Meeting venue

Hotel NH Luzern • Friedenstrasse 8 • CH-6004 Lucerne
Phone +41 (0)41 418 33 33 • Fax +41 (0)41 418 35 35
Email: nhluzern@nh-hotels.ch • www.nh-hotels.com

Directions to the hotel

By train: main station, bus no 1, bus stop Löwenplatz
By car: freeway A2, exit Lucerne city, direction Ebikon
parking lots are available at the City Parking or the Löwencenter Parking

Contact

TEMAS AG • Egnacherstrasse 69 • CH-9320 Arbon
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Safety and Risks of Nanotechnology

Meeting of Swiss Scientists

April 20 and 21, 2004
Lucerne, Switzerland
Motivation

Nanotechnology became omnipresent in the past few years and penetrates almost all aspects of science, research and technology. On closer inspection, nanotechnology seems to promise everything, but nothing in particular. This leaves a biased opinion in science and society towards nanotechnology about facts and fiction, and, moreover, benefits and risks. The research of risks of nanotechnology is only at an early stage and coordination of these research efforts is crucial, but still rudimentary. In this respect, it is in the responsibility of the scientific community to encounter the inherent risks of the research in this new field, and to communicate with one language in a frank and honest manner to the society. The purpose of this meeting with Swiss scientists is to gather information about the state of the art, and to work on the requirements to meet the new challenges of nanotechnology on a Swiss level.

Objectives

- To establish a deeper insight and a common view of the Swiss scientific society towards the various impacts of nanotechnology
- To inform about:
  - state of the research about safety and risks of nanotechnology
  - possibilities to coordinate and to combine the research activities on safety and risks issues
  - communication strategies to address public concerns about nanotechnology
- To work on selected topics:
  - Nanotechnology and human health
    - assess research results concerning toxicology and pathology of fullerenes/CNT/nanoparticles
    - clarify contradictory published results and develop methods for standardization
  - Nanotechnology and communication
    - develop strategies of how to communicate nanotechnology and all relevant issues to the society
    - discuss how to deal with negative perceptions of the society in an open and honest way
  - Nanotechnology and nanoparticles
    - discuss measures (material safety standards) that are required for the safety of producers and consumers
    - assess the latest research activities on environmental aspects of distributed nanoparticles

Target group

Swiss scientists of all disciplines that are active in the field of nanotechnology

General information

The meeting will take place in the hotel NH Lucerne (cf. map at the back)