



Andrew Miller MP
Ellesmere Port & Neston

Letters

Nanotechnology means big trouble

The Guardian, Tuesday 1 September 2009

I note that your supplement detailing the latest developments in **nanotechnology** (27 August) made no mention of recent research from China on the subject.

Seven women working in a factory where nanoparticles were used in paint fell ill with serious lung disease and two died. Researchers, whose paper was published in the European Respiratory Journal, found nanoparticles deep in the lungs of the women who fell ill. The workers had a build-up of liquid around their hearts and lungs which could not be treated. A chemical in the paint, the patients' lung tissue and the liquid surrounding the lungs were all found to contain nanoparticles.

Numerous organisations including the most eminent scientific bodies have called for action to address the uncertainties and regulatory gaps surrounding the use of nanotechnology, but governments around the world are failing to act. There should be an immediate freeze on the commercial release of nanomaterials until there is a sound body of scientific research into all the health impacts. The Soil Association was so concerned about this issue that we developed the first standards in the world which ban nanoparticles. This move follows the precautionary approach, in line with organic principles.

Emma Hockridge

*Policy coordinator, **Soil Association***



UKIP leader Nigel Farage - His Party doesn't accept climate change

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Announcements

Watch this space in case meetings are changed or cancelled!

Jun 12, 2009



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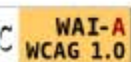
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At a time when ICT has become pervasive, most legislation has an ICT content. PITCOM provides a forum for MPs, Peers, senior civil servants, academics and ICT professionals to exchange information and opinions. It holds evening meetings in a Committee Room of the House of Commons on the policy implications of new technologies; receptions and an annual dinner in the House of Lords. Published: 2005-12-16 22:14:29

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To contact PITCOM's Administrative Secretary: Admin@pitcom.org.uk

ANDREW MILLER MP

Andrew Miller was educated in Malta, Hampshire and at the London School of Economics, and holds a Diploma in Industrial Relations.

His began his career as a technician in geology at the Portsmouth Polytechnic, where he remained for nine years. He then moved into industrial relations and was an official for the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union from 1977 until he was elected to Parliament in 1992.

As Labour Member of Parliament for Ellesmere Port and Neston, Mr Miller represents about 70,000 electors. As well as dealing with numerous widely diverse issues at constituency level, Mr Miller is also Chair of the Regulatory Reform Select Committee and Chair of the Parliamentary Information Technology Committee (PITCOM). Between 1992 and 2001 he was also a member of the House of Commons Information Committee.



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"The sharing of data has improved people's lives - for example, you"

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Royal Society Pairing Scheme

For MPs, civil servants and scientists

Established in 2001 as part of the Science in Society programme, the MP-Scientist Pairing Scheme aims to build bridges between some of the best research workers in the country and members of the UK parliament. To date 150 pairs of MPs and Scientists have taken part. The scheme comprises three activities: a briefing by the Royal Society, a Week in Westminster, and reciprocal visits to the constituency office and the laboratory.



In 2007 the Society trialled a Civil Servant - Scientist pairing scheme. This scheme will be run alongside the MP-Scientist pairing scheme in 2009. In 2009 applications for scientists will be open from Wednesday 4 March to Friday 3 April. Application forms are available at the bottom of this page.

Aims

1. To help scientists recognise the potential methods and structures through which they can feed their scientific knowledge to parliamentarians.
2. To help practising research scientists understand the pressures under which MPs operate.
3. To give MPs and Civil Servants the opportunity to forge direct links with a network of practising research scientists.
4. To give MPs and Civil Servants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the process of scientific understanding and topical research and ultimately to be able to bring this knowledge into better informed discussions and decision making.

How the scheme works

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Dr Emily Holmes



In March 2007 Dr Emily Holmes was paired with Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, Leader of the House of Commons, as part of the Royal Society MP-Scientist Pairing Scheme.

MP-Scientist Pairing Scheme brochure



Download information about the pairing scheme as a PDF.

The place of mathematics in Parliament



Link to article by Dr Ian Gibson MP and Dr Mirna Dzamonja, a pair from 2007 MP-Scientist Pairing Scheme

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Over to you!

Thank you

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