

October 25, 2010

Dear colleagues,

We wish to bring to your attention an upcoming initiative within the European Nanosafety Cluster. We are three immunologists (Diana Boraschi, Italy; Albert Duschl, Austria, Bengt Fadeel, Sweden) who have come to work in the nanosafety field. Two of us (AD and DB) organised a workshop on nano-immunosafety at the 2010 NanoImpactNet conference in Lausanne last March, which has received an enthusiastic response and participation. Based on the positive reaction, we are now proposing to create an "Immunosafety Task Force" within the Cluster, as we feel that the initiatives we and others are undertaking in this direction would have greater impact if shared among the entire nanosafety community, and less scantily organised.

We hope that we could bring to the field some original and fresh ideas and some practical contributions in setting up representative and unbiased assays for nano-immunosafety. We would also like to propose the creation of a general database of immunosafety data, and we would welcome a discussion on the standardization of methods for assessment of nano-immunosafety.

In our opinion, nano-immunosafety is a key safety issue and we would like to see it more represented in future EU calls. Moreover, the immunological expertise in Europe is outstanding, and we believe that the involvement of immunologists into the nanosafety field will allow a deeper understanding of the interactions and interference of nanomaterials with the immune system and the consequent attainment of relevant results.

If you are interested, either by simply wanting to be informed, or volunteering for taking up some initiative (mailing, database, etc), please contact us and provide a brief summary of your interests and activities in the field. We plan to organise an informal kick-off meeting of the Immunosafety Task Force in Lausanne at the 3rd NanoImpactNet Workshop next February, and we hope you can join us there. This is not a closed club – everyone interested in these issues is welcome.

Best regards,

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