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Materials Science & Technology

Aging and Transformations of Nanoparticles Relevant to Product Use

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Nanomaterials safer by design



- Correlate specific ENP properties to their aging, transformation, and behavior
- Classify nanomaterials according to their impacts

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### Expected Impacts

- Protocols for ENP synthesis, characterization, and safety assessment
- Relate specific characteristics to impacts
- Predictive ENP risk assessment according to biological and environmental impacts
- Provide guidance for future safer design

### Nanomaterials safer by design





- Work Package: Life Cycle Evolution of ENP
  - Aging nanomaterials; study transformations relevant to product use
  - Provide aged particles to other consortium members to compare toxicological effects to pristine materials

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  - Aging nanomaterials in air (Ag, CeO)



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- CEA (Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique), France
  - Aging nanomaterials in air (Ag, CeO)
- University of Birmingham, UK
  - Develop specialized particles for aging tests
  - Aging nanomaterials in water (ZnO, CeO)



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### Work at Empa:

- Aging nanomaterials in water; study transformation(s) relevant to product use
- 1. Provide literature review of ENP aging: determine relevant particle transformation(s) and where gaps in knowledge exist
- 2. Conduct experiments of ENP aging processes
- 3. Determine which properties make particles more similar or more varied after aging
- 4. Age consortium particles to determine varied toxicity compared to pristine counterparts

### **Present Aging/Transformation Studies**



#### D. Mitrano

### **Present Aging/Transformation Studies**



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### Particle Aging/Transformations



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### Nanomaterial Distribution in Products



D. Mitrano, based on Sun et al 2014

### Nanomaterial Distribution in Products



### Ag Release and Transformation after Laundering Fabrics



Fragments (polymer / coating)

Nowack et al. 2013

### Comparison of NP and Traditional Ag after Release



### **Traditional Ag Additives**



Ag salts: AgCl, AgCl on TiO<sub>2</sub> carrier Ag ion exchange: AgZeolite Metallic Ag: Ag threads

### Comparison of NP and Traditional Ag after Release



### **Transformation Increases Similarity**



### Conclusions

 Aged and/or product released NP will have different qualities than pristine ENP

Product use dictates relevant aging/transformation

Multiple, subsequent transformation possible and likely

 "Traditional" additives to textiles, etc. may also release nano-sized materials

# **QUESTIONS?**