

# NISE Network

## Evaluation of Nanoscale Informal Science Education Experiences

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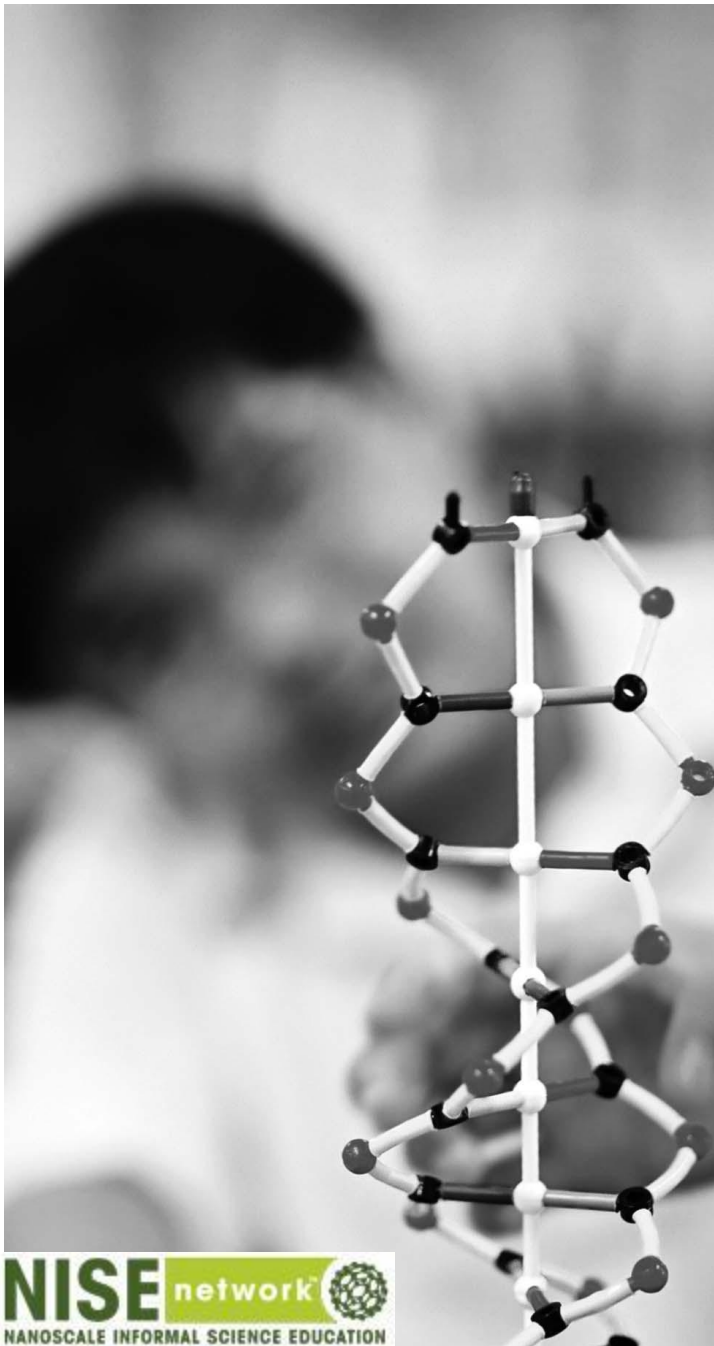


# About NISE Net



The Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net) is a national community of researchers and informal science educators dedicated to fostering public awareness, engagement, and understanding of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology.

<http://www.nisenet.org>



# Findings



# Front-end evaluation



- Visitors' interpretation of images of the nanoscale
  - Joyce Ma, Ph.D.  
Exploratorium

# Front-end evaluation



## – Methods

- Interviewed 90 visitors
- Asked for interpretation of three images (STM, AFM, SEM)

## – Full report available:

[http://www.exploratorium.edu/partner/pdf/afm\\_rp\\_03.pdf](http://www.exploratorium.edu/partner/pdf/afm_rp_03.pdf)

# Front-end evaluation



- Findings

- Visitors want to know what the image represents (74%)
- Visitors see familiar objects in the image (63%)
- Most guessed images were microscale or smaller (72%)
  - Fewer thought STM image was microscale (55%)
- More visitors (73%) interpreted magnification (e.g. 20,000x) than size units (nm: 34%,  $\mu\text{m}$ :10%)

# Summative evaluation



- Public forum: Nanotechnology in health care
  - Barbara Flagg, Ed.D.  
Multimedia Research
  - Valerie Knight-Williams, Ed.D.  
Knight-Williams Research Communications

# Summative evaluation



- Methods
  - One group survey design
  - Observations provided context
  
- Full report available soon:  
<http://www.nisenet.org>

# Summative evaluation



- Findings
  - Significant increases in knowledge about nano
    - It operates on submicroscopic scale
    - Nanotech properties are dependent upon size and scale
  - Participants felt they were more aware of risks and benefits of nano personal care products and medicine
  - Participants reported increased confidence in supporting views about risks and benefits
  - Participants reported increased familiarity with diverse points of view

# For more information



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[http://www.exploratorium.edu/partner/pdf/afm\\_rp\\_03.pdf](http://www.exploratorium.edu/partner/pdf/afm_rp_03.pdf)