

# Getting It Done Together: Consideration of Communities of Nanotechnology Research Practice

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# Maximizing Collaboration on a Minimal Budget



**Communities of Practice** are formed by people who engage in a **process of collective learning** in a **shared domain** of human endeavor.

### Three Elements

**Domain:** Communities of practice are groups of people who **share a concern or a passion** for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.



**Community:** Members of a community of practice do **not** necessarily work together on a **daily** basis.

The Impressionists, for instance, used to meet in cafes and studios to discuss the style of painting they were inventing together. These interactions were essential to making them a community of practice even though they often painted alone.



**Practice:** Members of a community of practice are **practitioners**. They develop a shared repertoire of resources: experiences, stories, tools, ways of addressing recurring problems—in short a shared practice.



# Communities of Nanotechnology Research Practice

- Is it a good idea?
- Is now the time?
- How should we do it?
  - Research themes?
  - Process?
  - Management?

## Task-based

- Database organization
- Compendium of EU/US/global standards
- Nanotox methods manual (IANH/NIEHS/ICEINT/NCL)
- etc...

## Conceptual

- Dose metrics
- Unique properties
- Exposure assessment
- etc...