

May 18, 2010

Subject: NCL Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

With this letter, I'd like to express my support for the Advanced Biomedical Computing Center (ABCC)'s efforts toward the development of an infrastructure for the annotation, curation, modeling and design of engineered nanomaterials.

Nanobiomedicine is personalizing the treatment of cancer patients by introducing customizable, modular platforms with increased specificity, safety and efficacy. The controlled design of these platforms is key to our ability to use them in an efficient and safe manner.

The Nanotechnology Characterization Lab (NCL) is part of the NCI's Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer and performs preclinical characterization on engineered nanomaterials intended for medical applications. The NCL is a federally-funded resource available by-application to researchers in academia, industry, and government. As a part of its knowledge sharing and training mission, the NCL supports efforts to identify the critical parameters influencing nanoparticle biocompatibility and disseminate this information to the larger research and medical communities. A source for accurate nanomaterial structural information would be greatly advantageous for this effort and strengthen the other wider collaborative inter-agency and international efforts in standards development.

The development of the Collaboratory for Structural Nanobiology at the ABCC enables the open collaboration of institutions and to explore ways to annotate nanomaterials. It will also aid in our understanding and interpretation of characterization data of complex material. I support the efforts of the ABCC in this visionary enterprise and look forward to a time when structural characterization could be incorporated on a regular basis into the primary characterization of engineered nanobiomaterials.

Sincerely,



Anil K. Patri, Ph.D.
Deputy Director