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Dear Sir or Madam,

welcome to our December newsflash!

Among other things, in this newsflash you learn more about the following topics:

- What the fate of nano- and microplastics in rivers is
- How nanoparticles can prevent the bacterial biofilm formation on catheters
- SimplyNano at the VCI chemistry teacher congress

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christoph Meili & Nathalie Vonrüti

Fate of nano- and microplastic in rivers



Very tiny plastic particles of micro and nano size are difficult to measure in the environment to assess exposure risks. Researchers of Wageningen University & Research now provide the first mechanistic modelling study on the behaviour and fate of nano- and microplastic in surface waters.

[Read more](#)

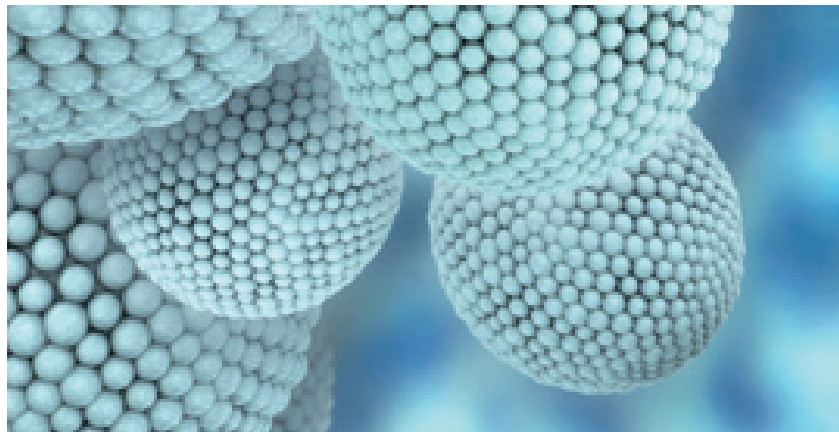
Common research strategy of the German federal agencies



The relevant German federal agencies for safety for humans and the environment accompany the rapid development of new materials with a long-term research strategy since 2008. The focus is on questions concerning occupational safety, consumer protection and environmentalism which are extended from nanomaterials to other material innovations. The goal is a safe and sustainable use of new materials for consumers and the environment over the whole life cycle.

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Three-days seminar and one-day workshop about the safe handling of nanomaterials



For the second time, the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) and the Innovation Society offer a seminar (5.-7.4.2017) as well as a workshop (9.3.2017) about the safe handling on nanomaterials. The events are hold in German.

[Read more in the German article](#)

Dust minimization - German Action Plan



State Secretary Yasmin Fahimi, together with the social partners of the construction industry, as well as representatives of the professional association of the construction industry, signed a declaration on dust reduction in the construction industry in Berlin.

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Preventing bacterial biofilm formation on catheters with nanoparticles



In new work, researchers have demonstrated that nitric-oxide releasing nanoparticles interfere with *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) adhesion and prevent biofilm formation on a rat central venous catheters model of infection. Intravenous catheters, particularly, central venous catheters (CVC), are utilized extensively in the care of patients. Unfortunately, there are over 250,000 CVC-related infections annually in the United States. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, between 12% and 25% of patients who acquire catheter-related bloodstream infection (CRBSI) die; many others have extended hospital stays, and increased overall treatment costs (a single incident of CRBSI

can cost as much as US\$ 56,000 to treat according to some studies, once the cost of pharmacy charges, catheter changes, lab tests and an additional day in the ICU are added up).

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"SimplyNano" at the VCI chemistry teacher congress in Düsseldorf



At the invitation of the VCI (German Chemical Industry Association), the Innovation Society, St. Gallen, presented the two nanotechnology experimenting kits "SimplyNano 1®" and "SimplyNano 2®" at the teacher congress of the chemical associations in Düsseldorf. Within the framework of an experimental speech with audience experiments, the 250 chemistry teachers were able to learn and carry out different experiments from the two suitcases. Within the framework of an exhibition, the two suitcases could then be looked at in detail together with further offers, projects, teaching materials. The conference was opened by Mr. Hans-Jürgen Mittelstaedt for the visiting associations and Mr. Secretary of State Ludwig Hecke from the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Education.

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