

# NNI PUBLIC WEBINAR:

## OVERVIEW OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ADDRESSING MICRO- AND NANOPLASTICS ISSUES

### SESSION 2: REGULATORY/COLLABORATIONS, JUNE 6, 2023, 1-2:30 PM ET

- 1:00 Reconvening/introductory remarks (Anil Patri, FDA, moderator)
- 1:05 State Dept.: International Collaborations & Negotiations (Rob Wing)
- 1:15 EPA: Overview (Kay Ho)
- 1:25 FDA: Scientific Review (Stacey Wiggins)
- 1:35 ATSDR and NCEH: Overview (Custodio Muianga, Gaston Casillas, Max Zarate-Bermudez)
- 1:50 CPSC: Interagency Collaborations (Joanna Matheson)
- 2:00 Facilitated Q&A and discussion



**Anil Patri**  
Director, Nanotechnology Core  
Facility, FDA  
(Moderator)



**Rob Wing**  
Deputy Director, Office of  
Environmental Quality,  
State/OES



**Kay Ho**  
Environmental Research  
Scientist, Environmental Effects  
Research Lab, EPA



**Stacey Wiggins**  
Science Advisor,  
Center for Food Safety &  
Applied Nutrition, FDA



**Custodio Muianga**  
Environmental Health Scientist  
CDC/ATSDR



**Gaston Casillas**  
Research Fellow, CDC/ATSDR



**Max Zarate-Bermudez**  
Epidemiologist, CDC/NCEH



**Joanna Matheson**  
Toxicologist, Program  
Manager, Nanotechnology,  
CPSC



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# **(U) Galvanizing Global Action on Plastic Pollution**

*June 6, 2023*

*Robert Wing, Deputy Office Director*

*Office of Environmental Quality, Bureau of Oceans and  
International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES/ENV)*



# Road to INC on Plastic Pollution

- Growing recognition of plastic pollution as a global problem requiring international cooperation.
- Plastic pollution is priority issue in several international fora.
- March 2022, UNEA resolution 5/14, End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument, launched negotiations on a global agreement on plastic pollution.



# ☆☆☆ Overview of INC



- Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) launched in second half of 2022 with the goal of completing text by end of 2024.
- The scope of the instrument is specified as "plastic pollution, including in the marine environment".
- Countries agreed on an open-ended working group preparatory meeting and five sessions of the INC.



*Giant Plastic Tap art installation at UNEA 5.2 by Benjamin Von Wong*



# Outcomes from INC-1 & INC-2

## Overarching themes:

- Countries made progress in considering the details of potential elements of the global agreement.
- The INC-2 outcome of requesting a draft instrument text is a step forward in meeting our goal to complete the text by the end of 2024.
- Heightened stakeholder interest and engagement

CONFERENCE

**Second session of  
Intergovernmental Negotiating  
Committee to develop an  
international legally binding  
instrument on plastic pollution,  
inclu...**

29 May - 2 June 2023  
Paris, France



Photo: Unplash/Naja Bertolt Jensen

# U.S. Approach to the Global Agreement

- The United States is committed to negotiating an ambitious, innovative, and inclusive global agreement.
- We need a global agreement that will facilitate rapid and meaningful progress.
- The agreement should include mechanisms to provide transparency, reporting, and monitoring of progress.



Photo: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



# U.S. Approach to the Global Agreement



- Focus instrument on protection of human health and the environment from plastic pollution.
- Envisions ambitious provisions – including mix of obligations, commitments, and voluntary approaches – designed to prevent and reduce the amount of plastic entering the environment.
- Provisions should promote the sustainable production and consumption of plastic, increase plastic circularity, and strengthen the management of plastic waste through nationally determined actions.
- Instrument should allow for different solutions to address different problems at the various stages of the lifecycle, taking into account national circumstances.

# U.S. Approach to the Global Agreement

- Parties develop and communicate national action plans that outline how the plan contributes to achieving the objective, including how it will implement obligations on preventing, reducing, or eliminating plastic pollution.
- National action plans foster ambitious action, where Parties identify and address sources of plastic pollution throughout the lifecycle of plastic in ways that are most suited to their national circumstances.
- Parties update their plans regularly (e.g., every five years) and demonstrate continued progress and increased ambition over time.
- Parties develop procedures to promote transparency and understanding regarding the elements of national action plans and their implementation.



Photo: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



# ★★★ U.S. Approach to Global Agreement

- We also see a strong complementary role for partners and stakeholders by highlighting their actions to combat plastic pollution in a multistakeholder action agenda.
- We need substantial action from countries that are major producers, consumers, and plastic waste generators.
- National governments cannot solve this problem alone.



Photo: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

# \*\*\* U.S. Efforts to Galvanize Action

- New U.S. Science Envoy on Plastic Pollution: Dr. LaShanda Korley, University of Delaware
- New Senior Director for Chemical Safety and Plastic Pollution at the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): Jonathan Black



# ★★★ INC-2 outcomes

- Held in Paris, May 29 – June 2, 2023. Strong engagement from city governments led by Mayor of Paris.
- State Department announced a new public-private partnership, EPPIC, or End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative, to galvanize actions to increase circularity of plastic. Key partners TBD.



# ★★★ INC-2 outcomes



- US stakeholder meetings in Paris - over 100 attendees from environmental justice communities, environmental NGOs, waste pickers, scientists, and private sector participants from throughout the supply chain.
- Requested zero-draft text to inform negotiations at INC-3.
  - U.S. built bridges between countries with differing visions for the instrument.
  - Draft text will reflect different options expressed at INCs 1 and 2, and in country submissions ahead of INC-2, for elements of the instrument.



# ★★★ The Road Ahead



- INC-3 will be held November of 2023 in Nairobi
- INC- 4 in April of 2024 in Ottawa
- INC-5 in late 2024 in Republic of Korea
- **Thank you!**



# US Environmental Protection Agency

## Micro/Nano-Plastic Research

Kay T. Ho  
Office of Research and Development,  
Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling,  
Atlantic Coastal Environmental Science Division , Narragansett, RI



## National Nano Initiative

6 June 2023

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*Any mention of trade names, manufacturers or products does not imply an endorsement by the United States Government or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA and its employees do not endorse any commercial products, services, or enterprises.*



# US EPA-Organizational Chart

**Office of the  
Administrator**



**Air and  
Radiation**

**Chemical  
Safety and  
Poll. Prevent**

**Chief Financial  
Officer**

**Enforcement  
Compliance  
Assurance**

**General  
Counsel**

**Inspector  
General**

**International  
and Tribal  
Affairs**

**Land and  
Emergency  
Management**

**Mission  
Support**

**Office of  
Research and  
Development**

**Office of Water**

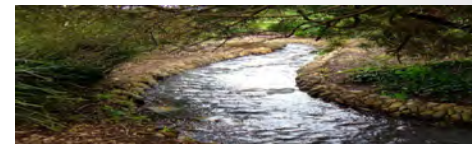
Methods for Collection,  
Extraction and  
Identification of Nano-  
and Microplastics for  
Surface Water and  
Sediments

## Research Efforts:

1. Standardize extraction, identification and quantification methods for microplastics in sediment and surface waters.
2. Build capacity in EPA labs nationwide for microplastics identification and quantification.



## Surface Waters

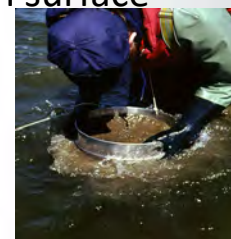


### ASTM Methods –Standardization of Water Methods

- 💧 **ASTM D8332** Standard Practice for Collection of Water Samples with High, Medium, or Low Suspended Solids for Identification and Quantification of Microplastic Particles and Fibers
- 💧 **ASTM D8333** Standard Practice for Preparation of Water Samples with High, Medium, or Low Suspended Solids for Identification and Quantification of Microplastic Particles and Fibers Using Raman Spectroscopy, IR Spectroscopy, or Pyrolysis-GC/MS

### Laser Directed Infrared Spectroscopy Methods – Surface Water

- 💧 Whiting, et al (2022). "A high-throughput, automated technique for microplastics detection, quantification, and characterization in surface waters using laser direct infrared spectroscopy" \_Anal. Bio. Chem. **414**(29): 8353-8364.

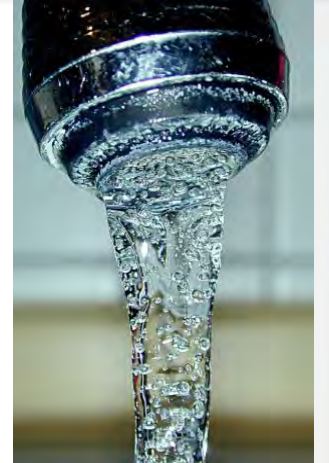


## Sediments

- 💧 Cashman et al.(2020). Comparison of microplastic isolation and extraction procedures from marine sediments. MPB**159**: 111507.
- 💧 Cashman et al. (2022). Quantification of microplastics in sediments from Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island USA using a novel isolation and extraction method. MPB**174**: 113254.
- 💧 Langknecht et al. (2023). Comparison of two procedures for microplastics analysis in sediments based on an interlaboratory exercise. Chemo. **313**: 137479.
- 💧 El Khatib et al. (2023) Assessment of Filter Subsampling and Extrapolation for Quantifying Microplastics in Environmental Samples using Raman Spectroscopy accepted MPB-D-23-00792R1

## Drinking Water

- 💧 Rochman et al (2022) Quantitative assessment of visual microscopy as a tool for microplastic research: recommendations for improving methods and reporting Chemo. 308:137479
- 💧 Keenan et al. (2023) Patterns of microparticles in blank samples: a study to inform best practices for microplastic analysis Chemo. In press
- 💧 Thorton et al. 2023 The influence of complex matrices on method performance in extracting and monitoring for microplastics Chemo. In press



## Coral Reef Methods

- 💧 Hankins et al. (2018) Scleractinian coral microplastic ingestion: Potential calcification effects, size limits, and retention. Mar.Poll. Bull. 135:587-593.
- 💧 Hankins, et al. (2021). Microplastics impair growth in two atlantic scleractinian coral species, Pseudodiploria clivosa and Acropora Environ. Poll. 275. 116649

## Effects Methods

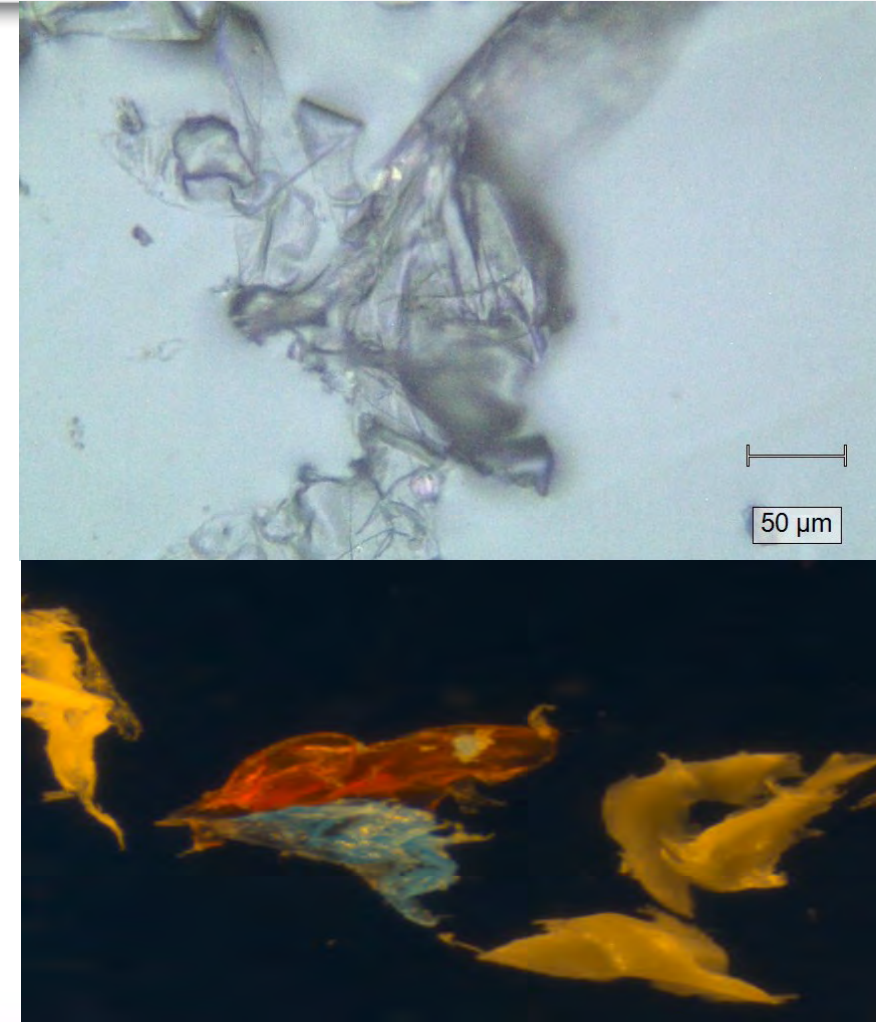
Giroux et al. Using eRNA/eDNA metabarcoding to detect community-level impacts of nanoplastic exposure to benthic estuarine ecosystems (2023) accepted Environ. Poll.



- 💧 QA/ QC
- 💧 Smaller the particle, the more difficult the analysis
- 💧 Complex matrix, difficult analysis
- 💧 Proscribed methods may increase accuracy and precision
- 💧 Common spectroscopic methods are accurate (once the particle has been extracted)
- 💧 There is still work to be done to develop reproducible methods across laboratories.



- Methods for smaller sized particles- nanoplastics.
- Move towards quantifying polymer concentration (pyrolysis GC/MS) rather than particle enumeration—spectroscopic methods (Raman, FTIR).
  - Pyrolysis- polymer identification, nanoplastics, faster.
  - Still need for particle characterization, early days!
- Human Health and Ecological Effects.
- Microplastic fate in septic systems
- 6-PPD Quinone and Tire Wear Particles.
  - Effects
  - Green infrastructure







# OW Research: Microplastic Expert Workshop, Beach Protocol

## Microplastic Expert Workshop Update

- EPA Trash Free Waters Program convened an expert workshop 2017 to identify and prioritize scientific information needed to understand the risks posed by microplastics.
- Update 2022
  - Analytical methods needed for complex matrices and nanoparticles
  - Source identification and factors that influence fate of MP in the environment.
  - Toxicity evaluations with environmentally realistic conc. and particles including fibers [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-12/tfw-report-on-priority-microplastics-research-needs\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-12/tfw-report-on-priority-microplastics-research-needs_0.pdf)

## Microplastic Beach Protocol (2021)

- Community scientists collect data on microplastic pollution along beaches and shorelines.
- Volunteers can collect data can be used to characterize current levels of microplastics pollution <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/best-management-practices-tools#1>



A Trash Free Waters Report on  
Priority Microplastics Research  
Needs: Update to the 2017  
Microplastics Expert Workshop



Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds  
December 2021  
EPA-824-R-21-008



### EPA's Microplastic Beach Protocol

A Community  
Science Protocol  
for Sampling  
Microplastic  
Pollution

September 2021





# OW: United States Federal Plan to Address Microfiber Pollution. SOS 2.0 Act

## Federal Plan Goals



Goal 1: Support microfiber research



Goal 2: Prevent & reduce microfibers



Goal 3: Capture microfibers



Goal 4: Minimize microfiber toxicity



Goal 5: Share microfiber knowledge





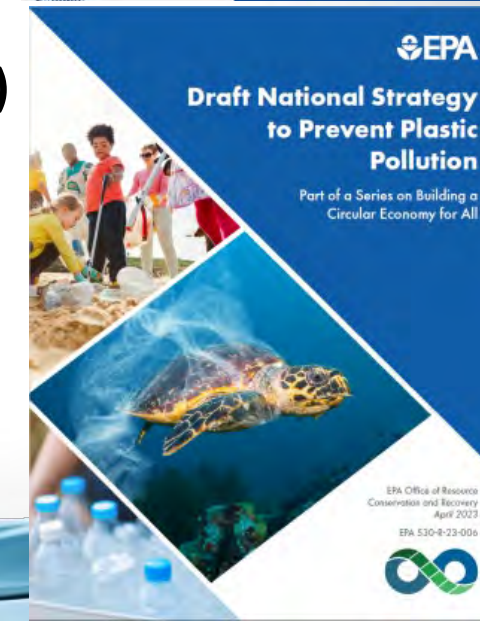


# OW: Tire Wear Particle Roundtable, National Strategy

- 💧 **Tire Wear Particle (TWP) Roundtable Discussion (2022)**
  - 💧 **EPA Trash Free Waters Program** convened roundtable meetings for stakeholders to address TWP issues
    - 💧 Research-need data on almost all aspects of TWP
    - 💧 Research solutions- variety of approaches
    - 💧 Cost and Funding, Education

<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/science-case-studies#Tire>
- 💧 **Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution (Comment period June 16)**
  - 💧 Reduce pollution during plastic production.
  - 💧 Improve post-use materials management
  - 💧 Prevent trash and micro/nanoplastics from entering waterways and remove escaped trash from the environment.

<https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution#summary>



# EPA SBIR Support for Microplastics Technologies



- [EPA's SBIR Program](#) supports small businesses to develop and commercialize innovative environmental technologies
- Focused on microplastics collection, quantification and characterization
- Projects:
  - Lucendi, Inc., [Cost-effective, portable and automated platform for microplastics characterization](#)
  - Triple Ring Technologies, [A fieldable, portable, reagent-free microplastic sensor enabling rapid readout and modular operation](#)
  - Sporian, [A high-speed, low cost, machine learning enhanced, hyperspectral imaging system for improved identification of microplastics](#)



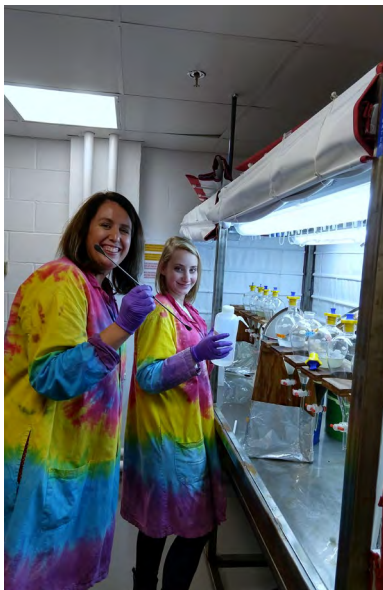
- ❖ **National Institute of Standards and Technology**
- ❖ **United States Geological Survey**
- ❖ **Food and Drug Administration**
- ❖ **Center for Disease Control**
- ❖ **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
- ❖ **Department of Energy**
- ❖ **U.S. Government Nanoplastics Interest Group**
- ❖ **Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council**
- ❖ **California Department of Health**
- ❖ **Southern California Coastal Water Research Project**
- ❖ **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation**



# USEPA Microplastics Research Team



Nizanna Bathersfield  
Robert Burgess  
Aimen Farraj  
Souhail Al-Abed  
Adam Biales  
Matthew Clifton  
Susan Glassmeyer  
Marissa Giroux  
Cheryl Hankins  
Elizabeth Hilborn  
Jim Lazorchak  
Paul Mayer  
Marirosa Molina



Georges-Marie Momplaisir  
Romell Nandi  
Olszyk, David  
Potter, Phillip  
Jay Reichman  
Matthew Robinson  
Sandra Robinson  
Marci Smeltz  
Kelly Somers  
Daniel Sullivan  
Sheau-Fung Thai  
Katrina Varner  
Robert Zucker



[ho.kay@epa.gov](mailto:ho.kay@epa.gov)

# FDA: Scientific Review of Microplastics in Food

National Nanotechnology Initiative  
Public Webinar  
June 6, 2023

**Stacey Wiggins, Ph.D.**

Science Advisor

Office of Food Safety/Division of Seafood Safety

Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition

Food & Drug Administration

# MISSION

The **FDA** is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the **safety, efficacy, and security** of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's **food supply**, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.



# Micro- & Nanoplastics in Foods Group

**Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition**

**Office of Food Safety**

**Office of Regulatory Science**

**Office of Food Additive Safety**

**Office of Cosmetics and Colors**

**Office of Applied Research and Safety  
Assessment**

**Office of International Engagement**

**Office of the Center Director**

**Center for Veterinary Medicine**

**Center for Tobacco Products**

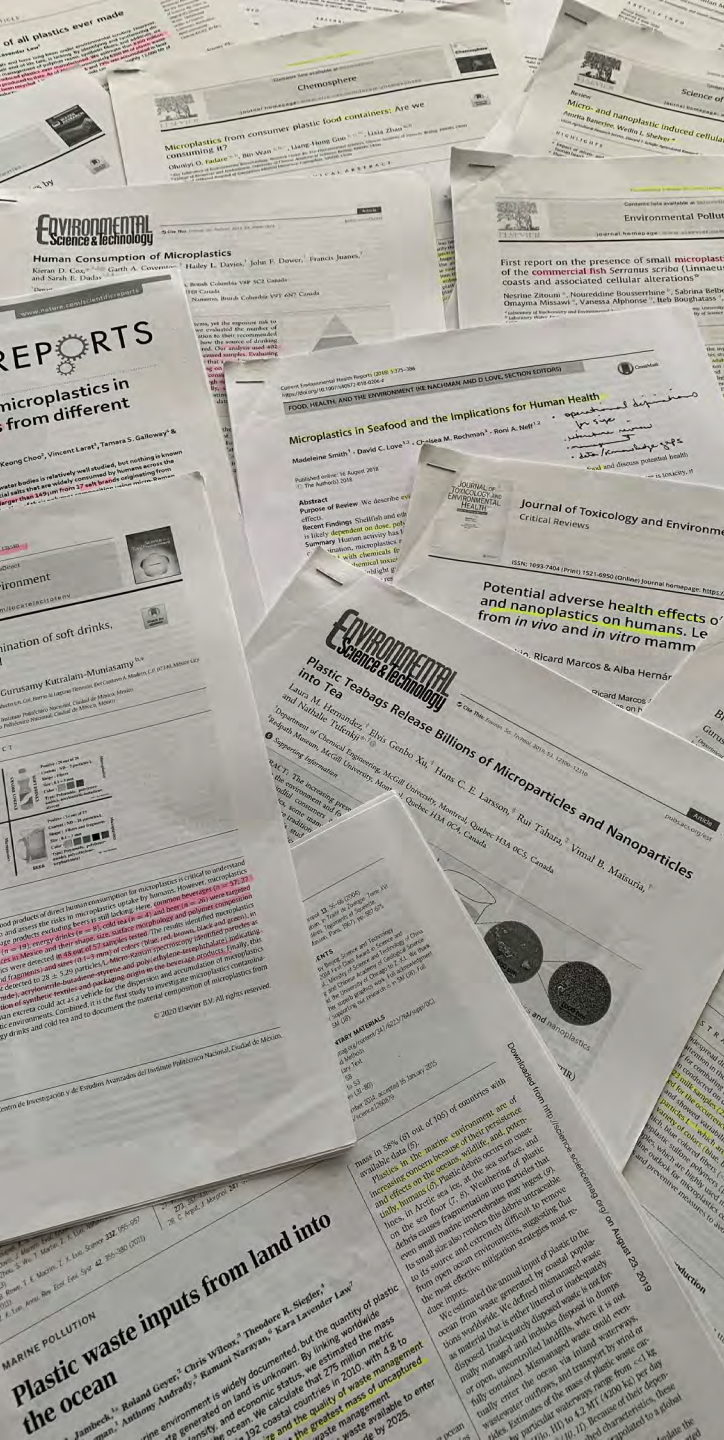
**National Center for Toxicological Research**

**Office of Regulatory Affairs**

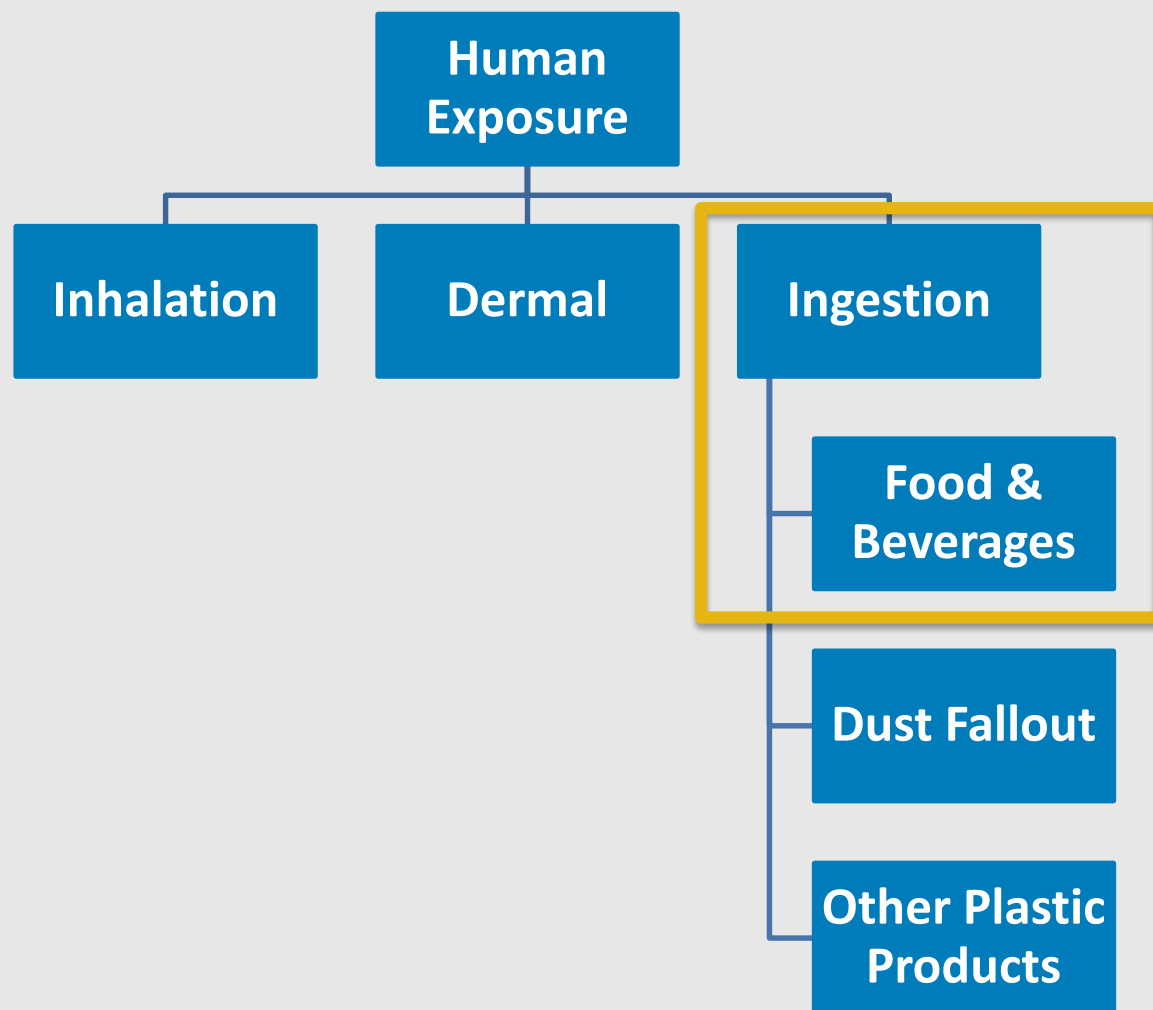
**Office of Policy, Legislation, and  
International Affairs**

# Scientific Literature Review

- Reviewed >200 publications
- Example Topics:
  - polymer characteristics
  - plastic pollution
  - plastic weathering and fragmentation
  - micro- and nanoplastics in foods
  - potential health impacts
  - methodology



# Exposure Pathways



# Microplastics Reported in Food & Beverages

Fish	Mollusks	Crustaceans	Bottled Water
Drinking Water	Salt	Honey	Sugar
Beer	Poultry	Nori	Milk
Tea	Soft Drinks	Energy Drinks	



# Example Polymers Reported in Food



## Drinking water

- PET, PP

## Seafood

- PET, PA, PE, PEMA, PEVA, PUR

## Milk

- PES, PSU

## Salt

- PET, PE

## Tea

- PET, PA

# Seafood

- Reports of microplastics in seafood are predominant
- Reported in fish, mollusks, and crustaceans
- Reliable quantitative data are limited due to method challenges

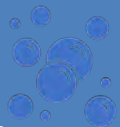


# Methodology Considerations

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- Lack of standardized definitions or methods
- Lack of appropriate standards
- Lack of standardized reporting metrics
  - Particle concentrations vs mass
- Not all studies used methods that could confirm microplastics
- Lack of quality control
- Challenge for reliable, quantitative data for comparison across studies



## Methodology Considerations

“One challenge in this area is that there are different sampling, sample preparation, detection, and characterization methods in use, some of which may not be appropriate or reliable for detecting microplastics.”

NASEM, 2020



# Potential Impact on Human Health



Health **Risk** is  
a function of:

**Hazard and  
Exposure**

# Occurrence in Foods/Exposure



## Toxicity

>150 $\mu\text{m}$ Not absorbed	<150 $\mu\text{m}$ May be absorbed	$\leq 0.3\%$ Limited translocation	→	Gut to circulatory
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# Microplastics Excretion

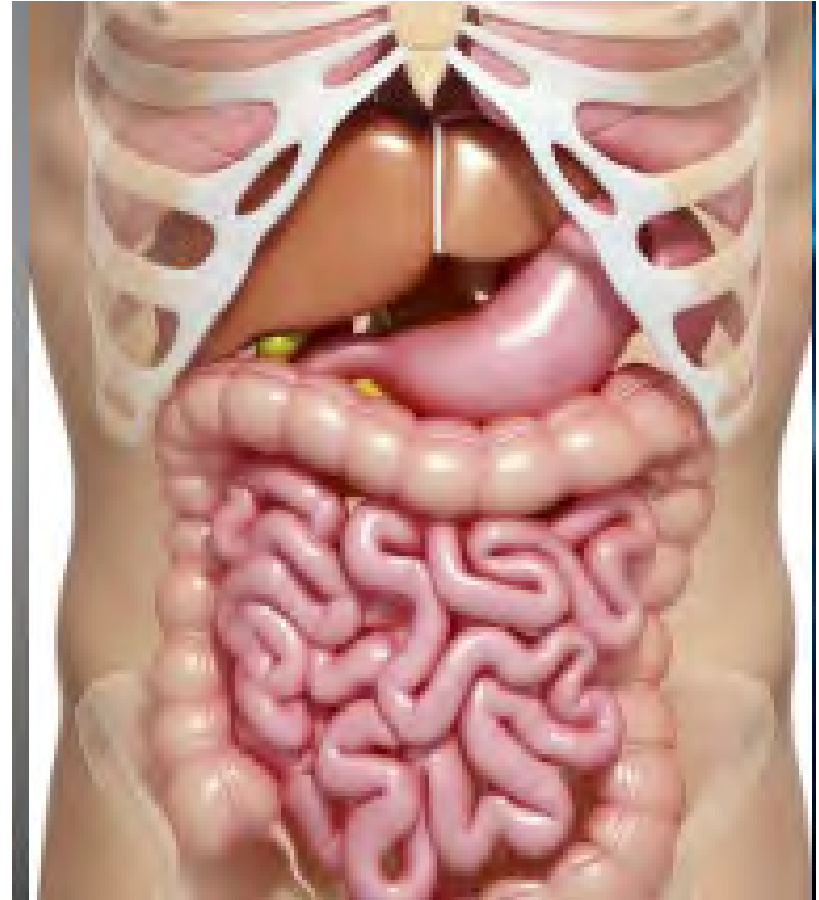
## 8/8

### Human stool samples

Positive for microplastics

Median of 20 microplastic particles per 10 g stool

PP and PET, most abundant





# Limited Toxicity Studies

## SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

**OPEN** Tissue accumulation of microplastics in mice and biomarker responses suggest widespread health risks of exposure

Received: 10 October 2016

Accepted: 27 March 2017

Published: 24 April 2017

Yongfeng Deng<sup>1</sup>, Yan Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Bernardo Lemos<sup>2</sup> & Hongqiang Ren<sup>1</sup>

Energy and lipid metabolism  
Oxidative stress  
Neurotoxic

Deng et al. 2017

Archives of Toxicology (2019) 93:1817–1833  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00204-019-02478-7>

### REGULATORY TOXICOLOGY

**Uptake and effects of orally ingested polystyrene microplastic particles in vitro and in vivo**

Valerie Stock<sup>1</sup> · Linda Böhmert<sup>1</sup> · Elisa Lisicki<sup>1</sup> · Rafael Block<sup>1</sup> · Julia Cara-Carmona<sup>1</sup> · Laura Kim Pack<sup>1</sup> · Regina Selb<sup>1</sup> · Dajana Lichtenstein<sup>1</sup> · Linn Voss<sup>1</sup> · Colin J. Henderson<sup>2</sup> · Elke Zabinsky<sup>3</sup> · Holger Sieg<sup>1</sup> · Albert Braeuning<sup>1</sup> · Alfonso Lampen<sup>1</sup>

Minor uptake observed  
Absence of histological lesions  
Absence of inflammatory response

Stock et al. 2019

# Conclusions

Microplastics have been reported in a range of foods

There are limitations in drawing quantitative conclusions due to methodology challenges

Polymers in seafood exhibited the greatest variability, compared to other foods

Polymer types in bottled water may have been associated with processing and packaging

There is a lack of evidence clearly supporting that microplastics impact human health

# Knowledge Gaps

- Standard definitions and fit-for-purpose metrics
- Standards and reference materials
- Standardized sample collection and preparation techniques
- Standardized detection methods
- Real-world mixtures
- Accurate/quantitative data on exposure via food
- Exposure estimates on wide range of foods per plastic type
- Understanding of fate and transport in the body
- Understanding of dosimetry
- Understanding of potential toxicity to humans

# FDA Activities

- Stay apprised of the latest science
- Interagency Participation
  - U.S. Government Nanoplastics Interest Group
  - Led by the State Department to develop the U.S. position on plastic pollution for the United Nations
  - EPA-led workshops to develop the Report on Microfiber Pollution, a requirement under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act
- Presentations
  - CVM One Health Today
  - NASEM Food Forum
  - White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Briefing







# NCEH/ATSDR Microplastics and Human Health Working Group Update

National Nanotechnology Initiative - Public Webinar

June 6, 2023

Custodio V. Muianga, PhD, MPH, CHMM  
Max Zarate-Bermudez, PhD, MPH, MSc  
Gaston Casillas, PhD

National Center for Environmental Health  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



# Disclaimer

- The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nor by any agency of the United States government, and they should not be interpreted as the opinion nor policy of any agency.

# Outline

- Brief overview of NCEH/ATSDR Microplastics and Human Health Working Group
- Activities updates and data gaps and needs
  - Context and Exposures and health risk assessment (Custodio)
  - Human exposure to Microplastics in Water and Health Effects (Max)
  - Microplastics Systematic Evidence Mapping (Gaston)



# NCEH/ATSDR Microplastics and Human Health Working Group:

- ATSDR/NCEH interdisciplinary working group focusing on
  - Microplastics, including nanoplastics and other nanomaterials
  - Better understanding the occurrence of microplastics in the environment, routes of exposures, and potential health effects
- Meets monthly to discuss project updates, presentations, and participation in scientific events of interest that are internal or external to the U.S. government

# Microplastics and Human Health Working Group

## Vision

- Our science and resources energize communities and institutions to stop harmful microplastic and nanoplastic exposures in our environment.

# Microplastics and Human Health Working Group

## Strategic Objectives

- Define health risks
- Constructive partnerships
- Empower solutions



**Photo Source:** CDC Public Health Image Library

# Selected Achievements and Ongoing Work

## Review

### A review of data for quantifying human exposures to micro and nanoplastics and potential health risks

Gregory M. Zarus <sup>a,\*</sup>, Custodio Muianga <sup>a</sup>, Candis M. Hunter <sup>b</sup>, R. Steven Pappas <sup>b</sup>

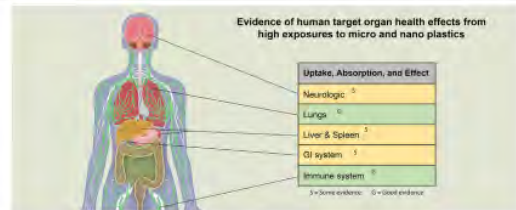
<sup>a</sup> Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 4770 Buford Highway, Atlanta, GA 30341, USA

<sup>b</sup> National Center for Environmental Health, 4770 Buford Highway, Atlanta, GA 30341, USA

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Humans are exposed to microplastics via ingestion, inhalation, and absorption.
- There is little exposure information on nanoplastics and most foods.
- There is evidence of uptake, absorption, translocation, and effect.
- Impacts reported on the immune, respiratory, gastro-intestinal, and hepatic systems.
- Effects and target organs are dependent on plastic type, size, and amount.

## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 31 August 2020  
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Available online 24 November 2020

Editor: Dimitra A Lambropoulou

### Keywords:

Microplastics  
Nanoplastics  
Environmental exposures  
Biomarkers  
Health effects

## ABSTRACT

Plastic debris have been shown to degenerate to particle sizes that can be transported in air, water, and food. Small particles are documented to enter and exit our bodies and translocate to and from some internal organs. Health effects on respiratory, hepatic, immune, and gastrointestinal systems have been reported in humans and other mammals in response to elevated particle or fiber exposures. These health effects differed by plastic type and size, and there was evidence of dose response for a few health endpoints. We conducted a systematic word search and reviewed published literature to identify microplastic and nanoplastic studies that quantified exposure via the ingestion, inhalation, and subcutaneous absorption (not dermal) exposure pathways; identified translocation, internal dose, and associations with health effects and markers related to exposures to specific sizes and types of plastics. We identified the data gaps in relating exposure data to health effects and biomarkers, most notably the lack of characterization of plastic particles and fibers smaller than 10 µm in most media.

Published by Elsevier B.V.



microplastics



## Review

### Microplastics Scoping Review of Environmental and Human Exposure Data

Gaston Casillas <sup>1,\*</sup>, Brian Charles Hubbard <sup>1</sup>, Jana Telfer <sup>1</sup>, Max Zarate-Bermudez <sup>1</sup>, Custodio Muianga <sup>1</sup>, Gregory M. Zarus <sup>1</sup>, Yulia Carroll <sup>1</sup>, April Ellis <sup>2</sup> and Candis M. Hunter <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 30341, USA

<sup>2</sup> College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, 830 1st St S, St. Petersburg, FL 3370, USA

\* Correspondence: qan7@cdc.gov

**Abstract:** Scientific studies of microplastics have expanded since 2015, propelling the topic to the forefront of scientific inquiry. Microplastics are ubiquitous in the environment and pose a potential risk to human health. The purpose of this review is to organize microplastics literature into areas of scientific research, summarize the state of the literature and identify the current data gaps in knowledge to promote a better understanding of human exposure to microplastics and their potential health effects. We searched for published literature from eight databases. Our search focused on three categories: (1) microplastics in the environment, (2) adsorption and absorption of chemicals to microplastics, and (3) human exposure to microplastics in the environment. We screened all abstracts to select articles that focused on microplastics. We then screened the remaining articles using criteria outlined in a questionnaire to identify and assign articles to the three scoping review categories. After screening abstracts, we selected 1186 articles (19%) to thoroughly assess their appropriateness for inclusion in the final review. Of the 1186 articles, 903 (76.1%) belonged to the environmental category, 268 (22.6%) to the adsorption and absorption category, and 16 (1.3%) to the human exposure category. Water was the most frequently studied environmental medium (440 articles). Our assessment resulted in 572 articles selected for the final review. Of the 572 publications, 268 (48.2%) included a geographic component and 110 (19.2%) were the product of literature reviews. We also show that relatively few publications have investigated human health effects associated with exposures to microplastics.



**Citation:** Casillas, G.; Hubbard, B.C.; Telfer, J.; Zarate-Bermudez, M.; Muianga, C.; Zarus, G.M.; Carroll, Y.; Ellis, A.; Hunter, C.M. Microplastics

**Keywords:** scoping review; microplastics; environmental concentration; literature review

Zarus et al. 2022 Review of Data for Quantifying Human Exposures to Micro and Nanoplastics and Potential Health Risks - PMC (nih.gov)

Casillas et al. 2023. Microplastics | Free Full-Text | Microplastics Scoping Review of Environmental and Human Exposure Data (mdpi.com)



# Microplastics in Human Specimens and Biomonitoring Data

- Preliminary results of ongoing systematic literature review (2014 – 4/2023)
- In total 9,017 human tissues and body fluids samples for MPs/NPs testing from 4,914 people
  - At least 656 women (~ 13.4%)
  - 21 infants (< 1.0%)
  - More than 30 cadavers (<1.0%)
- All the 30 studies reported human subject ethics review approvals for recruitment
- 50 plastic polymer type MPs/NPs\* were identified and quantified in human body
- Additional exposure parameters are needed to complete both internal dose and body burden calculations

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\*Microplastics (MPs) plastic particles ranging in size from 5 mm to 100 nm) and nanoplastics (NPs) plastic particles smaller than 100 nm.

# Systematic review on human exposure to microplastics in water and potential health effects

- Protocol registered [PROSPERO](#) (ID: CRD42021278806)
- Review of the 1990-2022 scientific literature, focus on:
  - Micro- and nano-plastics occurrence in freshwater sources, drinking water, and drinking water-based beverages
  - Scientific-technological advances to remove MPs/NPs from water systems
  - Routes of human exposures
  - Potential health effects, including lab-scale studies

# Systematic review on human exposure to microplastics in water and potential health effects

- Searched eight databases: 6,472 scientific publications
- Using Covidence we completed the following:
  - Screened 6,417 titles and abstracts, and
  - Reviewed 744 full texts
- Currently, completing data extraction from 253 publications
- Goal: publish and present findings

# Microplastics Systematic Evidence Mapping (SEM) Update (Gaston Casillas)

First iteration of the SEM with three interactive tables

- Categories and questions heat map
- References table
- Literature type percentage table

[Microplastics SEM | Tableau Public](#)

# Thank you!

## Contacts:

- Custodio Muianga ([buj1@cdc.gov](mailto:buj1@cdc.gov))
- Max Zarate-Bermudez ([mcz4@cdc.gov](mailto:mcz4@cdc.gov))
- Gaston Casillas ([qan7@cdc.gov](mailto:qan7@cdc.gov))



# NCEH/ATSDR Microplastic and Human Health Working Group

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- Yulia Carroll, MD, PhD
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- Max Zarate-Bermudez, PhD, MPH
- John Sarisky, MPH
- Gregory Zarus, MS
- Moiz Mumtaz, PhD, FATS
- Ryan Riley, MPH 2024 (SWEP student)

For more information, contact NCEH/ATSDR  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.





United States

**Consumer Product Safety Commission**

# Interagency Collaborations

Microplastics and nanoplastics

Joanna Matheson, Ph.D.  
Health Sciences Directorate

***Disclaimer:*** This presentation was prepared by CPSC Staff and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

# Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)



- Independent, federal regulatory agency; est. 1972
- Mission is to reduce unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products
- Jurisdiction includes thousands of consumer products (generally excluding cars, airplanes, food, medical devices, tobacco, and pesticides)



# National and International Collaborations

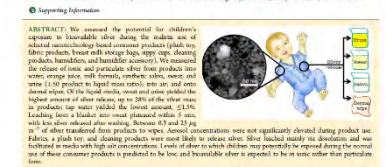
- DOD, EPA, FDA, NIOSH, NIST, NLM, NNCO, NSF
- NanoWIR<sup>2</sup>ES: NanoWire intelligent re-design and recycling for environmental safety; Safe Implementation of Innovative Nanoscience & Nanotechnology (SIINN) program
- Risk Assessment for Manufactured Nanoparticles Used in Consumer Products (RAMNUC); assessing inhalation exposure to airborne nanoparticles and their agglomerates from the use of sprays (*i.e.*, nano zinc and silver).



## Release of Silver from Nanotechnology-Based Consumer Products for Children

Maria E. Quade,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Raymond Perron,<sup>1V</sup> Nicole S. Talvi,<sup>2</sup> Robert Willis,<sup>2</sup> Kim Rogers,<sup>2</sup> Trey A. Thomas,<sup>2</sup> and Linsey C. Marr<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech, 415 Durham Hall, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, United States  
<sup>2</sup>National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 109  
TW Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, United States  
<sup>3</sup>United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, United States



**ABSTRACT:** We assessed the potential for children's exposure to bioavailable silver during the analysis, use, and disposal of selected nanotechnology-based consumer products (plastic toys, fabric products, house with energy glass, spray cans, cleaning products, handkerchiefs, and handkerchiefs). We measured the release of silver and particulate silver from products into water, orange juice, with formula, synthetic urine, sweat, and urine (100 product in liquid form only), and we also measured silver in the liquid media, sweat and urine added the highest amount of silver release, up to 20% of the silver mass in products; tap water yielded the lowest amount, 2.1%. Leaching from a liquid into sweat (plasma) was 5.1%, with tap water released after washing. Between 0.3 and 23 µg m<sup>-3</sup> of silver released from products in water. Released concentrations were not significantly elevated during product use. Fabric, a plastic toy, and cleaning products were most likely to release silver. Silver leached mainly via dissolution and was leached in media with high silver concentrations. Levels of silver in which silver may potentially be exposed during the normal use of these consumer products is predicted to be low, and bioavailable silver is expected to be in water rather than particulate form.

**INTRODUCTION** Silver nanoparticles (nanosilver) are known for their broad spectrum antimicrobial properties,<sup>1-3</sup> which have led to many applications in consumer products, such as disinfecting wipes, cosmetics, fabrics, and household appliances.<sup>4-7</sup> Such widespread use has led to concerns regarding exposure to silver associated with chronic health effects, such as organ<sup>8,9</sup> and the safety of nanosilver has not been established. Reported nanosilver has been shown to accumulate in various organs and to cause slight liver damage in rats.<sup>10</sup> Inhalation exposure

children's products based on risk assessment, rather than just

Although there have been studies of the toxic effects of silver nanoparticles and ions to human cells and the environment, a large gap in knowledge still exists concerning realistic human exposure estimates during the use of nanosilver consumer products. Previous studies have shown that silver leaches from consumer products into water,<sup>11-13</sup> but more information is needed to describe the release of silver in aqueous solutions representing real-world use. Questions remain about the effects

Characterization of silver nanoparticles in selected consumer products and its relevance for predicting children's potential exposures

Nicole S. Talvi<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Aleksandra R. Stofaniak<sup>3</sup>, Marina E. Vance<sup>3</sup>, Kim Rogers<sup>2</sup>, Samuel Miller<sup>2</sup>, Ryan J. Lehoucq<sup>2</sup>, Diane Schweiger-Derry<sup>2</sup>, Robert Willis<sup>2</sup>, Trey A. Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Linsey C. Marr<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC, United States  
<sup>2</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC, United States  
<sup>3</sup>U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Research Triangle Park, NC, United States  
\*Correspondence: nicole.talvi@epa.gov (N. Talvi)

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**ARTICLE INFO**

**ABSTRACT**

The silver nanoparticles (nanosilver), silver ions, and silver compounds (Ag<sup>+</sup>) are used in consumer products intended for use by children or in the home. Children may be especially vulnerable to the release of silver from these products because of their developing immune system, immature organ systems, and their behavior. To assess the potential for children's exposure to silver from consumer products, we characterized the release of silver from 100 consumer products (plastic toys, fabric products, house with energy glass, spray cans, cleaning products, handkerchiefs, and handkerchiefs) into water, orange juice, with formula, synthetic urine, sweat, and urine (100 product in liquid form only), and we also measured silver in the liquid media, sweat and urine added the highest amount of silver release, up to 20% of the silver mass in products; tap water yielded the lowest amount, 2.1%. Leaching from a liquid into sweat (plasma) was 5.1%, with tap water released after washing. Between 0.3 and 23 µg m<sup>-3</sup> of silver released from products in water. Released concentrations were not significantly elevated during product use. Fabric, a plastic toy, and cleaning products were most likely to release silver. Silver leached mainly via dissolution and was leached in media with high silver concentrations. Levels of silver in which silver may potentially be exposed during the normal use of these consumer products is predicted to be low, and bioavailable silver is expected to be in water rather than particulate form.

Published by Elsevier GmbH.

**Introduction**

Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) are the most common nanomaterial based in consumer products because of their antimicrobial, antifungal, antiviral, and antibacterial properties. They are reportedly being used in many different types of consumer products intended for use by children and/or in the home, including baby bottles, clothing, health aids, handkerchiefs, cleaning agents and coatings, and cleaning products (Crisco et al., 2010; Kistner et al., 2009; Norstrom

et al., 2005; Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies, 2014; Jost et al., 2005; Wijnhoven et al., 2005; Wei et al., 2008; Yoon et al., 2005). Because there are different types of consumer products, children's exposure to silver nanoparticles may vary. It is important to understand their release from products, their potential for environmental exposure, and their potential for human exposure. Previous studies have reported the release of AgNPs from consumer products tested in the residential environment to be higher than those reported in the laboratory (Crisco et al., 2010; Kistner et al., 2009; Norstrom et al., 2005; Wijnhoven et al., 2005; Wei et al., 2008; Yoon et al., 2005). It is important that among 13 products selected for testing, silver nanoparticles and silver compounds were most likely to release silver, resulting in the potential for human exposure.

Most studies reported in the literature have focused on release to the environment and ecological effects (Wijnhoven et al., 2005; Yoon et al., 2005).

Most studies reported in the literature have focused on release to the environment and ecological effects (Wijnhoven et al., 2005; Yoon et al., 2005).

# Collaborations: Methods, Exposures



- NIOSH and Harvard: Laser printer-emitted engineered nanoparticles.
  - Effects of laser printer-emitted nanoparticles on cytotoxicity, chemokine expression, reactive oxygen species, DNA methylation, and DNA damage: a comprehensive *in vitro* analysis in human small airway epithelial cells, macrophages, and lymphoblasts.
- NIST: Method development and modification for appropriateness in evaluating nanomaterials presence and toxicity.



Progress report - Year 1:  
"Physicochemical, morphological and  
toxicological characterization of printer  
emitted particles (PEPs)"

September 23, 2013

Exposure Assessment of Carbon Nanotubes in Sports Equipment  
Report of Analysis for the CPSC-NIST Interagency Agreement # CPSC-1-08-0005; Mod#3  
May 15, 2012

Performed by:  
Keana Scott, NIST  
Christopher Marvel, SURF Student, Lehigh University  
Stephen Stranich, NIST  
John Henry Scott, NIST  
Andrew Hertzog, NIST

Submitted by:  
Keana Scott  
Microanalysis Research Group  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
100 Bureau Drive, MS-8372  
Gaithersburg, MD 20899  
(201) 975-4579  
[keana.scott@nist.gov](mailto:keana.scott@nist.gov)





# 3D Printing

- CPSC Report on Emerging Consumer Products
- Overview of potential emerging consumer products and technologies
- Technological and societal trends likely to influence consumer goods market
- Potential consumer safety issues and opportunities for enhancing product safety



## Staff Report

Potential Hazards Associated with Emerging  
and Future Technologies

January 18, 2017

The views expressed in this report are those of the CPSC staff, and they have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

# Exposure and Potential Health Risks

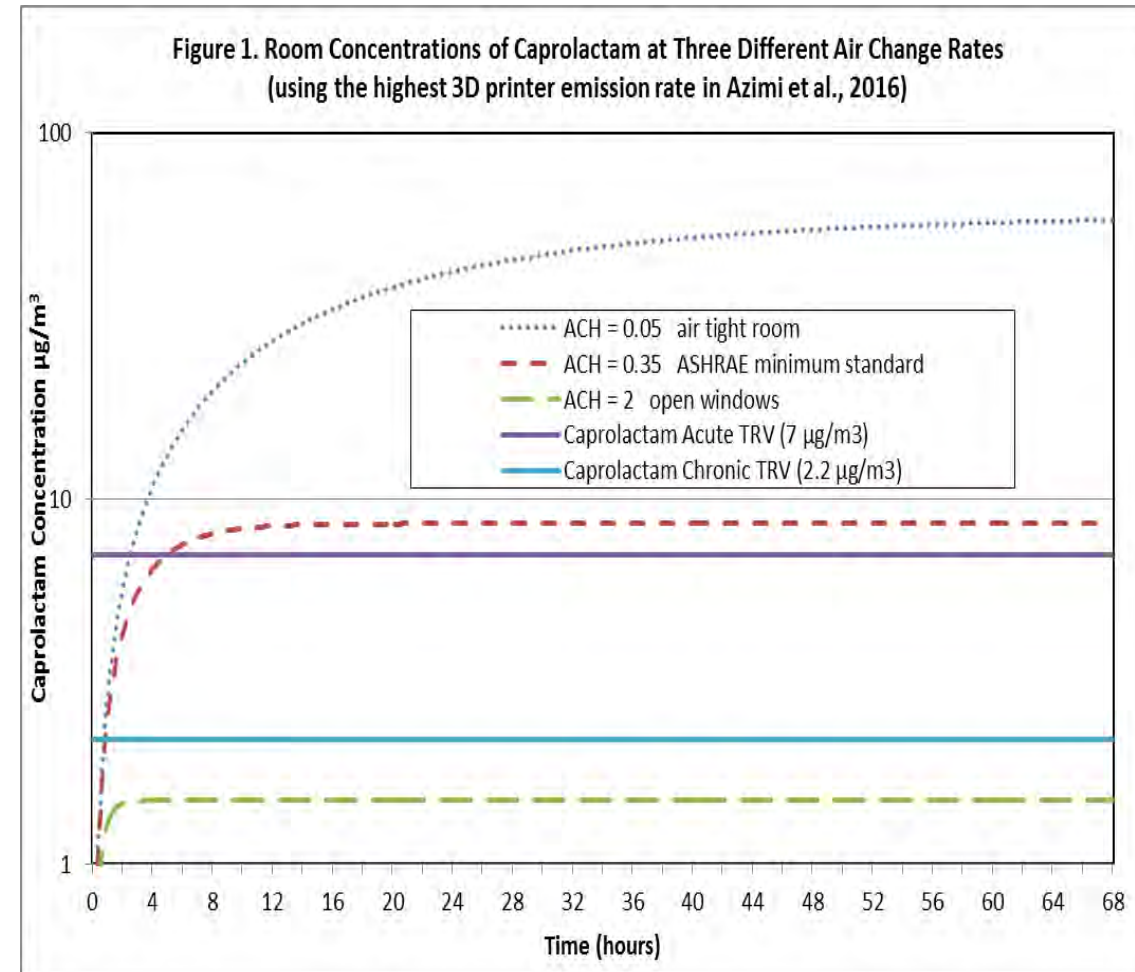


- Consumer at-home use of 3D printing is increasing rapidly and expected to reach USD 30 billion by 2022.
  - Adult hobbyists and home-based manufacturers account for most home use; some are marketed for use by children.
- Broad range of filaments available (e.g., acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, high impact polystyrene, polylactic acid, thermoplastic elastomer, nylon)
- Consumers can make their own filaments
- Nanomaterials (CNTs) may be used in these filaments

# Preliminary Risk Estimate from 3D Printer Emissions



- Volume =  $18.1 \text{ m}^3$  with variable air change rates (ACH, 0.05, 0.35, and  $2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ).
- VOC emission rates were used to estimate room VOC concentrations in a one-zone model evaluated at time intervals from 0.1 to 68 hours.
- Continuous printing for 68H
- No VOCs entering the room with dilution air
- No reactive decay of VOCs, and no VOC sinks.



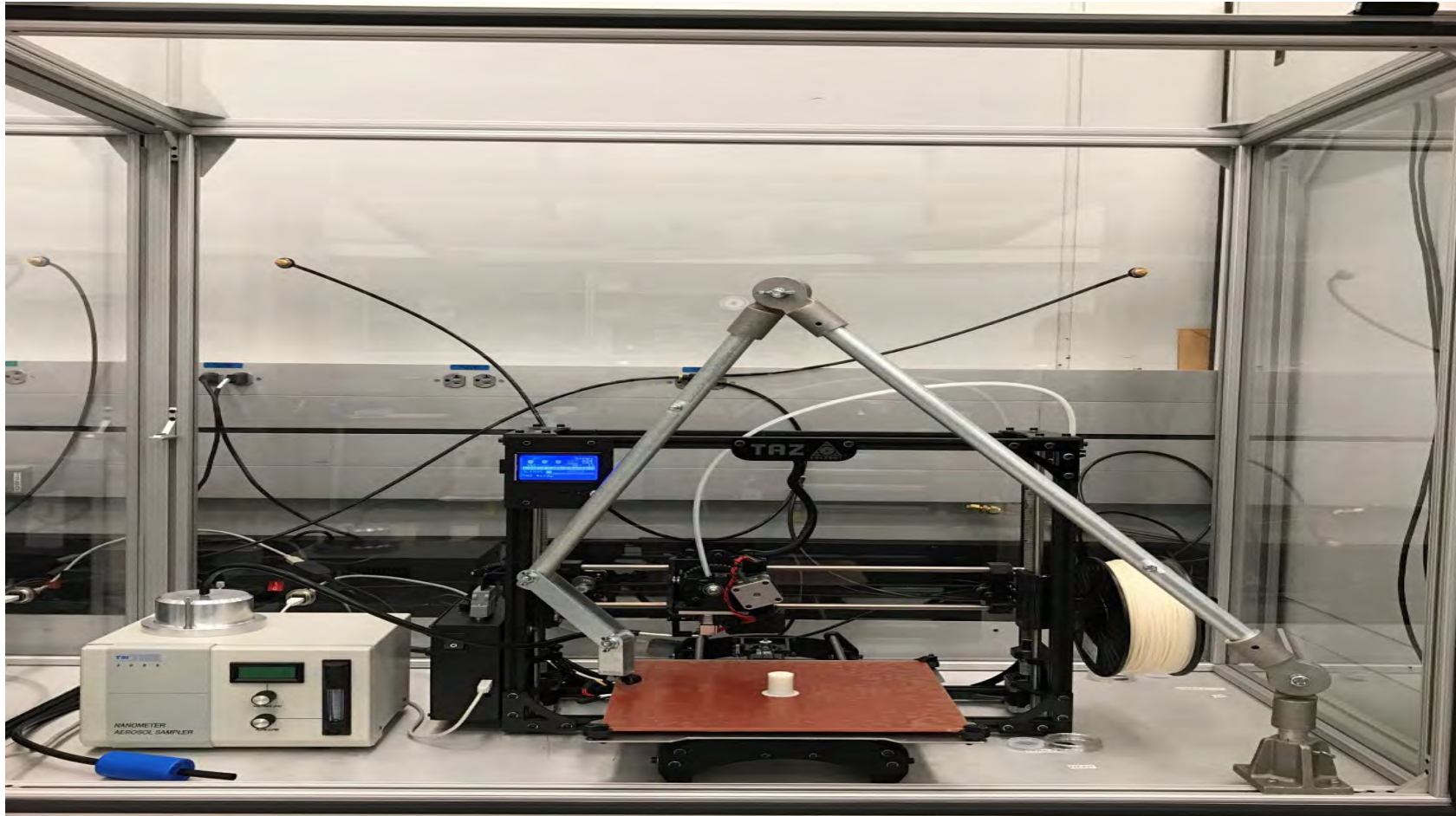
# EPA: Method Development - Elemental Composition and Concentrations

- High-pressure, high-temperature method was identified as the most robust technique for inorganic element extraction
- ABS, PLA, blends, metal thermoplastics
- Elements linked to production processes or desired properties of the filaments





# NIST: Effects of 3D Printing Parameters on Particulate Release During 3D Printing

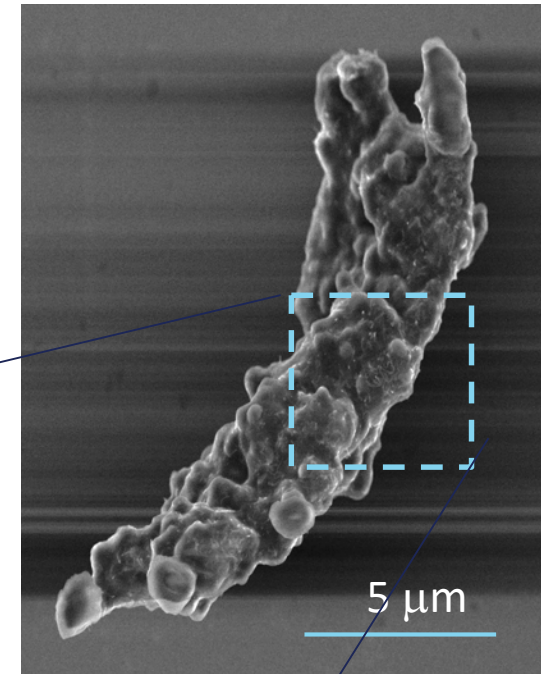
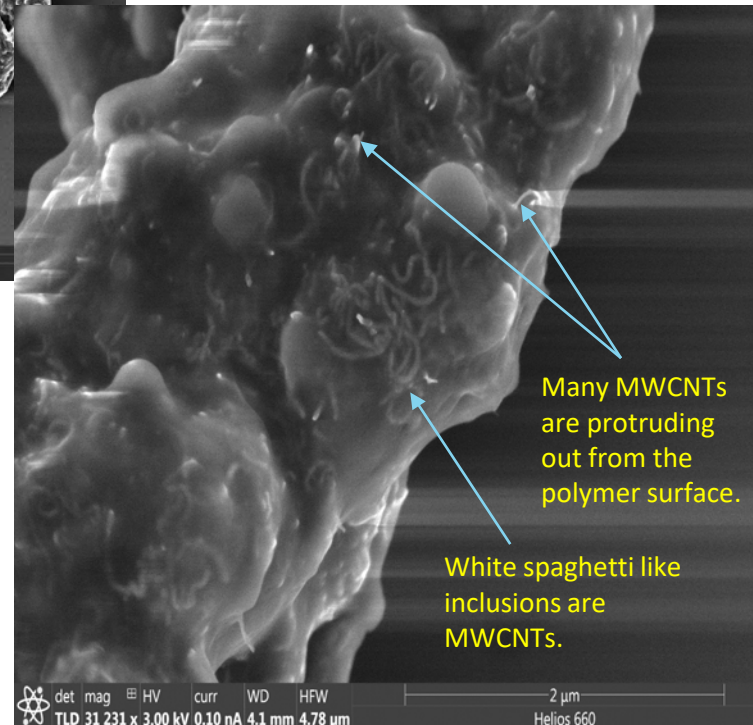
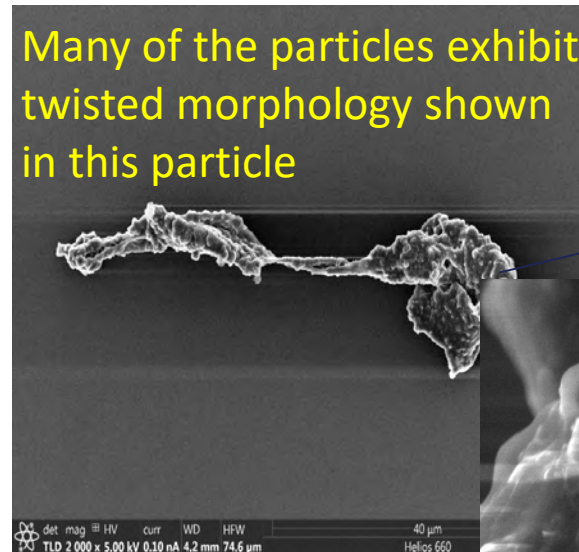


- Adjustable sampling port positions
- Electrostatic precipitator-based particle collection
- Carbon nanotube ABS filament



# NIST: Effects of 3D Printing Parameters on Particulate Release During 3D Printing

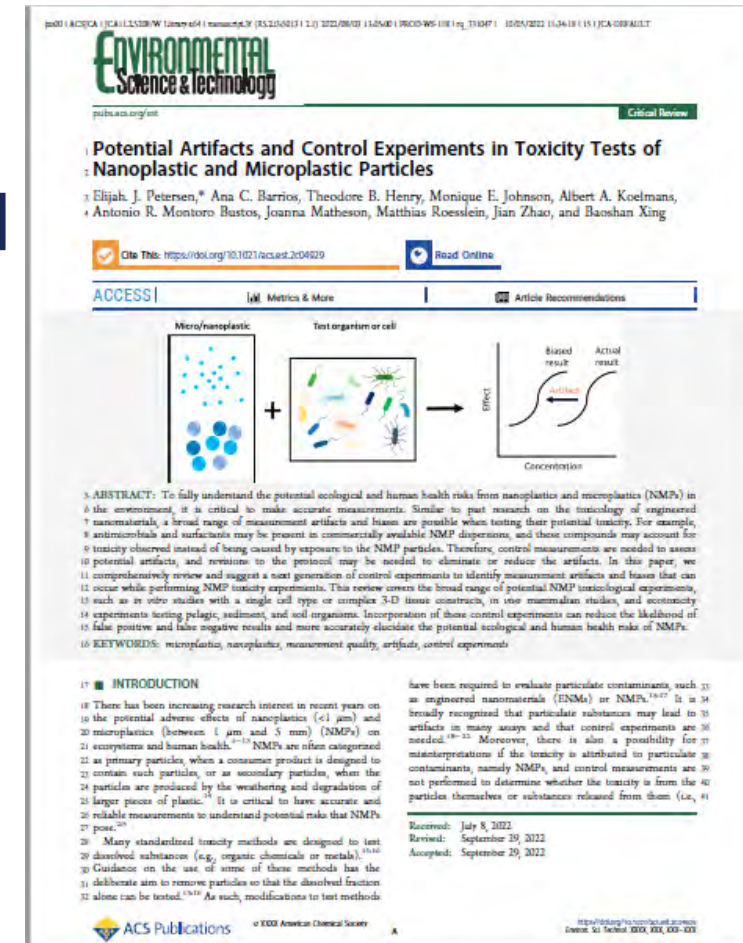
- Evaluated polymeric (ABS) and nano-composite (ABS + MWCNT) systems
- Embedded MWCNTs detected, free CNTs not detected
- Fractional factorial design employed to assess released particle exposure
- Proximity and filament type resulted in the biggest differences



# NIST: Potential Artifacts and Biases and Need for Control Experiments

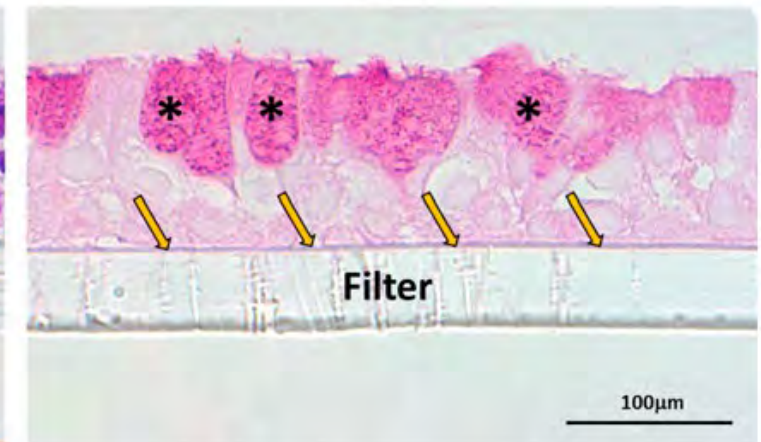
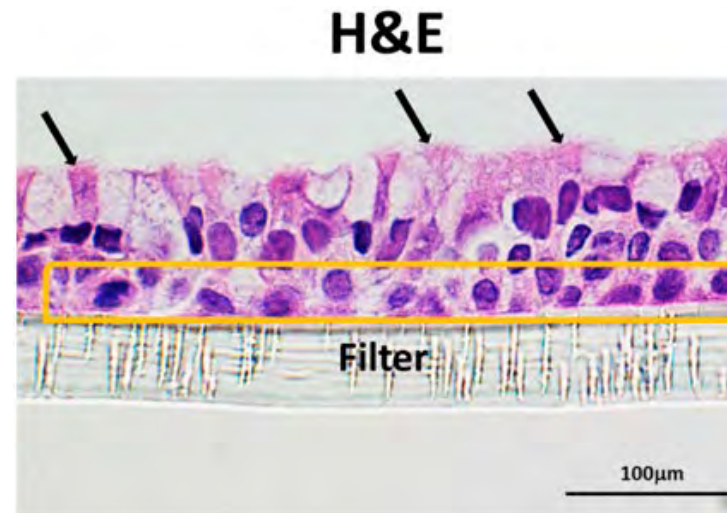


- Antimicrobials and surfactants may be present in commercially available nano- and microplastic dispersions
- Sample handling, testing (dosimetry, bioavailability, agglomeration, nutrient depletion)



# NIOSH: Characterization and Toxicity Assessment

- ABS, PLA and polycarbonate filaments
- CNS, neuroendocrine, pulmonary, and cardiovascular responses
- Engineering controls





# Continuing Collaboration Work



- EPA:
  - Characterize products and/or waste materials created from the FDM printing process; determine whether the polymeric content present would be classified as microplastics or nanoplastic particles
  - Identify and quantify environmentally persistent free radicals
- Assess hazards such as released microplastic and nanoplastic particulates released during the use of 3D printed toys (NIST).
- NIOSH:
  - Under different exposure conditions, determine the biodistribution of filament emissions and assess microvascular, nervous system, hepatic, and asthmatic responses.
  - Identify effective engineering controls and risk mitigation strategies.

# Thank you!



CPSC.gov     USCPSC



# NNI PUBLIC WEBINAR: OVERVIEW OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ADDRESSING MICRO- AND NANOPLASTICS ISSUES

SESSION 1: RESEARCH AGENCIES (MAY 22, 2023)  
SESSION 2: REGULATORY/COLLABORATIONS (JUNE 6, 2023)

## THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

SEE [HTTPS://WWW.NANO.GOV/PUBLICWEBINARS](https://www.nano.gov/publicwebinars) FOR SLIDE DECKS

- MAY 22 POSTED NOW; VIDEO ARCHIVE COMING
- JUNE 6 (TODAY) WILL BE POSTED SOON

STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONAL WEBINARS ON THIS TOPIC



# PLEASE ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO REFRESHING THE NNI'S ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, AND SAFETY RESEARCH STRATEGY

SEE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.REGULATIONS.GOV/DOCUMENT/OSTP-POLICY-2023-0005-0001](https://www.regulations.gov/document/OSTP-POLICY-2023-0005-0001)

(DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 16)

