

**Session Type:** 90-Minute Symposium

**Number:** 090-090

**Title:** Nanofood for Healthier Living?

**Session Start/End Time:** Monday, Feb 16, 2009, 9:15 AM -10:45 AM

**Hotel:**

**Room:** HRC Grand B

**Admission Policy**

**Synopsis:** In a 2008 article titled “The Silent Tsunami,” The Economist notes that “food prices are causing misery and strife around the world. Radical solutions are needed.” Could nanofood be the answer? Will nanofood spark the next industrial revolution? The advent of nanotechnologies has brought enormous new prospects to a wide range of industrial sectors. At the same time, these pioneering processes, materials, and applications have raised fresh concerns over their safety to human health and the environment. Particularly sensitive areas of application include medicine, personal care products, agriculture and food, as well as those applications that involve the deliberate large-scale release of nanoparticles into the environment, such as water treatment and remediation of polluted soils. The proposed symposium will focus on state-of-the-knowledge studies of nanotechnology applications for the food sector, identify current knowledge gaps, and suggest possible ways forward. Experts from the United States and European Union will discuss the potential benefits and risks of the new technology and consider strategies on how to communicate them to the public without jeopardizing the wider benefits of the new technology to society. The session also addresses the apparent global absence of a nano-specific regulation and will establish whether risks from the new technological developments will be adequately covered under the existing risk assessment and regulatory paradigms.

**Organized by:**

Aidan Gilligan, European Commission, Joint Research Center, Brussels, Belgium

**Presentations:**

Symposium Organizer--**Aidan Gilligan**, European Commission, Joint Research Center, Brussels, Belgium

Moderator--**Elke Anklam**, European Commission, Joint Research Center, Ispra, Italy

Nanotechnology for Food Applications: Where Are We and What Are Consumers’ Concerns?--**Qasim Chaudhry**, Central Science Laboratory, York, United Kingdom

Nanofood: How To Assess Risks of a Nutritional Miracle--**Hermann Stamm**, European Commission, Joint Research Center, Ispra, Italy

Regulatory Frameworks for Nanotechnology Applications in Food: Are They Adequate?--**Thane S. Thurmond**, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, College Park, MD