The National Science Foundation estimates that two million skilled nanotechnology workers will be needed worldwide by 2015—over one million of them in the United States (2001). In the absence of scientific clarity about the potential health effects of occupational exposure to nanoparticles, guidance in decision making about hazards, risk, and controls takes on new importance. Currently, guiding principles on personal protective equipment for workers who come in contact with nanomaterials have not been standardized universally. Utilizing the NASA-TLX, this dissertation investigates the adequacy and shortcomings of research efforts that seek to determine whether or not occupational exposure to nanomaterials while wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) is or is not potentially frustrating to the worker. While wearing PPE does the worker perceive additional effort, performance, physical, mental or temporal demands are or are not impacted during task performance.

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The public is welcome to attend.