



GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Ne³LS Network International Conference 2012, Montreal, Canada
**THE RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NANOTECHNOLOGY:
CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES**

November 1-2, 2012, Montreal, Quebec, CANADA

The Ne³LS Network International Conference 2012 welcomes the submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentation. Guidelines are the following.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

- All presentations will be in English
- The topic must be relevant to one of the 12 subthemes described in the *Ne³LS Network International Conference 2012, Themes* (see page 3)
- Each oral presentation will be 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute question period
- Poster presentations will also be available
- Abstracts will be selected as oral or poster presentation, at the discretion of the selection committee.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Abstracts must be submitted by email to luc.pinsonneault@ne3ls. Those submitted by any other means will not be considered.
- Closing date: all submissions must be received by Monday **May 21, 2012**
- Cover letter: Please attach a cover letter specifying
 - Corresponding author: full name, address, telephone number, fax (if applicable), and email address
 - A short **one-paragraph bio** for each author, indicating relevant expertise and interest in the topic
- Format: Word file
- Language: English
- Abstract
 - Word count: maximum 250 words
 - Structured as follows:
 - Author(s) (Last name, first name)
 - Title of presentation
 - Author affiliations (institution, country)
 - Text
 - 3-5 keywords
- Font: standard font to prevent special characters from getting lost, e.g. Arial or Times New Roman, 12-point
- In submitting an abstract, the author(s) agree that the abstract may be published among other documents associated with the Ne³LS Network International Conference 2012, Montreal, Canada.

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION (CONT'D)

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Submissions will be evaluated by an international, multidisciplinary scientific committee
- Principal criteria for selection will be:
 - Quality of the abstract
 - Relevance to the general themes and, more specifically, to the subthemes described in the *Ne³LS Network International Conference 2012, Themes* (see page 3)
- Corresponding authors will be notified of acceptance by email by **June 29, 2012**
- Notification of acceptance will indicate whether the presentation was selected as an oral or poster presentation
- Authors whose abstracts are selected are expected to pay their registration fees at the latest by **July 15, 2012**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact:

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**THE RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NANOTECHNOLOGY:
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THEMES

Nanotechnology is a rapidly evolving field expanding in the worldwide context of globalization. Yet no international framework has emerged for the regulation and governance of nanotechnologies. This phenomenon may be explained by several factors: diversity of nanoparticles and their properties; complexity of risk assessment; differing expectations of economic impact; strategic partnerships between universities, industry, and government; conflicting politico-economic agendas; race toward innovation and patent application; and political hesitation between public education and forums of public consultation.

The big players – USA, the European Economic Community, Japan, China – are working toward various forms of regulation and supervision, as these constitute the necessary conditions for scientific, economic, and social development of nanotechnologies. Other countries seem to have adopted a wait-and-see approach, which is often detrimental to the national development of nanotechnology, such that nano products are consequently imported and the general public remains in the dark as to matters of social, environmental and economic concern.

Furthermore, a lack of regulation and the geographic variability in rules and regulations drive the outsourcing of innovation and possibly a shift in responsibility regarding innovative development.

The aim of this international conference is to initiate thought-provoking discussion on the responsible development of nanotechnology. The conference will explore the following themes within an international and multidisciplinary framework:

- How to assess the risks of nanotechnology, scientific, economic, social, or environmental
- Governance: What are the responsibilities of researchers, industry, government, and the general public in the development of nanotechnologies? What is the contribution of industry to the development of standards and regulations?
- Can responsible development of nanotechnology foster innovation and contribute to economic development?
- What are the impacts of nanomedicine and nanohealth on the health care system?
- How can the public be best informed and consulted on nanotechnology issues?

Invited speakers will address the above themes at plenary sessions.

In addition, the international conference has issued a call for abstracts to address the following subthemes at concurrent sessions:

- I. Toxicity: new methods, new concepts?
- II. Occupational health and safety: how to adapt to nanotechnologies
- III. What are the environmental risks?
- IV. Innovation and the economy and the challenges of globalization
- V. Public-private partnerships in risk-sharing?
- VI. Nano-health: toward privatization of medical services?
- VII. International regulations and political issues
- VIII. National regulatory standards: free exchange or “no data, no market”?
- IX. Ethics: the precautionary principle and sustainable development of nanotechnologies
- X. Educate whom and how?
- XI. What modalities could be used for public consultation and to what end?
- XII. Nanofoods: can the genetically-modified food (GMO) scenario be avoided?