ICON INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON NANOTECHNOLOGY
A partnership for nanotechnology stewardship and sustainability

Contact: Dr. Kristen Kulinowski 1-713-348-8211

June 8, 2006

News Release

ICON and UCSB Invite Participation in Documenting Current Practices for Nanomaterial Handling

The International Council on Nanotechnology (ICON) is pleased to announce the commencement of the interview phase of University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)'s research of nanotechnology current practices. ICON and UCSB collectively encourage industry, governmental and academic participation in this research, which will examine the environmental, health, and safety practices of people working with nanomaterials around the world.

In March 2006 the International Council on Nanotechnology (ICON) awarded a grant to researchers from UCSB to conduct research on nanotechnology current practices while maintaining strict confidentiality. For more information, see (http://icon.rice.edu/).

ICON recognizes that identification of the safest way to work with nanomaterials first requires an identification of the most common practices in use today by researchers in industry, governmental and academic labs. This information can them be used to develop *best practices* for nanomaterial handling. Participation in the research is sought from a wide variety of producers and users of nanomaterials so that an accurate cross-section of the range of current practices can be established.

Participation will require an initial one-hour telephone interview, with a possible follow-up interview of similar length. The research expects to cover such topics as company responses to new challenges regarding nanoparticles, training received by nanoparticle handlers, protective equipment and engineering controls used, disposal practices, methods of determining which practices to undertake, and where companies are currently finding information regarding practices for nanomaterial handling.

We expect the work done by UCSB to provide important baseline data to supplement government- or industry-funded research on risk and to be useful to those concerned with the potential risks of handling nanomaterials.

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The **Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology** is a National Science Foundation Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center dedicated to developing sustainable nanotechnologies that improve human health and the environment. Located at Rice University in Houston, CBEN is a leader in ensuring that nanotechnology develops responsibly and with strong public support. For more information visit http://cben.rice.edu.

Rice University is consistently ranked one of America's best teaching and research universities. It is distinguished by its: size—2,850 undergraduates and 1,950 graduate students; selectivity—10 applicants for each place in the freshman class; resources—an undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio of 6-to-1, and the fifth largest endowment per student among American universities; residential college system, which builds communities that are both close-knit and diverse; and collaborative culture, which crosses disciplines, integrates teaching and research, and intermingles undergraduate and graduate work. Rice's wooded campus is located in the nation's fourth largest city and on America's South Coast. For more information visit http://www.rice.edu.