

WI NCTF – Madison
March 1-2, 2008

Process Observations

- Group had strong interest in knowing who experts would be, how much their questions would guide the selection of experts, and what sort of affiliations and ideological perspectives the experts would bring to the table.
- Group had strong interest in understanding the potential for their policy recommendations to have an impact.
- Group was very motivated to learn more about the technologies and their social contexts – both in the online sessions and in their own research and communication with one another (we are setting up a listserv for Madison participants who choose to join).

Major Themes that developed from conversation and organized our discussions on Sunday

- Knowing the status of current technological development and research and understanding likely trajectories would be helpful to sort out the fanciful from the possible.
- Regulations / Regulatory Structure
- Health and Reproduction
- Military/Defense
- Privacy
- International impacts
- Access (equity issues, insurance practices)
- Economics of NBIC technologies (costs, socio-economic effects)
- Private/social boundary (choice vs. imposition)
- Identity issues

Potential experts, developed through group activity

- computer scientist
- religious authority
- regulatory
- lawyer/legal expert
- environmental expert
- ethics expert
- economist
- think tank/political scientist
- anthropologist/sociologist
- nanotechnology business expert
- health insurance/health care industry

Potential Audiences for Policy Recommendations (generated by group)

- broader public
 - o online
- policymakers
 - o state level: regulatory agencies
 - o federal
- journals, professional, trade magazines (reach researchers, policy analysts, industry, citizen groups)
- congressional committees
- head of FDA
- CEOs of companies developing nanotechnologies
- Public at large
 - o Web
 - o News media

- NSF and other funders of research
- Conferences
- Medical and social ethicists
- Professor who might be interested
- Underdogs of CEOs/legislators
- Citizen watchdog groups
- Science media/journalists
- Local media
- Subcommittees
- State v. federal focus.