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

-or-

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...