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Session: Innovation and Advances in Governance of Nanotechnology

New Research in Anticipatory Governance of Nanotechnology

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The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University pursues a strategic vision called “anticipatory governance,” which seeks to develop capacities in both research institutions and society more broadly to act on a variety of inputs to manage emerging knowledge-based technologies while such management is still possible. In CNS-ASU’s vision, these capacities include foresight and anticipation of plausible futures of nanotechnology, public engagement on questions of the development of nanotechnology, and integration of social science and humanities research with nano-scale science and engineering research. It also includes using the tools of real-time technology assessment to develop anticipatory knowledge of nanotechnology and its societal aspects. This presentation will summarize recent advances in several of these areas, including research on the quality of anticipatory knowledge, anticipated commercial applications of nanotechnology, the findings of the socio-technical integration research (STIR) project, and (if available) preliminary results from new surveys of the public and of nano-scientists and engineers.