

**[1] A dialogue-based public engagement program builds nonexperts' confidence to participate in nanotech policy;**

**[2] A parallel program on fuel cell & hydrogen technology produces insights about challenges in the nanotech program.**



APRIL 2007: dialogue of experts and participants in the SCCSN

### THE SCCSN MODEL:

1. Experts who are comfortable speaking with nonexperts.
2. Package of readable articles gives participants background and confidence to express concerns and ask questions.
3. Numerous procedures, formal & informal, for participants to question the experts and express their concerns.
4. Small size to create friendly, intimate atmosphere.
5. Revisions to incorporate participants' suggestions.

### Thus the SCCSN is:

- more intimate than a mini medical school;
- more formal than a science café;
- with its background readings, it provides more depth of content than the other two forms.

**QUESTION:** can the SCCSN model serve another scientific topic besides nanotech?

**EXPERIMENT:** The Citizens' School on Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Technology (CSFC&HT), February-March 2007.

**RESULT:** yes, but it also yielded three insights for the nanotech program.



### THREE LESSONS:

COMPARED WITH FUEL CELL & HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY,

1. Nanotech seems unfocused;
2. Nanotech seems to have an unlimited number of technical procedures;
3. Nanotech's connection to economic prosperity is less obvious.

### REFERENCES:

- TOUMEY, C., REYNOLDS, J.R. & AGGELOPOULOU, A. 2006 Dialogue on Nanotech: The South Carolina Citizens' School of Nanotechnology, *J. of Business Chemistry*, 3(3):3-8.
- TOUMEY, C. 2006 National Discourses on Democratizing Nanotechnology. *Quaderni*, Autumn 2006, 61:81-101.
- TOUMEY, C. 2006 Science and Democracy. *Nature Nanotechnology*, 1(1):6-7.