Implications and Drivers: Fate of Nanoparticles in the Atmosphere

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Today’s theme: It’s the littlest things that are the most important!
Some Key Questions

1. How can/should nanomaterials be characterized physically, chemically and biologically?
   - What techniques and tools exist, can be modified, or need to be developed for detecting and predicting the hazards of engineered materials?
   - What constitutes a nanoparticle of concern?
     - Engineered? Manufactured? Ultrafine?
     - Carbon, metals, ….?

2. What is the extent of exposure to the stressor for humans and ecosystems? …. acceptable level of uncertainty of the exposure estimates?
   - How should we approach nanomaterials exposures in human populations?

3. Are the exposure concentrations higher or lower than the risk level for the contaminant?

4. What physical and chemical properties and processes determine the environmental fate, release, and transport of engineered nanomaterials?
General Research Objectives

• Determine important physical/chemical/biological properties and processes that may impact exposure.
  – Exposure is likely to be affected by physical and chemical properties that control nanomaterial movement through air, soil, and aquatic ecosystems, and that influence the biological/environmental interface.

• Identification of system parameters that alter the surface characteristics of nanomaterials resulting in their aggregation, chemical reactivity and chemically or biologically mediated electron transfer.
  – Provide the basis for prioritizing potential human exposure and ecosystem exposure pathways that warrant further exploration.
  – Adapt approaches to identify and measure manufactured nanomaterials that may contaminate environmental media.
  – These methods may include electron microscopy, field flow fractionation, chromatography, and bioanalytical methods.
Nano Measurement and Modeling Needs

• Highly varied.

• Emerging sciences:
  – Surface characteristics
  – New concepts for partitioning and other behaviors
  – Definition of nanomaterials (e.g. six nanoparticles of concern
    1. Cerium oxide
    2. TiO₂
    3. Carbon?
  – Modification of existing approaches needed (at least sometimes)

• Food chain (next) might be a good integrating framework for nanomaterials:
  – Plus, it allows HEASD to be a “player” in an ecosystem program (if that is how things remain)
Possible Framework to Link Human and Exposure Analysis for a Nanoparticle (Mangis et al.)

Environmental Measurements & Modeling

Deposition to aquatic ecosystem

$M^0, M^{2+} \rightarrow M-C_xH_y$ Speciation
Possible Framework to Link Human and Exposure Analysis for a Nanoparticle

Deposition to aquatic ecosystem

M⁰, M²⁺ → M-CₓHᵧ Speciation

Food Chain Uptake

Ecosystem function & structure
Possible Framework to Link Human and Exposure Analysis for a Nanoparticle

- Atmospheric emissions
  Natural: Forest fires, volcanoes
  Industrial: Power plants

- Deposition to aquatic ecosystem

- Ground water transport
  Natural & industrial sources

- Speciation

Population Diet
Uncertainties:
- Amounts consumed
- Fish species consumed
- Fish preparation etc.

Regional Economy
Uncertainties:
- Local vs. imported fish
- Pricing and availability
- Processing, storage etc.

Temporal Variability
Uncertainties:
- Intra-annual
- Inter-annual
- Fish species
  - Fish maturation
  - Fish size etc.

Activity and Function Measurements & Modeling
Environmental Measurements & Modeling

Ecosystem function & structure

Ground water transport
Natural & industrial sources

Food Chain Uptake

M₀, M²⁺ → M-CₓHᵧ
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Dietary Ingestion

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Food Chain Uptake

Absorption, Distribution
Metabolism, Elimination and
Toxicity (ADMET) Modeling
Uncertainties:
• Age, gender, lifestyle differences
• Physiological variability
• Physicochemical and biochemical variabilities
  • Health status, activities
  • Pregnancy/nursing
  • Genetic susceptibilities

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Dietary Ingestion

Target Tissue Dose
Brain
Kidney
Breast milk
Fetus / fetal brain

Ecosystem function & structure

Toxicity/Adverse Effect
Neurological
Renal
Cardiovascular
[Genomic / Cytomic]
LOOKING BACK: RECONSTRUCTION

Atmospheric emissions
Natural: Forest fires, volcanoes
Industrial: Power plants

Deposition to aquatic ecosystem

M\(^0\), M\(^2+\) → M-C\(_x\)H\(_y\)

Speciation

Ground water transport
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Food Chain Uptake

Ecosystem function & structure

Activity and Function
Measurements & Modeling

Biomarkers & Eco-
Indicators

Environmental
Measurements & Modeling
Specific Nano-Air Research

1. Airborne nano characterization
2. Atmospheric simulation chamber
3. Human exposures?
4. Atmospheric dispersion
Uncertainty Example: Unexpected Chemical Results

• TiO$_2$ in water (1 mg/mL) -- Fails to form suspension

• TiO$_2$ in DMSO (1 mg/mL) -- Forms milky suspension
  – Not very toxic per unit mass $EC_{50} = 1594$ ppm

• After 5 min sonication
  – Toxicity/unit mass increases $EC_{50} = 48.2$ ppm

• After 30 min sonication
  – Toxicity/unit mass significantly increases $EC_{50} = 0.0047$ ppm

• UV exposure also increases toxicity
What is going on here?

- Ultrasound irradiation of TiO₂ in aqueous solution resulted in significant generation of hydroxyl radicals and DMSO was a radical scavenging agent.

- TiO₂ photocatalyzes the breakdown of DMSO in water to form Sulfinic, Sulfonic and Sulfuric Acids.
  - Mori et al. Talanta 70 (2006) 169

\[
\begin{align*}
(CH_3)_2SO + \cdot OH & \rightarrow CH_3S(O)OH + \cdot CH_3 \\
CH_3S(O)OH + \cdot OH & \rightarrow CH_3S(O)(OH)_2 + O_2 \rightarrow CH_3S(O)_2OH + HO_2 \\
CH_3S(O)_2OH + \cdot OH & \rightarrow H_2SO_4 + \cdot CH_3
\end{align*}
\]
Chemistry
Important if true?

• Unexpected synergistic effects
  – TiO₂ not particularly toxic
  – DMSO nontoxic
    + Energy Very toxic

Characterize/Report
  UV effects
  Radical effects
  Toxicity effects

Other Chemical candidates
Unexpected Biological Results

Rapid screening assay based on Thamnocephalus

Rather than showing typical toxic response (inhibition of indicator bead uptake)

Organisms concentrate C-70 in digestive track
Biology: Important if true?

- Unexpected mechanism for bioaccumulation
  - Possible exposure pathway

- Characterize observations
  - Long-term toxic effects
  - Reproductive effects
  - Fullerenes in the digestive track
    - Composition (LC/MS)
    - Aggregation (thin section TEM)
Participants and Collaborations

- HEASD-LV
  - Kim Rogers
  - Manomita Patra (NRC post-doc)

- UNLV
  - Dave Hatchett Associate Professor, Chemistry Dept, UNLV

- ERD Athens
  - Dermont Bouchard
  - Cissy Ma (post-doc)

- EERD Cincinnati
  - Jim Lazorchak
  - Helen Poynton (ORIS post-doc)
Nano Bioanalysis

• Quantum Dots (QD): Semiconductor Nanostructures
• Unique physiochemical properties due to combination of core composition and quantum-size confinement
• QD Core - a metal and semiconductor particle, smaller than its Bohr radius (1-5 nm)
• QD Shell – hydrophobic but can be functionalized to increase water solubility and biological activity/compatibility
• Cd and Se known to cause acute and chronic toxicities
• QDs can be conjugated with bioactive moieties (e.g., antibodies, site specific gene and drug delivery)
• QD toxicity depends upon size, charge, shell materials, coatings, and conc.
• Size makes QDs easily transportable through human body (e.g., burrowing)
• 2012 global market estimate for NMs is $1 trillion
• 1 million workers in US
Characterization: The NanoDot

- Properties of QDs make them useful but hazardous
- Occupational and non-occupational exposures are not known
- Fate/transport and exposure pathways are not known
Quantum dots can be conjugated to various affinity ligands (e.g., peptide, antibody, inhibitor, etc) for microarray and immunoassay methods.

Which, if any of these functional groups is important to air?
Characterization of Nanomaterials

- Properties that are relevant to the potential toxicity and transformation and fate of nanomaterials in the environment include:
  1. particle size
  2. morphology
  3. surface area
  4. chemical composition
  5. tendency to aggregate.

- High-resolution microscopy is a critical tool in characterizing these properties.
Objectives for the Atmospheric Chamber Study

1. Explore how different types of nanomaterials could potentially interact with simulated atmosphere mixtures (organic/inorganic gases and aerosols)

2. Examine how atmospheric interactions affect structure and/or chemistry of nanoparticles, which may influence their health effects and ultimate environmental fate
Broader questions that need to be answered:

1. How does the presence of engineered NPs alter aerosol production and gas-phase chemistry in the atmosphere?

2. How do atmospheric interactions affect size, structure, chemistry of NPs, and how do these properties affect transport, fate, and potential toxicity of NPs?

3. What properties are most relevant to the transport, fate, and toxicity of NPs in air, and how can we best measure them?
Atmospheric Characterization Research

Some specific research questions:

1. Is NP aggregation a consequence of how NPs are sampled? What method of sampling (e.g., active vs. passive) best preserves the natural state of aggregation in the environment?

2. How do engineered NPs change (size, shape, composition) with age in the atmosphere? To what extent do aged NPs attach to natural airborne particles in the atmosphere such as coarse-mode dust (crustal and urban) and diesel soot?

3. Can size, shape, and elemental composition be used to distinguish engineered NPs from natural airborne particles?
Comprehensive Research Is Possible

- Two environmentally relevant NMs (TiO2 and CeO2)
- Can combine chamber experiments with sampling methods development and physicochemical characterization to address the research questions.
  - (ICP-MS, combined with
    - High-resolution microscopy)
Smog Chamber Capabilities

• Generate simulated atmospheric mixtures consisting of gas- and particle-phase photochemical products from the irradiation of one or more parent hydrocarbons

• Maintain consistent chemical composition for periods of up to several days

• Deliver up to 20 L min\(^{-1}\) of effluent to auxiliary exposure chamber for nanomaterial experiments

• Monitor changes in the chemistry of the simulated mixtures (hydrocarbon, ozone, NO\(_x\), SO\(_2\) concentrations) using existing monitoring equipment
Overview: Titanium Dioxide

- Photocatalytic compound activated by UV irradiation of 360 nm or less

\[ \text{TiO}_2 + \text{UV}_{\lambda<360 \text{ nm}} \rightarrow \text{TiO}_2 + h^+ + e^- \]

\[ \text{R-OH}^\text{(s)} + h^+ \rightarrow \text{R}^\text{(s)} + \text{OH}^\cdot(\text{ads}) \]

\[ \text{O}_2(\text{ads}) + e^- \rightarrow \text{O}_2^-(\text{ads}) \]

- Usually consists of ~ 30 nm particles coated on supporting materials

- Used for self-cleaning outdoor surfaces

- Tested for NOx abatement
Relevance of Titanium Dioxide to Atmospheric Chemistry

- Uptake and conversion of NOx compounds to NO$_3^-$
- Uptake and oxidation (often complete oxidation) of many types of VOCs in single-component experiments
- Oxidation of surface-deposited non-volatile organics, including oils and soot (sometimes with release of volatile products)
Outstanding Issues: Titanium Dioxide

- Competitive uptake and reaction of VOCs under atmospheric conditions (multiple compounds, variable humidity)

  Formation of air toxics (particularly formaldehyde, acetaldehyde)

  Formation of condensable products or SOA precursors

- Wash-out of surface-bound reaction products (nitric acid, organic compounds)

- Reaction of other atmospheric species (SO$_2$, NH$_3$)
Proposed Experiments: Cerium Oxide

- Inject exhaust from undoped or cerium oxide-doped Diesel fuel into photochemical reaction chamber
- Measure chemical composition of gas-phase and particle-phase exhaust components
- Irradiate mixture and monitor secondary gas-phase chemistry and SOA formation
- Analyze fate of cerium oxide particles from the doped fuel samples
- Data to be provided to AMD, OTAQ, NERML
Proposed Experiments: Titanium Dioxide

- Auxiliary irradiation chamber added to main photochemical reaction chamber
- Immobilized titanium dioxide samples to be exposed to HC, NOx, and/or photochemical reaction products (gases and SOA)
- Monitor changes in gas-phase chemical composition
- Analyze liquid extracts of titanium dioxide samples for surface-bound intermediates and products
A few words about human PBTK modeling

• **A worthy goal:** Provide data and exposure-dose models on the human health and environmental effects of nanomaterials exposure

• **A possible approach:** Scenario-based exposure-to-dose models allow for the integration of biologically relevant data independent of the data source.
Overall Schema

Environmental exposure model

PBPK/PD model

Nano-materials database

in vivo & in vitro experiments

In silico

Computational modeling

improved understanding of mechanism/mode of action of nano-materials
improved uncertainties in risk assessments (multicomponent mixtures)
confirmatory experiments
Human/Eco Reconstruction Problem: Unbiased Measures of Nanomaterial Characteristics

- Size
- Shape/geometry
- Charge
- Reactivity
- Purity
- Electronic and photonic properties
- Composition
- Functionalization
- Agglomeration state
- Manufacturing process
- Assembly
- Allowed diversity
Nanoparticle Respiratory Deposition Modeling

• Where do the particles distribute in the respiratory tract?
  – in the naso-pharyngeal, tracheo-bronchial and alveolar regions?

• Can we anticipate deposition through modeling?
  – CIIT’s MPPD model (Hamner)
  – Coupled to Current PBPK infrastructure (ERDEM)

• Can we improve on these models?
  – Predict surface property effects
  – Predict particle morphology effects
  – Formulate better understanding of respiratory deposition / absorption and clearance
Nanoparticle Respiratory Deposition Modeling

Supports both human and Eco (e.g. sentinel species) fate and transport

- Both ICRP and MPPD model can express fractional deposition and clearance as a function of particle size (mean surface area) but not discrete morphologies densities and surface modifications
- **We can** introduce these adjustable parameters!
Nanoparticle Circulatory Deposition Modeling

- Where do the particles distribute in the circulatory system / reticuloendothelial system and can we model this?
- Can we improve on our understanding of circulatory distribution of nanoparticles?

http://radio.weblogs.com/0105910/images/nanoparticles.jpg
FROM EXPOSURE TO INTERNAL DOSE

Hypothetical toxicokinetics of nanoparticles

- Nanoparticles
  - Brain
  - Nose
  - Lung
  - Skin
  - Gut
  - Blood
    - Spleen
    - Endothelium
    - Liver
    - Heart
    - Atherogenic plaques

From Presentation: Toxicological/Health Effects
Lang Tran, Institute of Occupational Medicine
http://www.uc.edu/NOEHS/conference_program.asp
Computational Tools

• Because they are based on organismal biology, these computational models can use experimental data produced from virtually any level of biological investigation, from the molecular dynamic interactions to whole organism responses to exposure. Thus, they can:

  ✓ tie to exposure reconstruction

  ✓ link human and ecosystem biomonitoring.
Thus, the implications are….

- Atmosphere needs more attention from the nano research community.
- Exposure is a good platform to study nanoparticles, including our characterization and chamber capabilities.
- Measurements will support models and vice versa.
- There is a good chance that in the next year we can begin to provide useful information to OTAQ, OAQPS and other air clients.
**Case Study:** Investigate the potential effects of nanoparticulate CeO$_2$ diesel fuel additive on the spatial and temporal distributions of various atmospheric pollutants and deposition loadings.
Fate and Transport of Engineered Nanomaterials in the Atmosphere

Case Study: Investigate the potential effects of nanoparticulate CeO₂ diesel fuel additive on the spatial and temporal distributions of various atmospheric pollutants and deposition loadings.

Sample Available Data Overview: Additized Diesel Emissions

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<th>PM</th>
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Data Needs: Emissions (particle size distribution, particle number concentration, particle morphology, co-pollutant concentrations); Fuel consumption; CeO₂ characteristics (emissions rates, deposition rates, chemical reactivity, solubility)

- Expected Impact: Characterize source-to-ambient step for NM in the exposure-research framework; Guide the prioritization of future resources targeted at characterizing atmospheric NM properties
Caveat!

- These projects (which includes fuel characterization, chamber studies, and methods and filters analyses) are contingent upon FY 09 funds
  - None received to date....
Disclaimer

Although this work was reviewed by EPA and approved for presentation, but does not necessarily reflect U.S. EPA policy.
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