Newsflash of the Innovation Society, St.Gallen Edition April 2014

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the innovation society

April 2014 Newsflash

Issues

Dear reader

Annotations by the Innovation Society

DNA damage by nanoparticles

Measuring the density of nanoparticles

Nanomaterials under REACH

Assessment of a European nanoregister

Welcome to the April newsflash of the Innovation Society. We wish you an inspiring reading and we are looking forward to receiving your feedback!

Kind regards The Innovation Society

Annotations by the Innovation Society

Regulation of nanomaterials

European authorities face increasing pressure from NGOs regarding the regulation of nanomaterials. NGOs led by CIEL (Centre for International Environmental Law) have published a **position paper** on the regulation of nanomaterials in the EU. The paper contains five clear recommendations, such as labelling, risk assessment and a strict implementation of the "no data, no market"-principle for nanomaterials.

The EPA, on the other hand, is showing its teeth: Due to a violation of federal pesticides law, it has stopped the sale of a nano-silver enhanced plastic food storage container. Its manufacturer claimed the product had antibacterial properties, yet it was never registered with the EPA. Therefore the claims are "unverified public health claims", which caused the EPA to set an example.

Chances and risks of nanomaterials

A virus filter solely made of cellulose-nanofibres was developed at the University of Uppsala. It removes viruses from water as efficiently as industrial filters. Using nanotechnology, an Israeli start-up plans to produce diapers out of jellyfish (see **here**). According to the firm, they will absorb as much liquid as conventional diapers while being readily biodegradable.



DNA damage caused by nanoparticles

MIT researchers used the CometChip technology to screen the effects of nanoparticles (amorphous silica, zinc oxide, cerium dioxide, iron oxide and silver nanoparticles) on DNA in two types of cells. Especially zinc oxide and silver nanoparticles caused substantial damage to DNA. This is of particular importance since those materials are used in consumer products (e.g. in textiles and cosmetics). The method itself could prove valuable not only in toxicology but also in the development of novel nanoparticles. **Read more**

Method to measure the density of nanoparticles in physiological fluids



Scientists at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) have discovered a simple and inexpensive method to measure the effective density of engineered nanoparticles in physiological fluids. The method enables the accurate determination of the amount of nanomaterials that come into contact with cells and tissue in culture. The new discovery will have a major impact on the hazard assessment of engineered nanoparticles, enabling risk assessors to perform accurate hazard rankings of nanomaterials using cellular systems. **Read more**

Recommendations for nanomaterials under REACH



The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published generic and specific recommendations for the exposure assessment and risk characterisation of nanomaterials under REACH. **Read more**

Impact assessment of a European nanoregister



A recently published study of the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) assesses the potential impacts which the introduction of a mandatory European nano-register would entail. The study is based on UBA's "Concept for a European Register of Products Containing Nanomaterials" (ENPR-concept). **Read more** eingetragen sind. You are receiving this email because you are signed up for our newsletter.

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