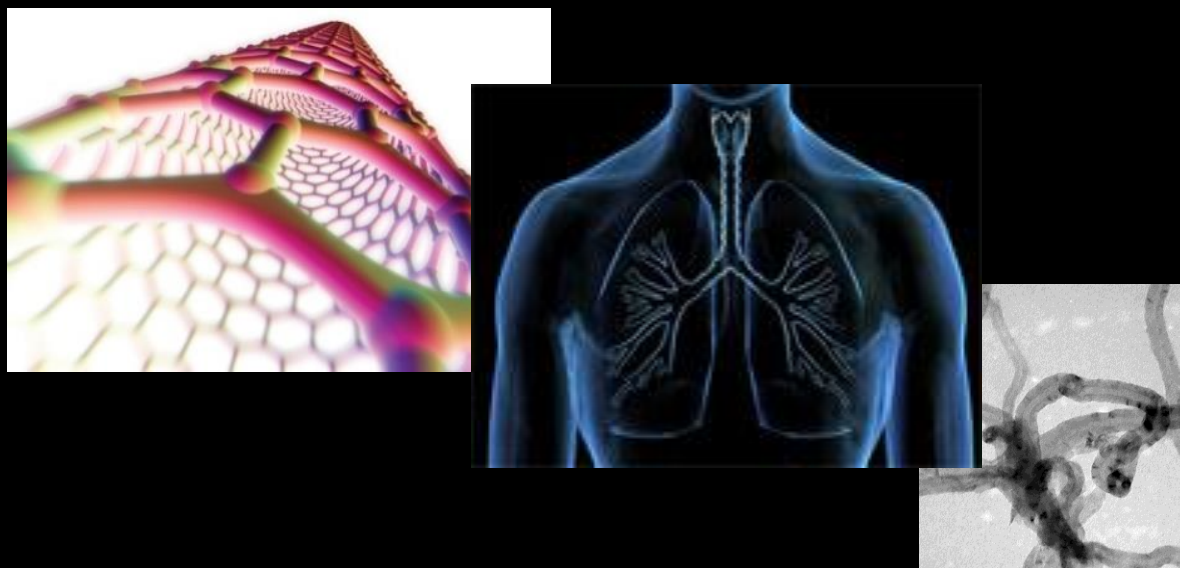


# Workshop: Design of an In Vitro Testing Strategy to Assess the Inhalation Toxicity of Nanomaterials



## ***In Vitro* Assays for Predicting Chronic Lung Diseases Induced by Nanomaterial Exposure**

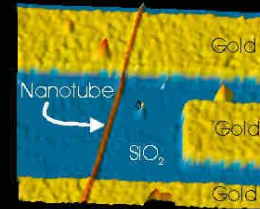
James Bonner, PhD

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

February 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Washington D.C.

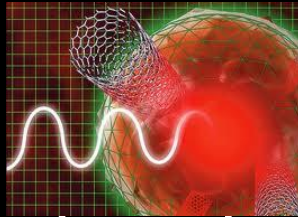
# The Rise of Nanotechnology

- Nanoscale electronics & Energy



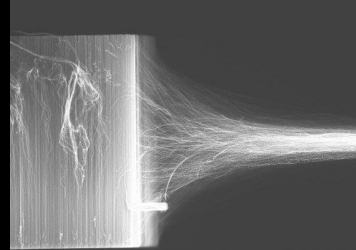
Nanotube field effect transistor

- Medicine



Cancer Therapeutics

- Tissue Engineering



Artificial muscle

- Light-weight, super-strong material

Bike Frame



Air Frame

- Future Applications



Space elevator



Artificial muscle suit



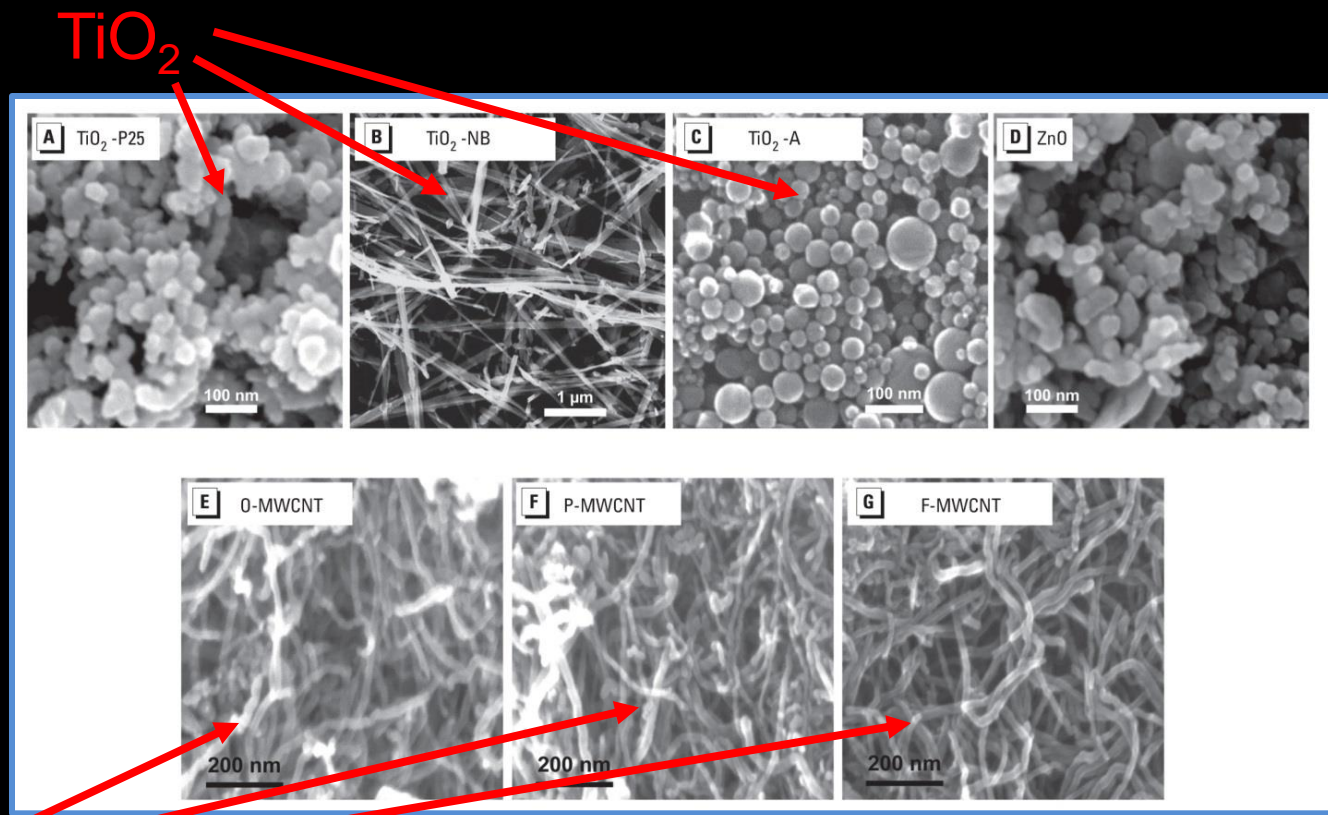
Military Apps

# The Need to Refine, Reduce, Replace (3R's) *In Vivo* Testing of Engineered Nanomaterials (ENMs)

- 1) The number and variety of ENMs is rapidly growing with many different functionalizations of any one type of nanomaterial.
- 2) Ethical considerations and high costs of standard 2 year rodent bioassays limits the number of ENMs that can be tested for chronic diseases.
- 3) Rodent models are of limited value for some chronic diseases (e.g., mesothelioma), possibly due to relatively short life span (~2 years).

# A Rapidly Increasing Number and Variety of Engineered Nanomaterials (ENMs)

ENMs of the same chemical composition can be designed with different physico-chemical characteristics: (e.g., shape, size, charge, solubility).

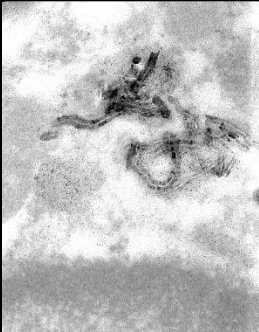
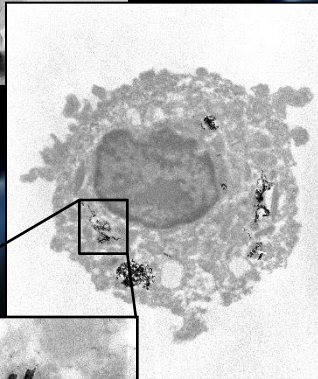
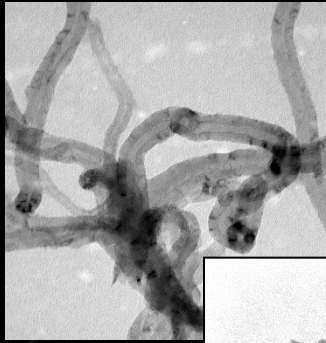


CNTs

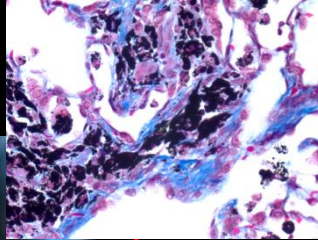
Xia et al., 2013, Environ Health Perspect, 121:683.  
Bonner et al., 2013, Environ Health Perspect, 121: 676.



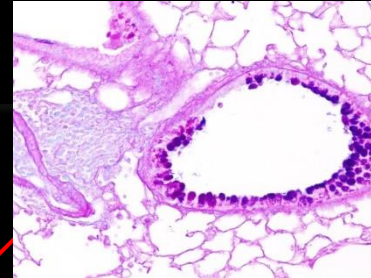
# Chronic Diseases and Nanomaterials



**Fibrosis**



**Asthma**



**Cancer**



**Systemic Effects**

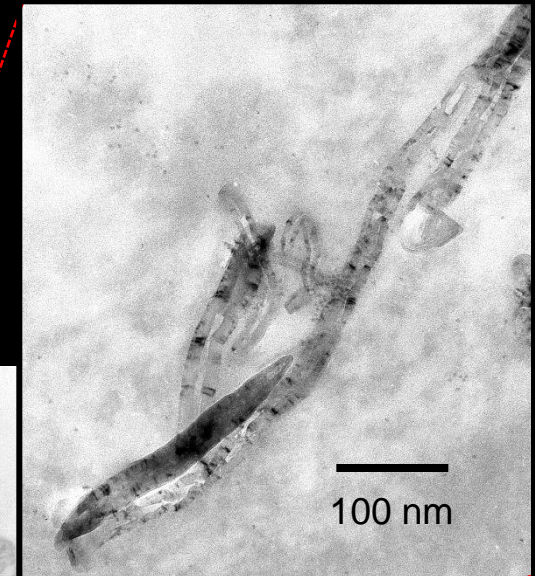
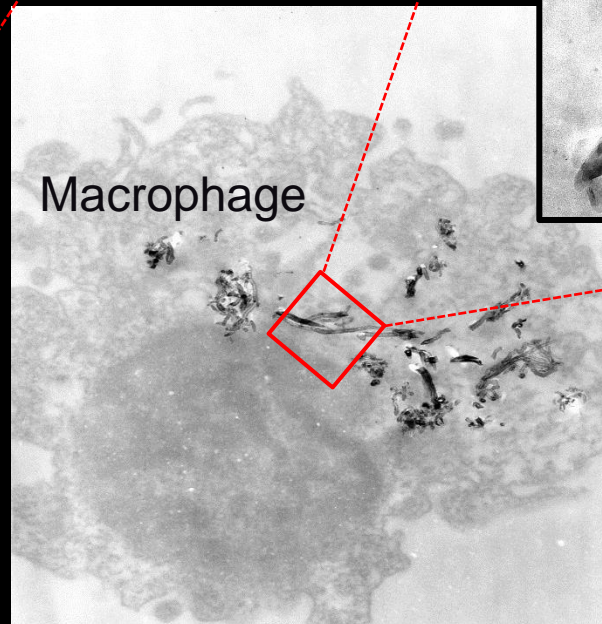
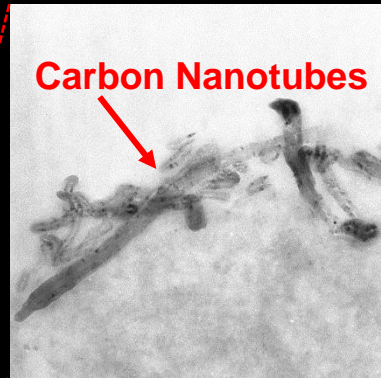
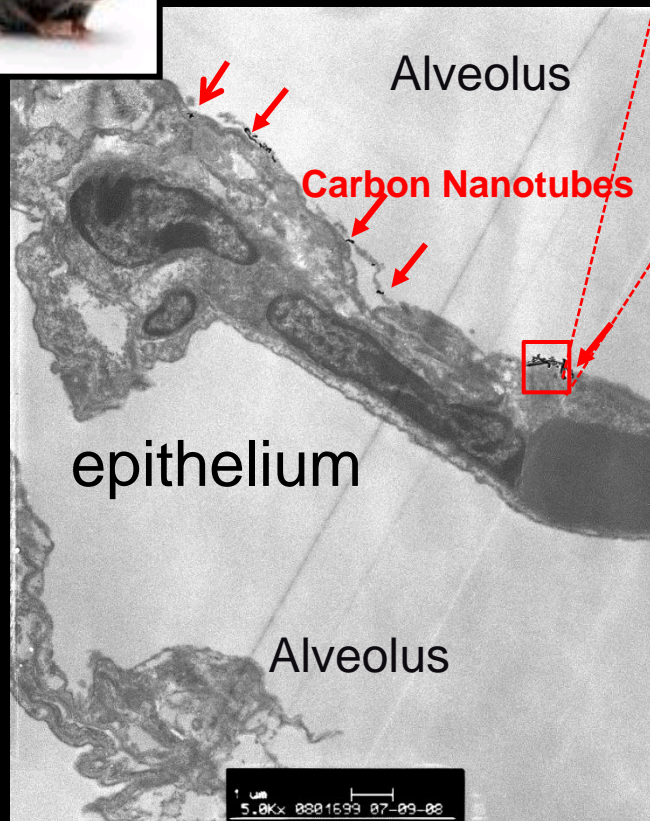
- Heart
- Spleen
- Liver
- Lymphatics

# Particle Deposition Site Determines Local Injury...

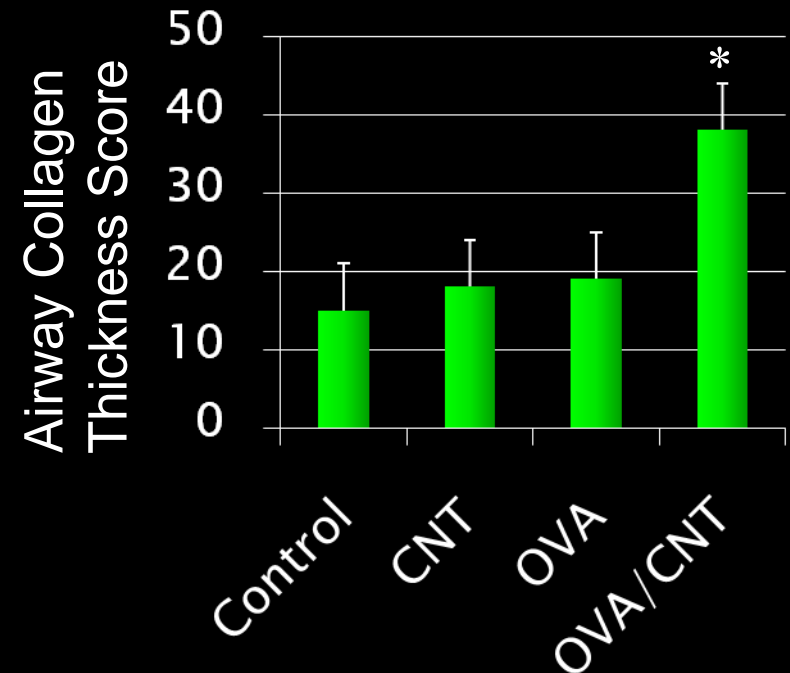
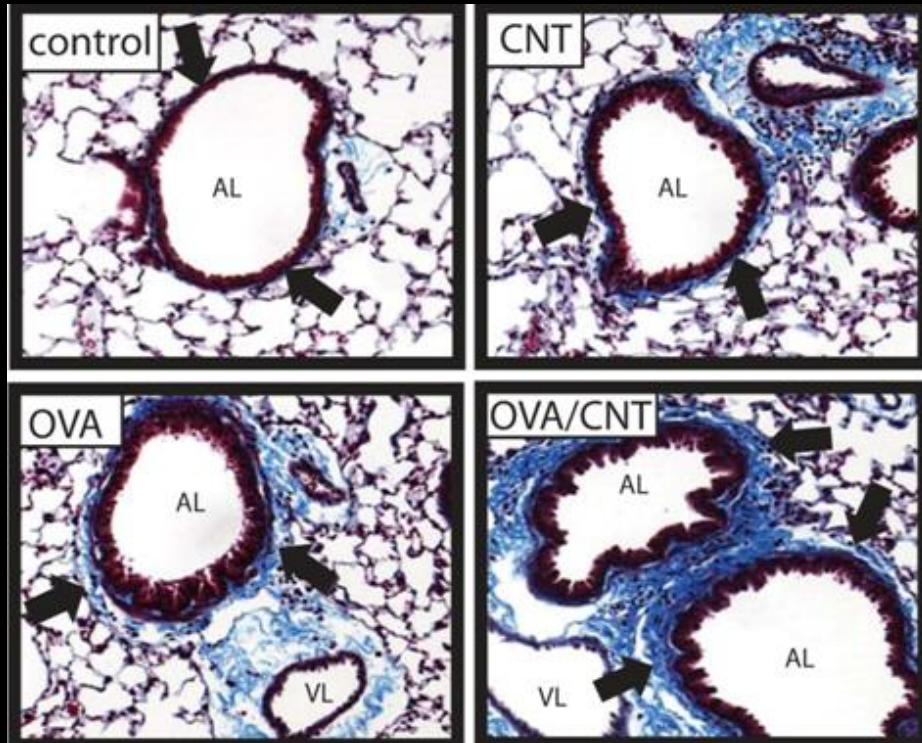
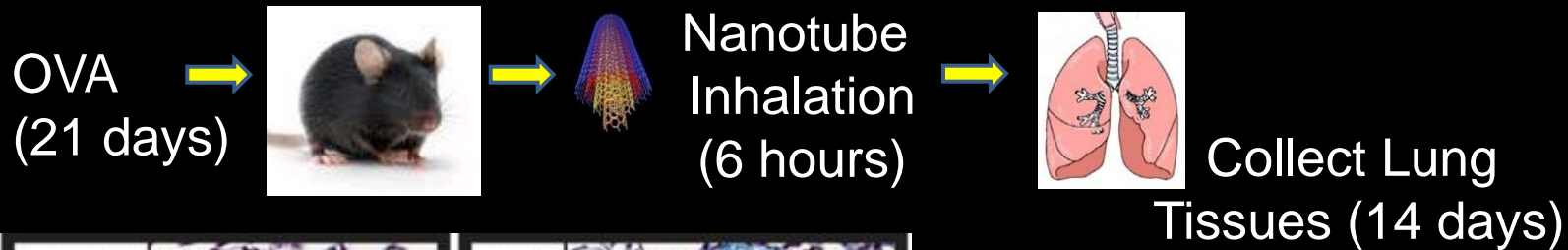




# ...And Nanoparticle Deposition Site Determines Local Lung Injury and Disease

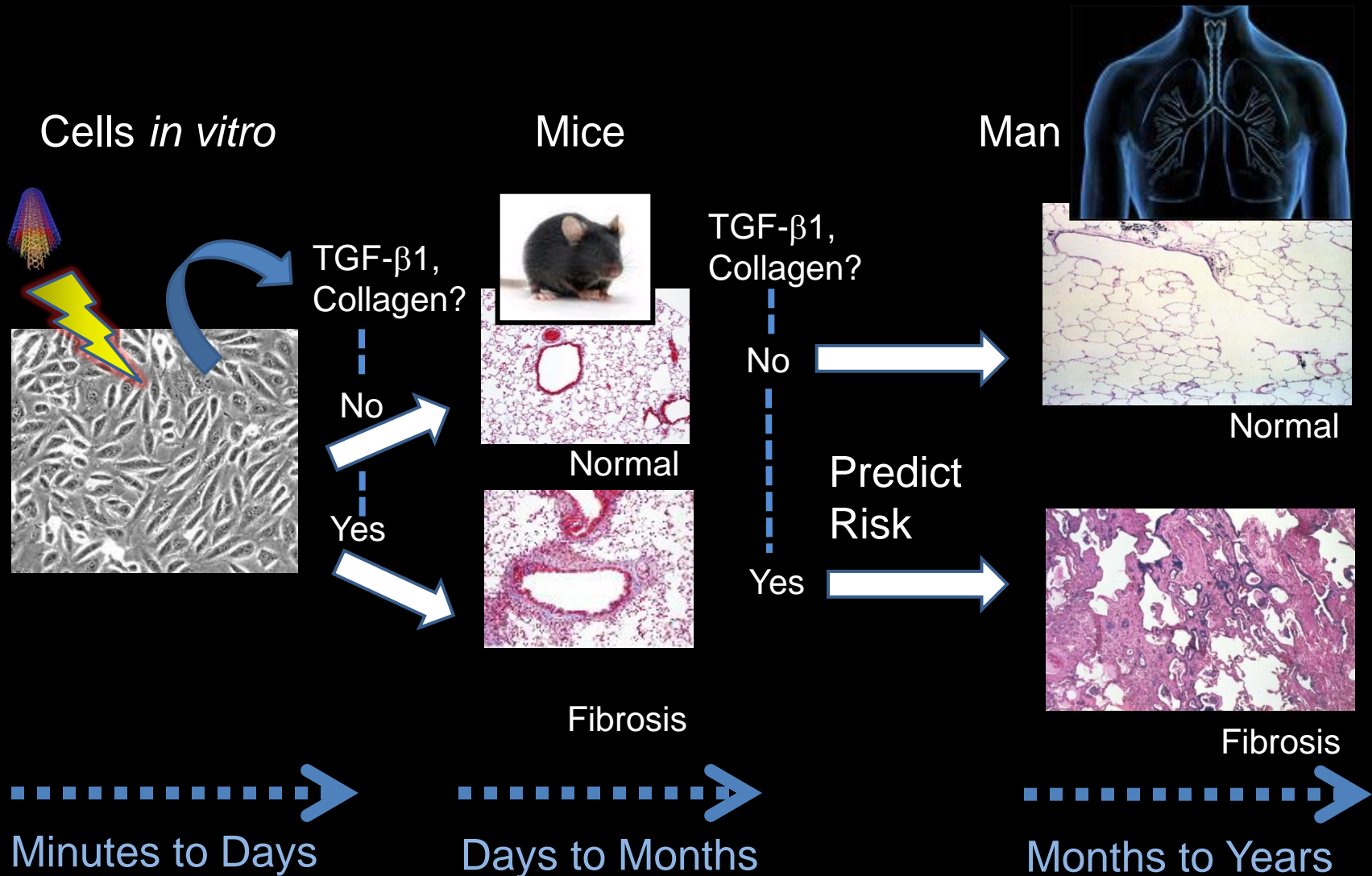


# Susceptibility is a Major Determinant of Disease Initiation and Progression after Nanoparticle Exposure





# *In Vitro* to Mouse to Man: Can We Eliminate the Middle-Man (-Mouse)?



# A Missing Gap in Information...



....is the ability to reliably predict *in vivo* outcomes with *in vitro* tests.

# **Alternative *In vitro* tests are not yet available to reliably predict some adverse health effects**

Repeated dose toxicity (problems related to long term, repeated exposure).

Toxicokinetics (the penetration into, fate within and elimination from the body of a toxic substance, including its absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion).

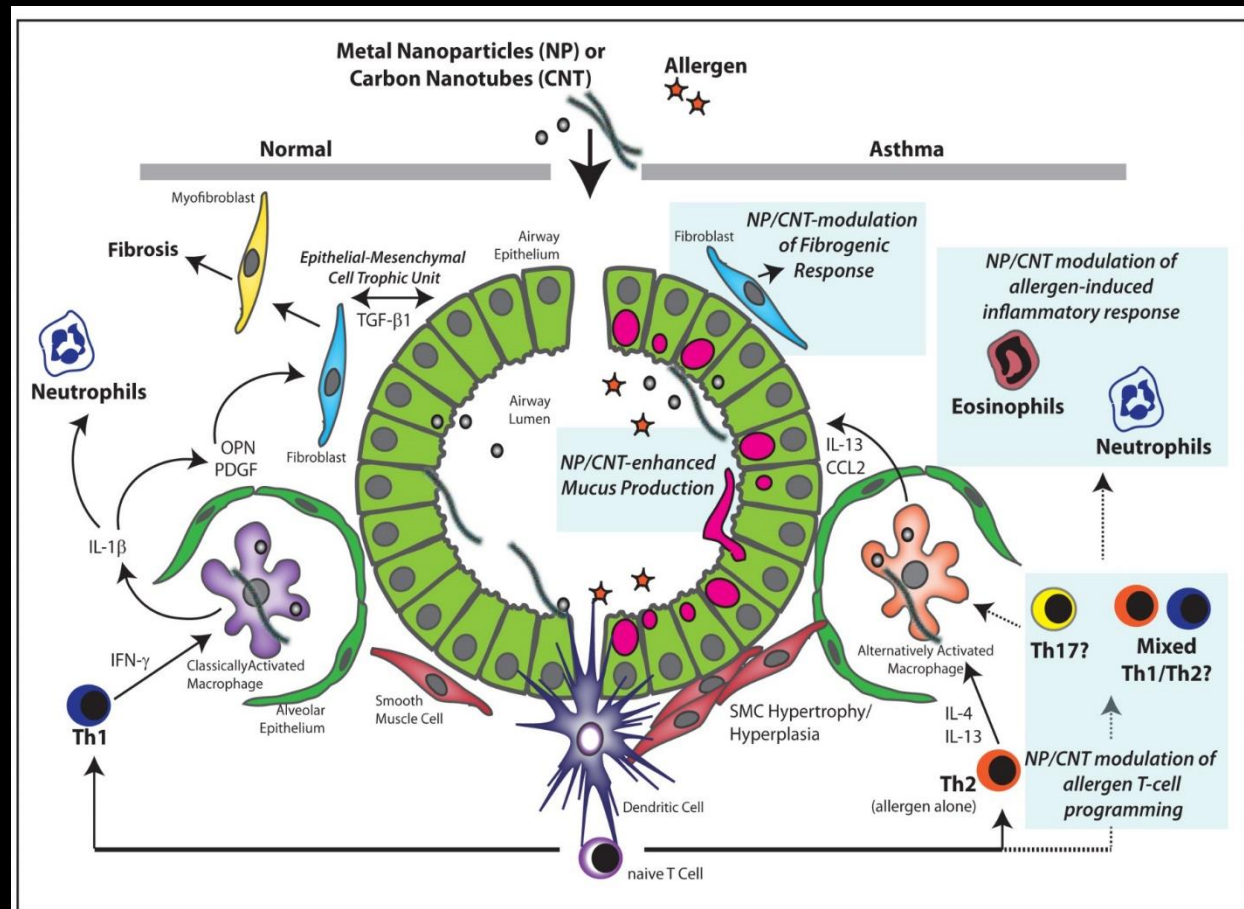
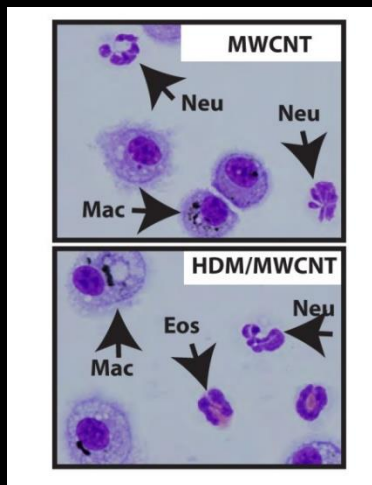
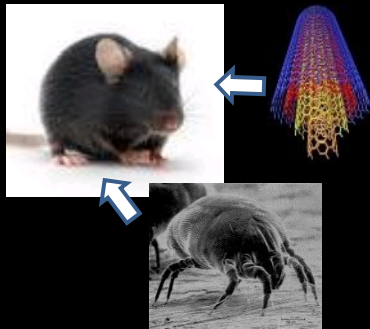
Carcinogenicity (the ability of substances to cause cancer).

Immune sensitization (the toxicological impact associated with chemicals that have the intrinsic ability to cause allergy).



# Challenges to Overcome in Complex Scenarios

While *in vitro* modeling of some diseases (e.g., lung fibrosis) is within reach, modeling of more complex immune diseases (e.g., asthma) or interaction of other factors (e.g. allergens) represents major challenges.



# The Challenge of Predicting Nanomaterial Toxicity using Alternative Testing Strategies (ATS)

“For ethical and many other reasons, it is also not practical to test all [nanomaterials] to which human beings might be exposed in whole animal studies.”

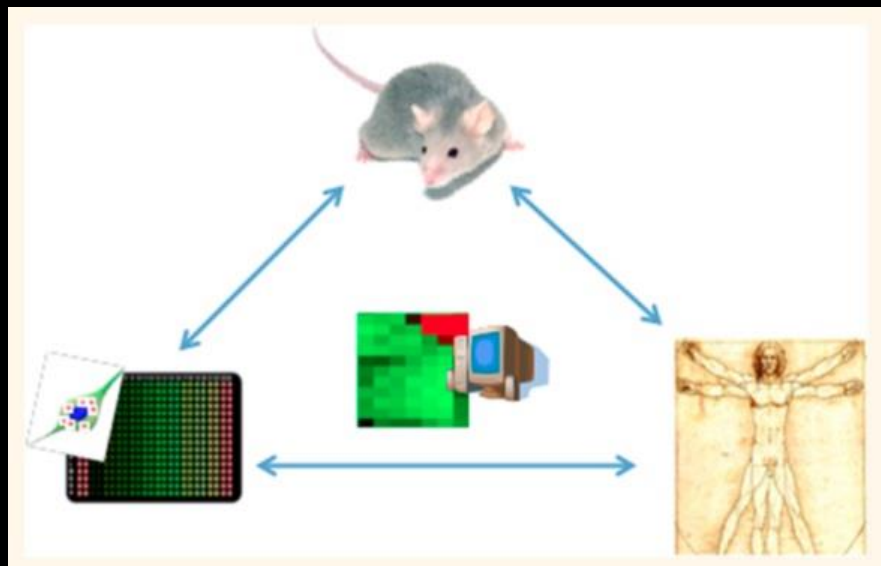
Epithelium

“The use of ATS to investigate engineered nanomaterial (ENM) hazard and prioritize ENMs for additional toxicity testing, risk assessment and product development are generally accepted goals. However, the use of ATS in lieu of *in vivo* testing for regulatory risk assessment or management purposes is not yet at the level of general acceptance.”<sup>1</sup>

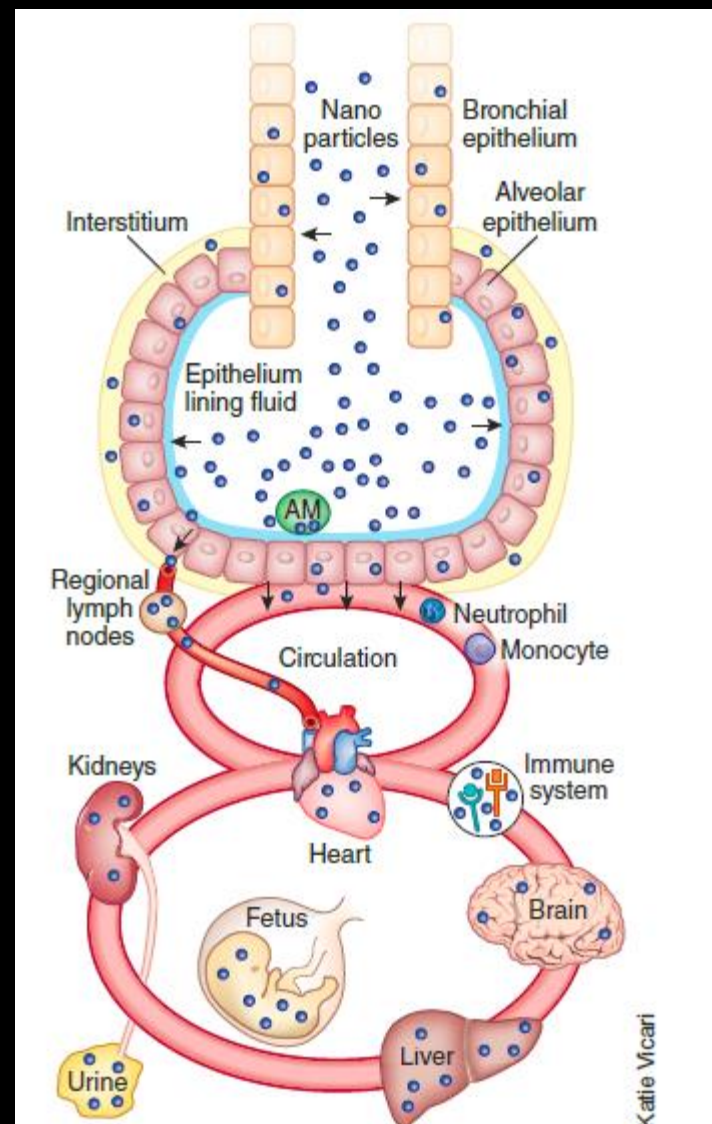
<sup>1</sup> Nel et al., A Multi-stakeholder Perspective on the Use of Alternative Test Strategies For Nanomaterial Safety assessment. ACS Nano 7(8), 6422-6433, 2013.

# Challenges to Overcome for *In Vitro* Testing of Nanomaterials

*In vitro* modeling will need to address complex cellular interactions and systemic effects since some nanomaterials easily cross biological barriers and reach multiple organ systems.



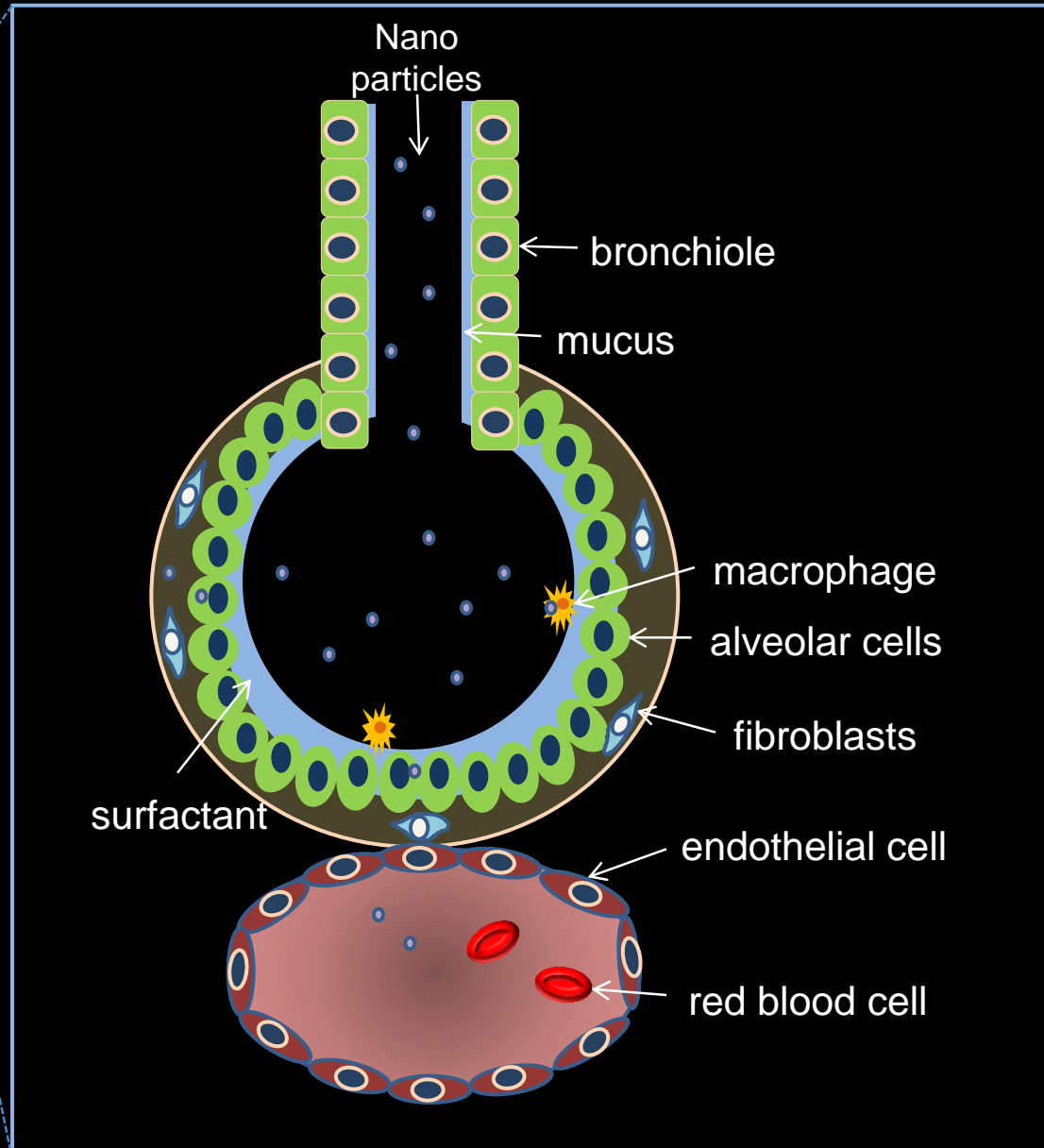
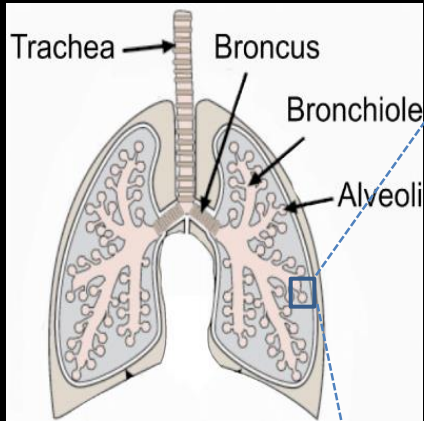
Nel et al., ACS Nano, 2013 7(8): 6422-6433.



Kreyling et al. (2010). *Nat Biotechnol* **28**(12): 1275-6.

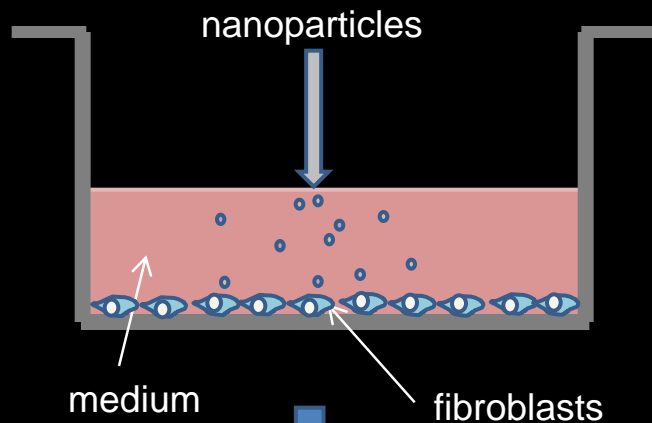


# Modeling the Alveolar Region of the Lung



# In Vitro Cell Systems for Testing Nanoparticle Toxicity

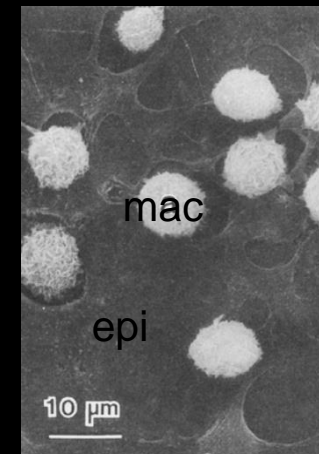
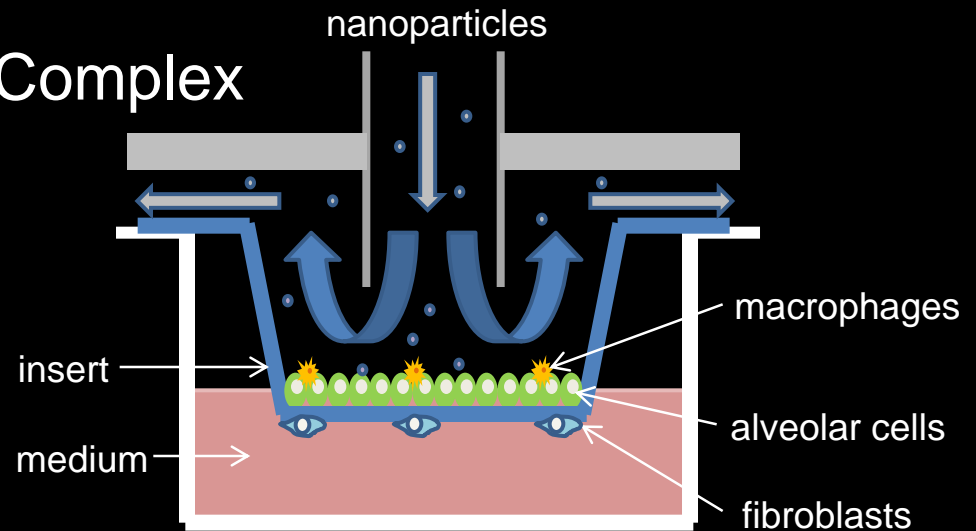
## Simple



Collect Cells & Media

Measure:  
Cytotoxicity, Proliferation,  
Collagen, Cytokines,  
Lipid Mediators, ROS, etc.

## More Complex



Co-culture of primary rat alveolar type I cells, rat lung fibroblasts, and rat alveolar macrophages. (Mangum, Everitt, Bonner et al., *In Vitro Cell Dev. Biol.* 26:1135-1143, 1990).

# Practical Considerations

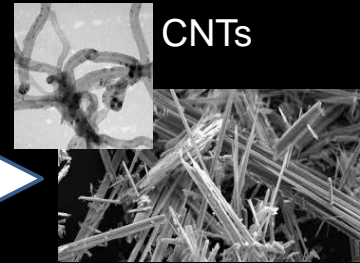
1) Structure-Activity Relationships (SARs) are useful. “*If it looks like a duck, acts like a duck, and swims like a duck...*”

2) Probability of Human Exposure: Which ENMs will represent the highest consumer exposures? (Ag in clothing, ZnO in sunscreens, **CNTs as flame-retardants**). (Powers et al., *Tox. Sci.* 141:6-17, 2014).

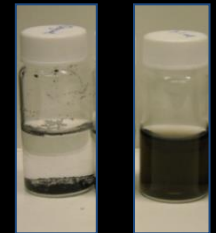
3) Dosimetry: Different sedimentation rates for ENMs or different functionalizations of the same ENM in aqueous media in cell culture systems (DeLoid et al., *Nat. Commun.* 5:3514, 2014).

4) Inter-Laboratory Reproducibility: Harmonized protocols for *in vitro* assays is key for reliably predicting *in vivo* outcomes (Xia et al. *EHP*, 121:683-690, 2013).

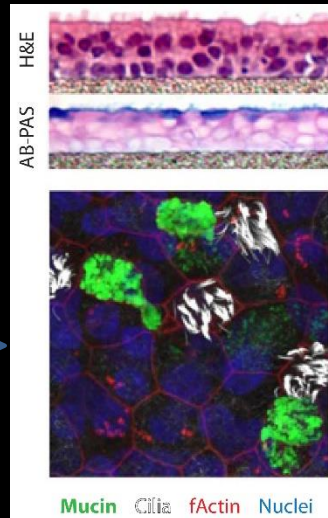
5) Cell Types: Immortalized cell lines are readily available, but often do not behave like cells *in vivo*. Primary cells are superior, but not always available. (Fulcher & Randell, *Methods Mol. Biol.* 945:109-121, 2013).



Asbestos



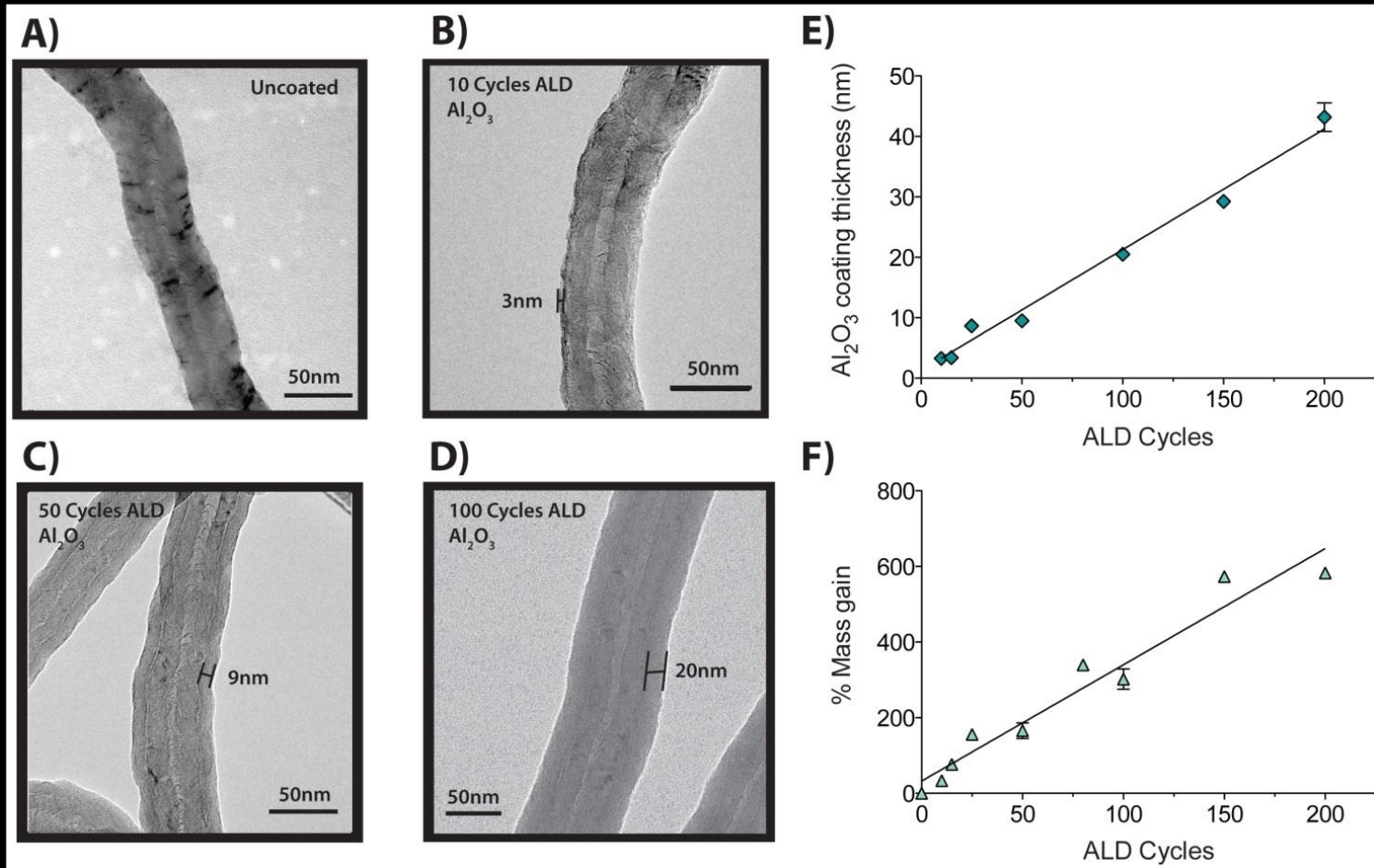
CNT f-CNT



Human bronchial epithelial cells in air-liquid interface

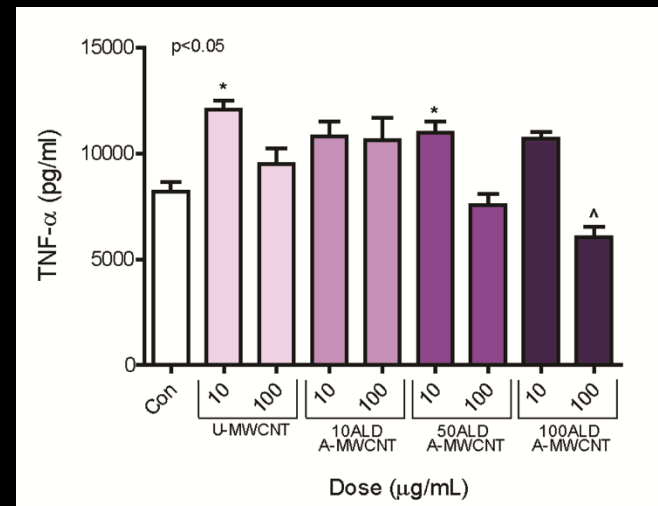
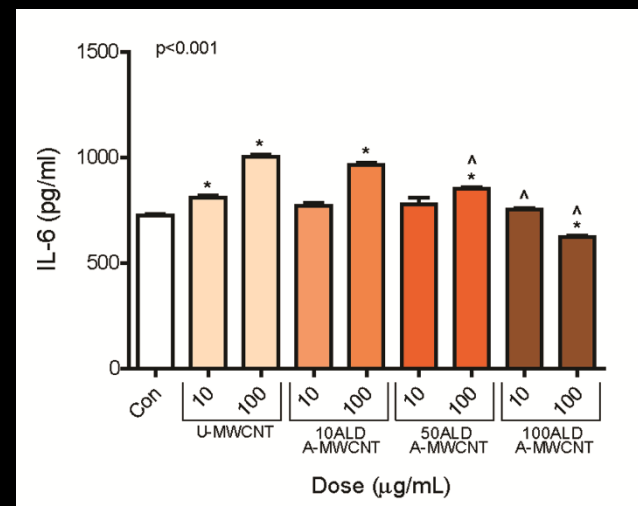
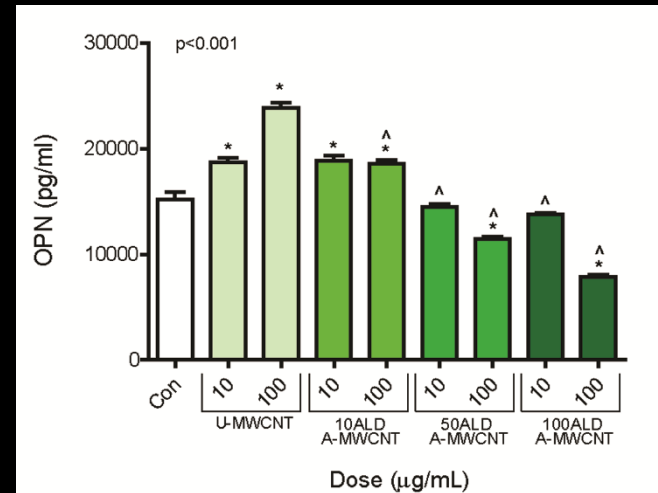
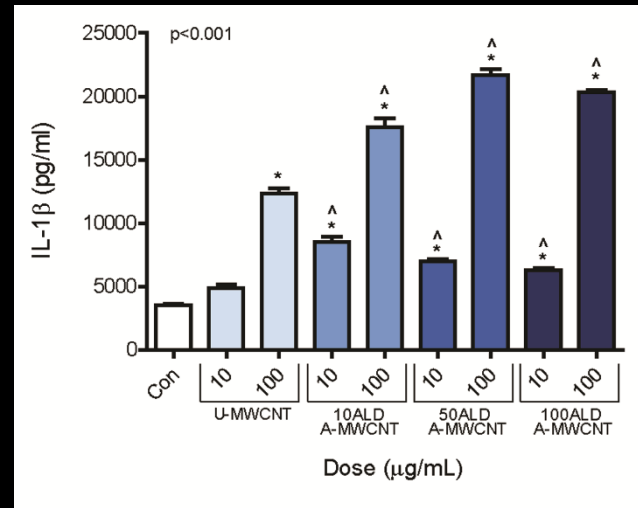
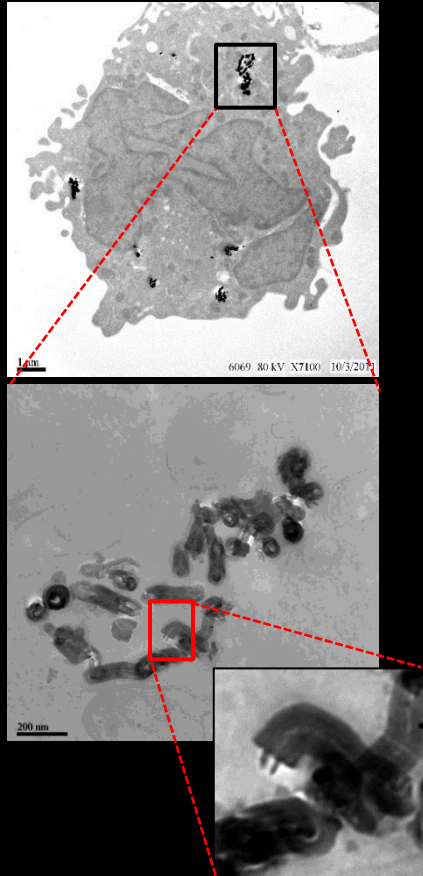


# Example: Predicting how atomic layer deposition (ALD) coating of CNTs will influence severity of lung fibrosis using in vitro cell culture models



$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  coating on multi-walled carbon nanotubes

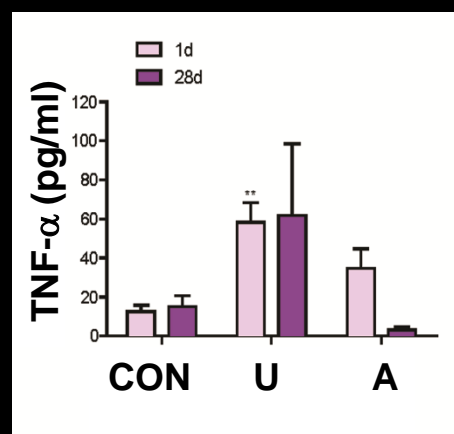
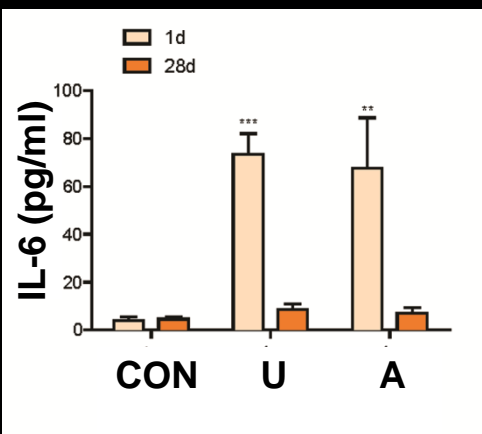
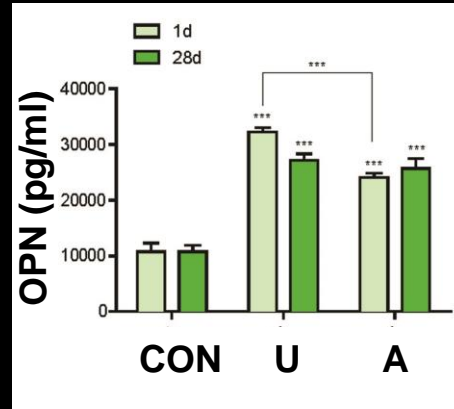
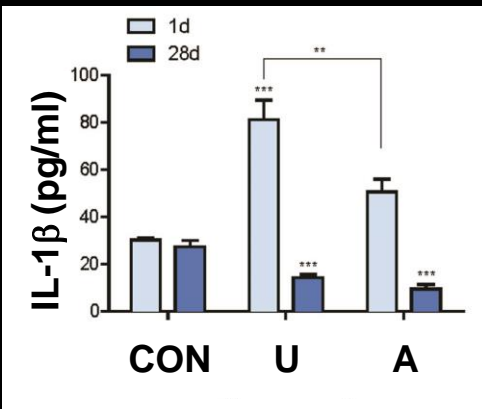
# Cytokine Production by THP-1 Monocytic Cells Exposed to Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-coated Carbon Nanotubes



# Atomic Layer Deposition Coating of Carbon Nanotubes Alters the Pro-Fibrogenic Response in Mice

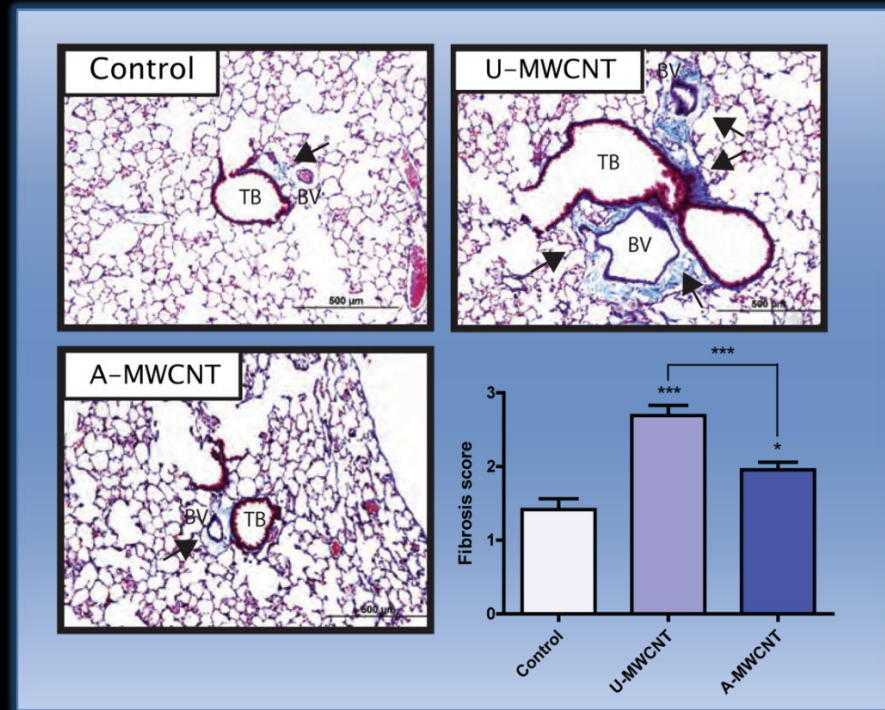


## BALF Cytokines



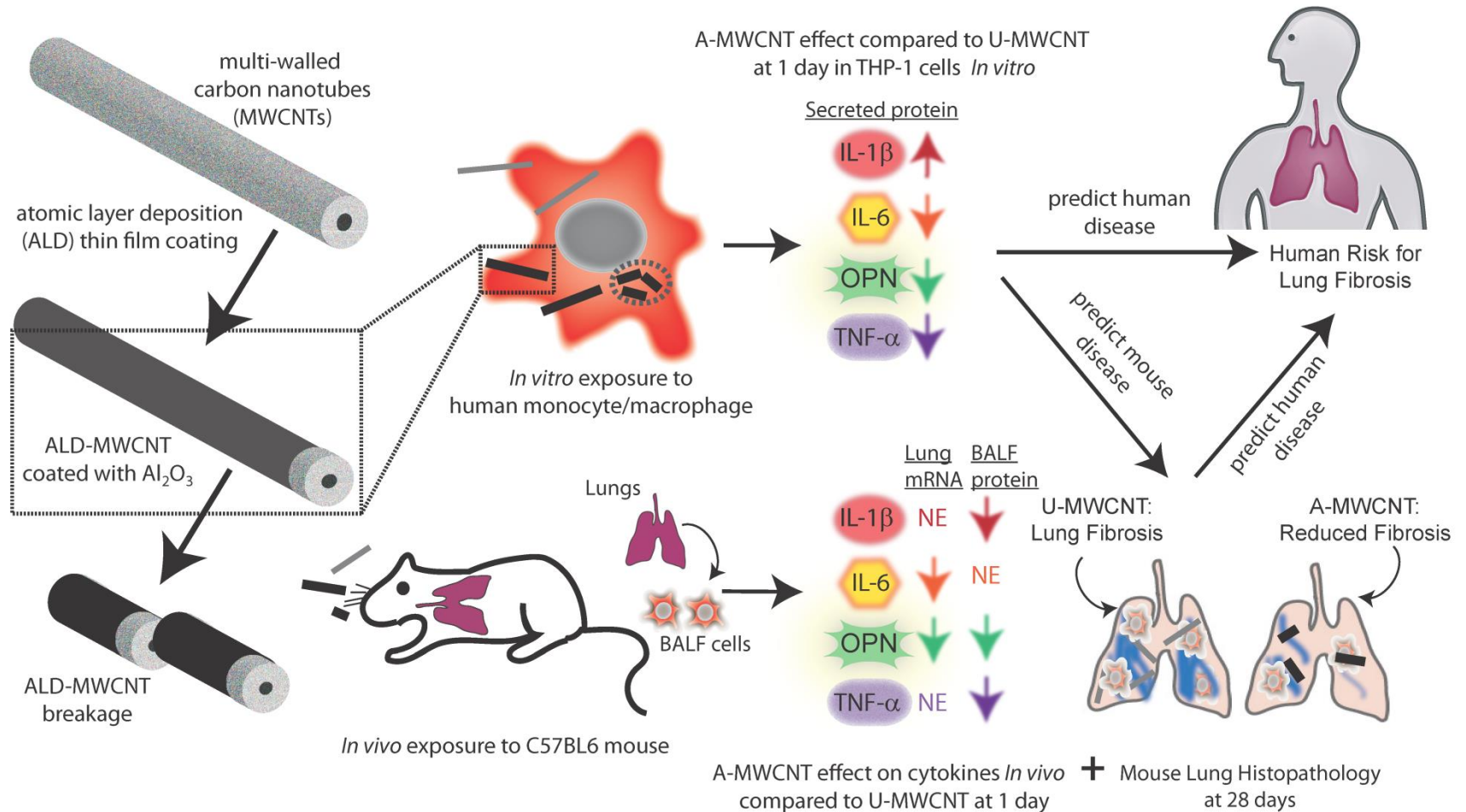
(U = uncoated, A = ALD-coated)

## Pathology Scoring





# Predicting Human Health Impact of Carbon Nanotubes Functionalized by Atomic Layer Deposition



# Predicting Relative Risk and Assumptions



↓ Reality



↘ Assumed

↓ Reality



# Questions for Discussion

- 1) How do we begin to address the complexity of a chronic human disease (e.g., pulmonary fibrosis) caused by nanomaterial exposure using in vitro cell culture models?
- 2) What in vitro cell systems are available for predicting nanomaterial toxicity and are these good enough to predict disease in mice and men?
- 3) What gaps in knowledge will we need to overcome with in vitro testing to continue to reduce, refine, and replace (3 R's) the use of animals for nanomaterial testing?