



Woodrow Wilson
International
Center
for Scholars

EVENT & WEBCAST INVITATION

RSVP: nano@wilsoncenter.org

Synthetic Biology: The Next Biotech Revolution Is Brewing

WASHINGTON – Early applications of synthetic biology may be adequately addressed by the existing regulatory framework for biotechnology, but further advances in this emerging field are likely to create much greater challenges for the U.S. government, according to a new report authored by Michael Rodemeyer of the University of Virginia. Synthetic biology promises significant advances in areas such as biofuels, specialty chemicals, and agriculture and drug products.

In *New Life, Old Bottles: Regulating First-Generation Products of Synthetic Biology*, Rodemeyer examines the benefits and drawbacks of using the existing U.S. regulatory framework for biotechnology to cover the new products and processes enabled by synthetic biology. He finds that the similarities between biotechnology and synthetic biology are abundant enough for the current biotech oversight system to provide a good starting point, but it is not a perfect match.

According to Rodemeyer initial synthetic biology products will be relatively simple modifications on existing technology, but as the technology develops, regulatory agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration will face challenges in assessing potential risks and controls. Laws like the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act simply were not designed to handle 21st century advances.

You must register to attend. RSVP to: nano@wilsoncenter.org. No RSVP is required to view the Webcast.

*** Webcast LIVE at www.nanotechproject.org/rodemeyer ***

- What:** Synthetic Biology: The Next Biotech Revolution Is Brewing
- When:** Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 12:30 – 1:30 PM
(Light lunch available at 12 noon.)
- Who:** Michael Rodemeyer, adjunct instructor, University of Virginia
David Rejeski, Director, Foresight & Governance Project, Moderator
- Where:** Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 5th Floor
Conference Room in the Ronald Reagan Building at 1300 Pennsylvania



**Woodrow Wilson
International
Center
for Scholars**

Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. For directions see:

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/directions>

New Life, Old Bottles was made possible with a grant from the European Commission to support pilot projects on "Transatlantic Methods for Handling Global Challenges." It is based on independent research and does not represent the views of the European Commission or the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. For more information, see:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/nanoregulation> .

Media planning to cover the event should contact Colin Finan at (202) 691-4320 or colin.finan@wilsoncenter.org.



**Woodrow Wilson
International
Center
for Scholars**

Nanotechnology is the ability to measure, see, manipulate and manufacture things usually between 1 and 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter; a human hair is roughly 100,000 nanometers wide. In 2007, the global market for goods incorporating nanotechnology totaled \$147 billion. Lux Research projects that figure will grow to \$3.1 trillion by 2015.

The **Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies** was launched in 2005 by the **Wilson Center** and **The Pew Charitable Trusts**. It is a partnership dedicated to helping business, governments, and the public anticipate and manage the possible health and environmental implications of nanotechnology. To learn more about the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies, visit www.nanotechproject.org.

Prof. Shapira and Prof. Porter are associated with the **Center for Nanotechnology in Society** at Arizona State University (**CNS-ASU**), leading a research group that is examining trends and directions in nanotechnology research and commercialization. CNS-ASU undertakes research, training, and engagement to support the anticipatory governance of nanotechnologies, and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Findings and opinions expressed will be those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of NSF. For more information on CNS-ASU, see <http://cns.asu.edu>.

Media planning to cover the event should contact Colin Finan at (202) 691-4321 or at colin.finan@wilsoncenter.org.