

# Nanotechnology

THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

3–5 PM • MCKENNA HALL, ROOM 100–104

*Nanotechnology holds great promise to help humankind—but it also raises legal and ethical questions that must be addressed. This symposium explores these questions as the University of Notre Dame, in partnership with community and business leaders throughout the Midwest, takes its place at the forefront of nanotechnology research.*



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The engineering of nanoparticles is one of the world's fastest growing industries. Sometimes hailed as the next industrial revolution, nanotechnology research holds the promise of changing our daily lives in numerous ways, ranging from the electronic devices we use to the food we eat and the clothes we wear. Nanotechnology also holds promise for improving medical diagnosis and treatment and for cleaning up the environment.

At the same time, the potential health and environmental risks of nanoparticles are not well known, regulation of nanotechnology is in its early stages, and questions about how the benefits and risks of nanotechnology will be distributed are still unanswered.

This symposium gathers distinguished experts in various fields related to nanotechnology. They will describe the present state of nanotechnology research and lead the audience through the ethical and legal questions it raises. The discussions will not be technical, and every student, faculty member, staff person or citizen of the community who is interested in nanotechnology is encouraged to attend.

As the University of Notre Dame moves to the forefront of nanotechnology research in partnership with other universities, the South Bend community, and the Michiana region, this symposium is the first of a series of events that will also put the University at the forefront of the ethical and legal issues raised by that research.

## Schedule

- 3 p.m.**      **Welcome**  
Gerald McKenny, Director, John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, University of Notre Dame
- 3:05 p.m.**      **Update on Nanotechnology Initiatives**  
Dave Brenner, Innovation Park
- 3:15 p.m.**      **Nanotechnology Research: the State of the Art**  
Wolfgang Porod, Frank M. Freiman Professor of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Notre Dame
- 3:35 p.m.**      **Ethical Issues in Nanotechnology:  
A Scientist's Perspective**  
Gregory P. Crawford, Dean of the College of Science and Professor of Physics, | University of Notre Dame
- 3:55 p.m.**      **Ethical Issues in Nanotechnology:  
A Philosopher's Perspective**  
Davis Baird, Louise Fry Scudder Professor of Philosophy and Dean of the Honors College, University of South Carolina
- 4:15 p.m.**      **Legal Issues in Nanotechnology**  
Ralph Hall, Distinguished Visiting Practitioner and Professor, University of Minnesota Law School, and Counsel, Baker & Daniels
- 4:35–5 p.m.**      **Questions and Answers**

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In keeping with the University's mission as a preeminent Catholic university, the center endeavors to make a distinctive contribution to the humanistic understanding of science and technology. The center is committed to advancing our knowledge of science and technology as human, knowledge-producing endeavors; and of the variety of ways these rapidly changing institutions affect and are, in turn, influenced by society at large.

Through conferences and publications emphasizing the complementary roles of scientific, technological, ethical, and theological perspectives, the Center seeks to disseminate outstanding work reflecting the vital interplay of these viewpoints, as well as to inform and stimulate broad public discussion of critical issues.

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