

## Madison group Citizens' Coalition on Nanotechnology\* welcomes Andrew Maynard's bids to foster public engagement

On May 21, members of the Madison group Citizens' Coalition on Nanotechnology (CCoN) gathered at Brochach Pub for an evening of informal discussions with Dr. [Andrew Maynard](#). Maynard, chief scientist at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Project on Emerging Nanotechnology, in Washington DC., had earlier that day addressed the [Midwest Nanotechnology Safety Workshop](#) on health and safety issues associated with nanomaterials processing.

Maynard sought a meeting with CCoN to learn of the group's unique efforts to establish public outreach and gather feedback on ways that citizens might help direct nanotechnology research and development. CCoN organizes [Nano Cafés\\*\\*](#) in the Madison area, in cooperation with faculty in the [UW-Madison Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center](#).

Maynard, who has addressed audiences of researchers and manufacturers all over the world, and is one of the most well-recognized names in Nano circles, devoted his evening with CCoN to discuss such topics as nanotechnology research and development, potential benefits and risks of nanotechnology applications, and current and future regulations for the industries.

Maynard encouraged the group's initiatives and future projects, which will include additional Nano Cafés, beginning in September, and the Nano Policy Forum to be held later in the fall.



Until then, check the website [www.nanocafes.org](http://www.nanocafes.org), which is updated daiy. Interesting information is available concerning nanotechnology's societal, environmental, ethical and risk issues , [the latest news](#) on developments in the field of nanotechnology , and updated links to [websites](#), [reports and articles](#), [multimedia resources](#), as well as [nano-products](#) already on the market.

\* [Nanotechnology](#) is an emerging field that involves the understanding, manufacture, and manipulation of extremely small matter. The prefix 'nano' is derived from the Greek word 'nanos' meaning 'dwarf'. Nanotechnology enables scientists and industries to make new shapes, devices, and products involving everything from cosmetics to drugs to aircraft materials and much, much more. Although still generally little known by most people, nanotechnology is rapidly advancing, will soon affect everyone's life and is considered to be the next industrial revolution. Involved citizens that they must seize present opportunities to affect the most positive and beneficial uses of nanomaterials.

\*\* [Nano Cafés](#) provide a casual atmosphere where non scientists engage with experts to ask questions, and share thoughts and concerns. UW-Madison experts describe their work, answer questions and hear ideas from area citizens.

**The citizen's group meets at 5:30pm weekly at Avols book store just off State St. on E. Gorham St. for informal discussions (open to the public) on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. The first Thursday of each month is the business and organizing meeting.**

Information about Nano Cafés is available at [www.nanocafes.org](http://www.nanocafes.org) or contact the group by email at [nano.cafes@gmail.com](mailto:nano.cafes@gmail.com) or contact Mathilde Colin (608-238-1438).

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