

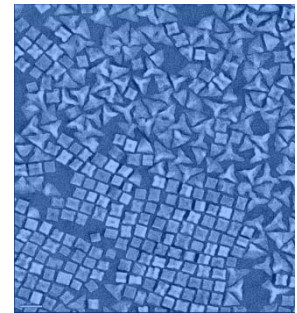
THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRESENTS...

Café Scientifique

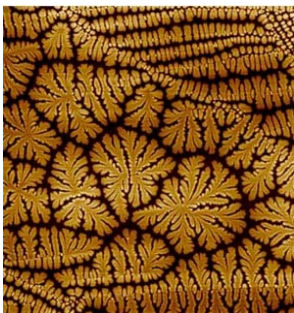
Nanotechnology – opportunity or risk?

Shaun Hendy, MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology.

The transistors in your laptop computer are now just a few tens of nanometres in size, that is, a millionth of a centimetre. Welcome to the world of nanotechnology. The nanometre is the scale on which atoms are assembled, and ten nanometres is the scale at which the building blocks of life operate. Nanotechnology isn't just about computers; it will also bring new ways of fighting disease, help build cheaper and more efficient solar cells, and allow us to interact with our environment in new ways. Our food will be traceable to source, our health will be able to be monitored continuously, and new textiles and fabrics can be smart enough to react to conditions.



Metal nanoparticles



Nanoflowers grown from bismuth nanoparticles

But it will also enable us to make new chemicals and materials. Could there be a repeat of the asbestos calamity ... or worse? Could nanotechnologies be misused to cause harm? Might there be a public backlash against nanotechnology similar to that against genetic modification? Nanotechnologies bring both opportunity and risk: society must weigh the many benefits against the potential for harm and the risks of exposure. Join us at Café Scientifique to discuss these issues with well-known New Zealand scientist and broadcaster Shaun Hendy.

**For more information about future Cafés in Hamilton, contact Marcus Wilson,
Phone 838 4834, e-mail science@waikato.ac.nz
<http://www.sci.waikato.ac.nz/cafescientifique>**

Thursday 8 July 2010

7.30pm

**"The Bank" (corner Victoria & Hood Streets), Hamilton
(note that the day is different to usual)**

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE