



the  
innovation  
society

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## Newsflash

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Dear reader,

Welcome to the March 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

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### Annotations by the Innovation Society

#### Regulation of nanomaterials

Nanomaterials in food remain a "delicate topic": Members of the European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety have rejected the European Commission's proposed regulation regarding the definition of engineered nanomaterials in food (c.f. **Motion for a resolution**), saying that the proposal disregards the European Food Safety Agency's (EFSA) advice.

Overseas, the National Science and Technology Council has published the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) **Strategic Plan 2014**. For the next three years, the plan will represent the basis for guidelines and priorities of involved authorities.

#### Chances and risks of nanomaterials

Insurance risks related to nanotechnology remain unpredictable. In an article (see below) ZURICH Insurance company warns of "nano" as an emerging risk for the

insurance industry.

The OECD published its **report** on the “Ecotoxicology and environmental fate of manufactured nanomaterials: test guidelines” meeting. The report assesses the applicability of existing guidelines to nanomaterials.

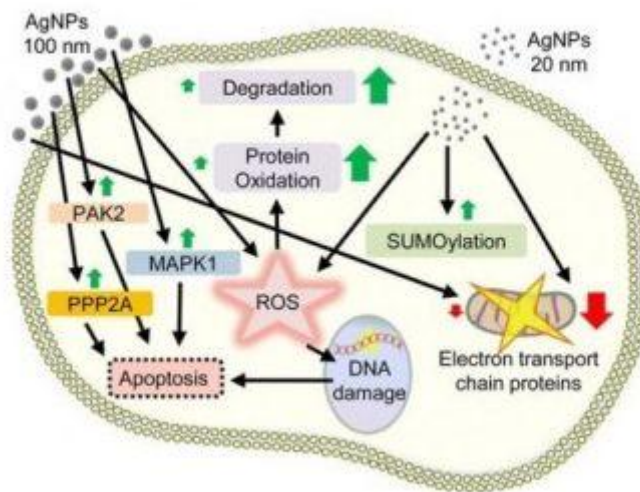
An international team of researchers led by scientists of the University of Basel used the tip of an AFM to pull isolated molecular chains from a gold surface. The resulting signals enabled the researchers to make quantitative statements on the binding energy of each molecular unit (c.f. **press release**).

### **Zurich warns about unknown risks of nanotechnology**



Apart from potential benefits, Zurich identifies several types of potential insurance risks associated with nanotechnology: employers' liability, product liability, directors' and officers' liability and environmental impairment. Read why nanotechnology is considered an emerging risk by insurers in the following “Zurich Insider” article. **Read more**

## Uptake of silver-nanoparticles can lead to the formation of free radicals



Danish researchers could show that in vitro, silver nanoparticles (AgNP) can be taken up by human intestinal cells and trigger the formation of free radicals therein. AgNPs even played a key role in the induction of cellular stress, the authors stated. [Learn more](#)

## Swiss Unions call for an extension of the limitation period for nanomaterials



The Swiss Federation of Trade Unions (SGB) classifies nanomaterials as an emerging risk for employees and

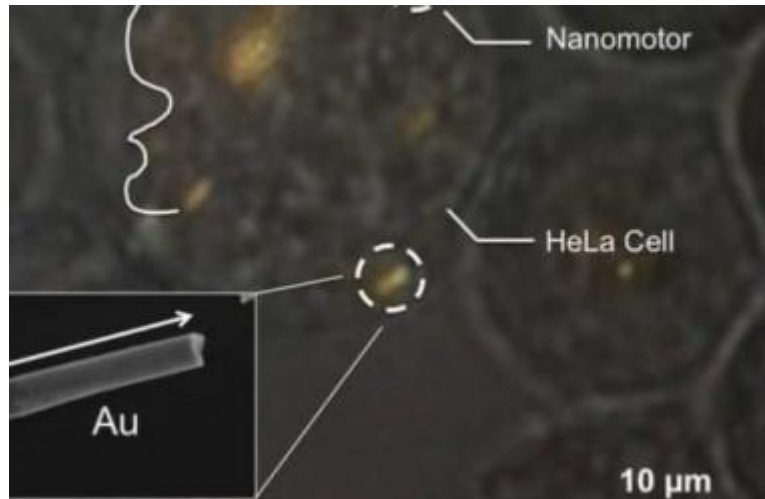
employers and calls for an extension of the limitation period. Furthermore, the SGB states that insufficient control activities of the insurance carrier (SUVA) and a lack of information to workers could lead to state liability lawsuits against the federal government. [Read more](#)

### **Belgium to introduce nano-reporting**



Belgium will become the second EU member state to adopt a mandatory nano-reporting scheme after France had done so in 2013. Companies will have to register substances and mixtures containing nanomaterials if they are to be placed on the Belgian market. [Read more](#)

### **Nanomotors are controlled, for the first time, inside living cells**



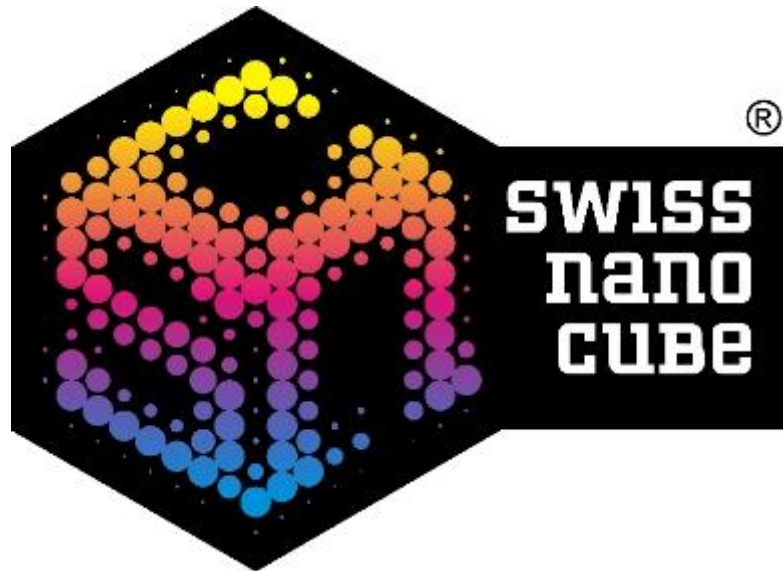
For the first time anywhere, a team of chemists and engineers at Penn State has placed tiny synthetic motors inside live human cells, propelled them with ultrasonic waves and steered them magnetically. It's not exactly "Fantastic Voyage," but it's close. [Read more](#)

### Rare earth nanoparticles under scrutiny



Some workers exposed to rare earths suffer chronic lung problems, which made UCLA scientist wonder about the toxicity of rare earth particles. They tested 10 rare earth oxide nanoparticles. [Read more](#)

## "Nano in Economy and Society": new Swiss Nano-Cube module (available for free)



The Innovation Society has developed a new training module: "Nanotechnology in the Economy and Society". The development of said module was supported by the UBS Foundation for Social Issues and Education. It forms part of the Swiss Nano-Cube project. The module presents the economic and social importance of nanotechnologies and can be downloaded [here](#) (in German). **Read more**

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