

## Statement by NanoJury UK Oversight Panel

NanoJury UK has brought together 15 randomly-chosen people from different backgrounds in a particular region of the UK, to hear evidence about a wide range of possible futures, and the role that nanotechnologies might play in them.

The jury has sought to provide a vehicle for people's views on nanotechnologies to have an impact on policy. It has allowed a dialogue between people with diverse perspectives and interests, and created a democratic space in which citizens can examine the hopes, aspirations, assumptions and fears of those working to develop and regulate nanotechnologies.

Over five weeks, the jurors met for two evenings a week, with a total of 10 sessions in all. After an introduction to technology issues in general, and nanotechnologies in particular, they began witness sessions. They heard from a variety of witnesses, including scientists, civil society representatives, and government advisers. Jurors questioned and debated with witnesses and each other. The jury then deliberated and drew up a set of recommendations, which is attached.

The jury's oversight panel, chosen to represent a wide range of perspectives and experience both on nanotechnologies and on deliberative processes, worked to ensure the fairness and competence of the process. The panel met three times. It worked with a specialist science advisory panel, to source scientific opinion on the issues, and with the PEALS facilitation team to draw up and present information about nanotechnologies. The oversight panel also assisted in the selection of witnesses, and subsequently answered questions from the jurors about nanotechnologies and the regulatory and economic context for their development. However, it did not have ultimate control over the design or conduct of the process, which was the responsibility of PEALS, Greenpeace and the Cambridge Nanoscience IRC.

Innovatively for a process of this kind, the jury on nanotechnology had been preceded by the same jurors considering an issue that they had chosen as being relevant to the local area – young people, exclusion and crime. By giving jurors an opportunity to speak out on a subject of urgent concern to them, prior to considering the new issue of nanotechnologies, a more two-way dialogue was created than is usually the case.

The jury's preliminary findings are below. The jurors have expressed a wish, which we endorse, that these recommendations should not be interpreted as a definitive statement on what would count as 'socially acceptable' nanotechnology, but as the beginning of a process of citizen-led deliberations on the issue. The jurors recognize that definitive conclusions are difficult when so many questions about the technology – including, even, questions of definition - remain open. Both the jurors and the oversight panel members stressed that mutually respectful processes of dialogue will have a vital role in the societal (including scientific) learning and institutional behaviour necessary to develop nanotechnologies responsibly in the coming years.

Oversight panel, September 2005

Members of the Panel:

Rebecca Willis, Green Alliance (chair)

Mark Welland/Robert Doubleday, Cambridge University Nanoscience Centre

Doug Parr, Greenpeace

Tom Wakeford/ Jaz Singh, PEALS, University of Newcastle

Simon Rogers / Ian Sample, The Guardian

Adrian Butt, Department of Trade and Industry/Office of Science and Technology

Monica Winstanley, BBSRC

Richard Jones, University of Sheffield

Nick Pidgeon/Tee Rogers-Hayden, University of East Anglia

Jim Thomas, ETC Group

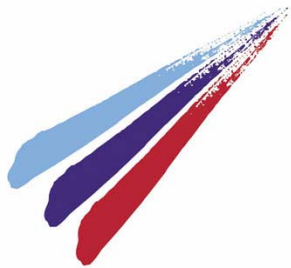
Paul Atherton, Nanoventures

Hugh Robertson/, TUC

The NanoJury project is an initiative of:



*The***Guardian**



Policy  
Ethics  
And  
Life  
Sciences

IRC in Nanotechnology  
University of Cambridge