Women and Patenting in Nanotechnology: Scale, Scope and Equity

Data
GT global nanopatent database
US applications/grants
2002-2006 (August)
Total records: 12,742
  Applications 72%
  Grants 28%
Total inventors: 24,322
  identified female 7.4%
  identified male 64.4%
  non-identified 28.2%
Female : Male = 1: 9 among identified inventors

Analysis
At patent level: M, F, F+M, F+U, F+M+U, U
Focal dimensions: Time, Team size, Comprehensiveness, Major subfield

Major Findings
In terms of scale:
• Fewer female inventors
• Fewer patents including females
• Female patents tend to be individual invention products while male patents tend to be collaborative invention products
• Females are increasingly likely to engage in nanotechnology patenting as part of mixed male and female invention teams

In terms of scope:
• Patents from teams involving females are more comprehensive than those from male teams
• Patents where females are included tend to be in technical areas where women are more concentrated (biology, chemistry, and traditional female fields)

Collaboration as an important mechanism attracting women

Women’s contribution

Nanotechnology Research Day  September 3, 2010