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## MEDIA ADVISORY

Sharon McCarter, Director of Outreach and Communications  
Phone: (202) 691-4016  
E-Mail: [sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org)

May 10, 2006

### Green Nanotechnology Policy: Opportunities & Choices

WASHINGTON—Nanoengineered materials are a rapidly growing segment of the international marketplace of consumer products and manufacturing. Titania nanosize particles are in sunscreens and paint. Carbon nanotube composites are—or soon will be—in automobile tires. Silica nanoparticles are being used as solid lubricants, and nanomaterials are in shampoos, cosmetics and face creams.<sup>1</sup>

These small-scale materials are poised to make a large-scale impact. They are on people's skin, and in clothing, homes, cars, factories, and stores. By 2015, the National Science Foundation estimates that nanotechnology will have a \$1 trillion impact on the global economy, and employ 2 million workers.

Governments and regulatory agencies are working to keep up with this fast pace of commercialization. What policy incentives can they put in place to encourage a “green” nanotechnology industry that uses energy efficiently and produces minimum waste? What can government do to promote development of nanotech applications that will safely clean up industrial pollution, improve solar energy, or purify water? How can current regulatory barriers—which may discourage the substitution of better nano-based alternatives for older, more hazardous chemicals and manufacturing processes—be overcome? How do government and industry ensure that nanoengineered materials will not have adverse human health or environmental impacts?

A program to address these challenges will be held on **Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** in the 5th floor conference room of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Speakers will include: Mark A. Greenwood, partner, Ropes and Gray, and Martin A. Spitzer, professional staff, House Science Committee, Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards. The session will be led by Dr. Barbara Karn, on detail to the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development.

This program is part of the Wilson Center's Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies' GreenNano initiative to advance the application of green chemistry and green engineering principles to nanotechnology.

\*\*\* Webcast LIVE at [www.wilsoncenter.org](http://www.wilsoncenter.org)\*\*\*

<sup>1</sup> Wiesner, Mark R., “Science: Toward a green nanotechnology,” Daily Times, Monday, August 8, 2005, [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story\\_8-8-2005\\_pg6\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_8-8-2005_pg6_7)



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**What: Green Nanotechnology Policies**

**Who: Mark Greenwood**, Partner, Ropes and Gray LLP  
Martin A. Spitzer, Professional Staff, House Science Committee,  
Subcommittee on Environment, Technology & Standards  
**Barbara Karn**, Ph.D., Visiting Scientist, Project on Emerging  
Nanotechnologies

**When: Wednesday, May 24, 2006, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Where: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.** Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

The **Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies** was launched in 2005 by the **Woodrow Wilson Center** and **The Pew Charitable Trusts**. It is dedicated to helping business, governments, and the public anticipate and manage the possible health and environmental implications of nanotechnology.

**Media planning to cover the event should contact Sharon McCarter at (202) 691-4016 or at [sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org).**