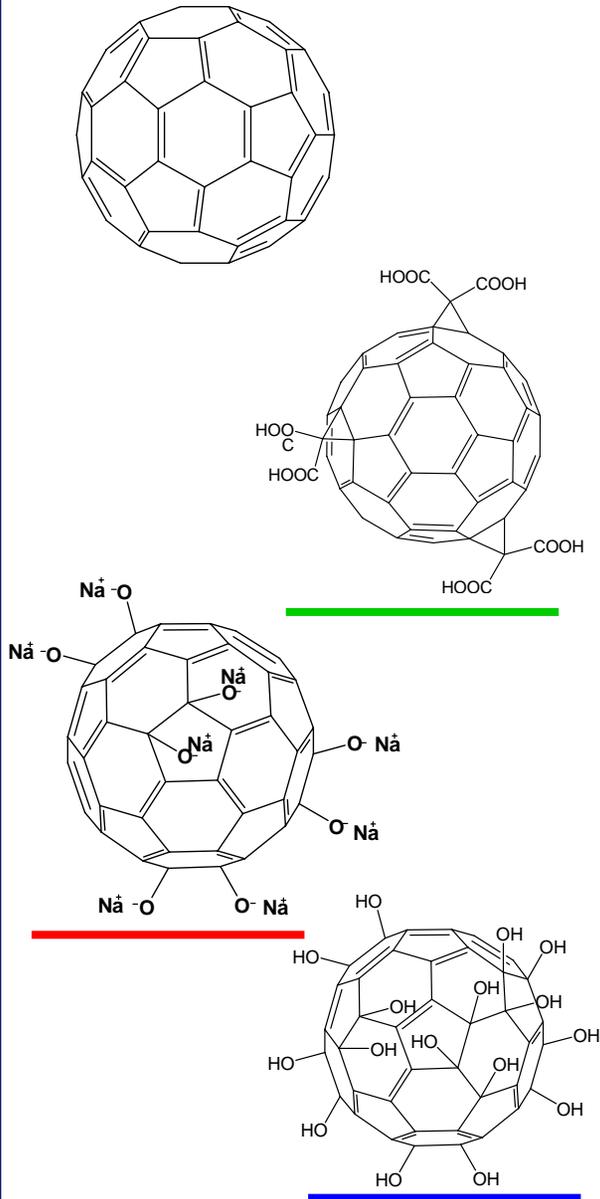


# Mechanisms for nanoparticle toxicity



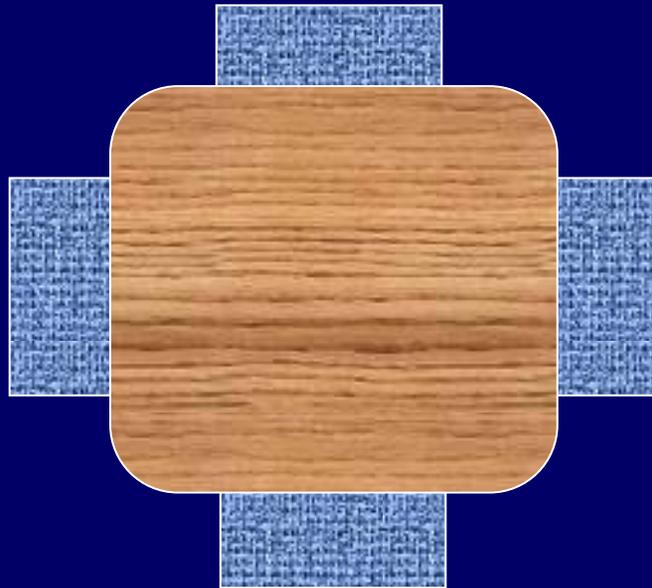
- Surfactant coated nanoparticles are not biocompatible
- Surface chemistry that makes particles lipophilic
- Reactive core materials that can generate free radicals

# Structure-activity relationships for C<sub>60</sub>



# Public policy and partnerships

## *International Council on Nanotechnology*



- All parties have a seat at the table
  - Academia, Industry,
  - Non-governmental, Government
- Consensus building activities
- Concrete policy work
  - Terminology standards
  - Laboratory health and safety
  - Hazards assessment framework

# Ensuring Nanoparticle Safety

- Surfaces matter more than composition.  
*Safety will not be only a function of core composition, but more about the surface*
- Nanoparticle toxicity can be turned on and off  
*We can engineer nanoparticles to be biocompatible, or not, through appropriate control over the surface*
- Safe nanotechnology needs non-technical effort.  
*Partnerships between industry, non-governmental organizations, and academia are developing to shepherd this new area.*

[www.rice.edu/~cben](http://www.rice.edu/~cben)