

The GRACIOUS Framework For Grouping and Read-Across of Nanoforms



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Project no. 760840



Presentation structure

- An overview of the GRACIOUS Framework
- Examples grouping hypotheses
- Example Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment
- Similarity
- Database links
- Quality
- Blueprint



Project Aim

Generate a Framework to enable practical application of grouping, and subsequent read-across of nanomaterials (NMs)/nanoforms (NFs).



"Substances whose physicochemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological properties are likely to be similar or follow a regular pattern as a result of structural similarity may be considered as a group" (REACH, Annex XI, 1.5).

GRACIOUS framework



Framework Design Process



OECD NanoReg2 GRACIOUS workshop Sept 2018



Stakeholder engagement



- EU policy makers
 - E.g. EC
- EU regulatory bodies
 - E.g. ECHA, EFSA, JRC
- European national government bodies
 - E.g. RIVM, NRCWE, BfR
- Non-EU regulatory bodies
 - E.g. US EPA, Health Canada
- Industry bodies
 - E.g. NIA, ECETOC and BIAC
- Industry
 - E.g. BASF, Black Diamond
- Consultants
 - E.g. Yordas, Blue Frog

Thank you

GRACIOUS Framework paper



Nano Today 35 (2020) 100941



A framework for grouping and read-across of nanomaterialssupporting innovation and risk assessment



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GRACIOUS Framework

Simple form





GRACIOUS Framework

Detailed form





Justification criteria are purpose specific. i.e. less stringent for SbD than for RA or legislation

Applying the Framework



Using the Framework for Read-Across







Using the Framework for Innovation

- During innovation, safe(r)-bydesign approaches help to avoid expensive, time consuming, unexpected problems with new nanoenabled products
- Grouping and Read-across can be used during the innovation process
 - E.g. aid prioritization of lower hazard candidate NFs while ensuring product functionality



GRACIOUS Framework

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Getting started



ECHA guidance on registration of NFs, 2019

Release and Exposure



Along Nano-enabled produce life cycle

Steps to integrate release & exposure:

- Select key elements to describe release & exposure
- Identify main determinants of release & exposure
- Generate grouping hypothesis based on release & exposure
- Provide Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment of these hypotheses



Camila Delpivo & Socorro Vazquez-Campos

Release and Exposure



Along Nano-enabled produce life cycle

Release & exposure components identified in the basic step:

- Likelihood of release & exposure
- Physicochemical form of NF during release & exposure
- Environmental compartments affected
- Exposed populations
- Exposure routes



OUTDOOR AIR

Camila Delpivo & Socorro Vazquez-Campos



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Hypothesis template

- The basic information triggers a hypothesis
- There are many ways to word and formulate a hypothesis
- To provide guidance to the user GRACIOUS has developed a Hypothesis Template

Purpose and context	
Life Cycle	What they are?
	Where they go?
	What they do?

Posters Topic 4 Risk assessment, risk management and risk governance

ID 1076 - A Template for Hypothesis Generation to Facilitate Grouping and read-Across of Nanomaterials and Support Risk decision-Making Grouping is hypothesis driven



Hypothesis template

The Framework guides users to pre-defined hypotheses if appropriate.

- Often encompass both fate and hazard
- Based upon the literature and available data
 - 17 for human hazard
 - 23 for environmental hazard

If no predefined hypotheses are appropriate, the Framework guides generation of a user-defined hypothesis.



Example Hypotheses - Human

Respirable NFs showing quick dissolution: Following inhalation both NFs and constituent ions or molecules may contribute to toxicity, but there is no concern for accumulation. Toxicity (also) depends on the location of the ionic or molecular release.

NFs with a very slow dissolution rate: Following oral exposure NFs will maintain nanospecific activity that may drive translocation across the GIT wall, subsequent biopersistence in the body and systemic toxicity in secondary organs.

NFs with constituent substance(s) or degradation products classified for dermal irritation or sensitization: Dermal exposure to the NFs may result in dermal irritation or sensitization.



Example Hypotheses - Environment

NFs with a quick dissolution rate in environmentally relevant aquatic media: Following aqueous exposure lethal and sub-lethal toxicity to representative aquatic species is driven by the fate and toxicity characteristics of the dissolution products.

NFs with a chemical coating that is lost from the NF surface following exposure in soil compartment can be grouped: Fate and toxicity of the exposure relevant NF can be considered similar to a non-coated analogous NF in soil compartment

Bioavailable NFs with a very slow dissolution rate in sediment can be grouped: Following sediment exposure, NFs in this group will maintain nano-specific activity and can cause lethal and sub-lethal toxicity to representative benthic species.

Pre-defined hypotheses



Pre-defined hypothesis

- Span different exposure scenarios and hence exposure routes
 - Inhalation
 - Ingestion
 - Dermal
 - Air
 - Aqueous
 - Sediment
 - Soil





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Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment

IATA Decision Tree Format



- Aligns with OECD recommendations (OECD 2017)
- Decision Nodes are measurable with defined criteria to ensure a clear 'yes' or 'no' answer
- Identify points of departure where you may deviate from, and therefore reject, the grouping hypothesis
- Combines and integrates all relevant existing evidence and guides the targeted generation of new data, where required, to support evidence-based grouping.



Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment



Fiona Murphy

Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment



- The IATA provides the evidence needed to test the hypothesis
- Data is compiled into a data matrix which includes assessment of similarity for all endpoints





Respirable, biopersistent, rigid HARN: Following inhalation exposure and translocation of HARN to the pleura, mesothelioma development can occur. Inhalation Exposure is expected Can NF deposit in the distal lung?







Fiona Murphy



Does NF stimulate a mechanistically similar inflammation response compared to source material?



Regulatory: Comparison to source is not relevant. Precautionary/ SbD: Assume NF can cause inflammation and fibrosis or cancer.

Regulatory: Build argument for hazard categorisation based on comparison to source.

Posters Topic 3: Hazard assessment

ID 1067 - Development of an Integrated Approach to Testing and Assessment for Grouping High Aspect Ratio Nanomaterials Within the EU Project Gracious

Fiona Murphy

Tiered testing strategy





Tailored Testing



Building a tiered testing strategy



Tiered Testing Strategy HARN





Persistent and unstable NFs in aquatic compartment:



Following aquatic exposure, NF are deposited to sediments where lethal and sub-lethal toxicity to sediment species can occur.

Purpose: Targeted testing, regulatory		
Context: Aquatic environments		
Input from life cycle	What they are?	
Release to aquatic environment	NFs with a slow/partial dissolution rate	
	that have a high affinity for natural	
	colloids in aquatic compartments.	
	Where they go?	
	Removed from the aquatic compartment	
	and deposited to sediment	
	compartments (via sedimentation).	
	What they do?	
	Persist in sediment compartments	
	resulting in lethal and sub-lethal toxicity	
	to representative sediment species.	

Persistent and unstable NFs in aquatic compartment:

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Following aquatic exposure, NF are deposited to sediments where lethal and sub-lethal toxicity to sediment species can occur.







CONTEXT SWITCH

Persistant bioavailable NFs: Following sediment exposure, NFs will maintain nano-specific activity and can cause lethal and sub-lethal toxicity to representative sediment species.

> Sediment exposure is expected



Sediment hypothesis

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Tiered Testing Strategy

Tier 1

Review existing data

Acute sediment toxicity assays e.g. *Vibrio fischeri* microtox assay, *Caenorhabditis elegans* sediment toxicity assay.

Tier 2

Review existing data

Chronic single-species sediment toxicity tests

e.g. Lumbriculus variegatus,

Chironomus riparius OECD TG

Tier 3

Review existing data

Chronic single-species assays w/aged NF.

Microcosm/mesocosm



//www.zmescience.com/medicine/Scientists-increase-worms-lifespan-by-500/



https://blogs.uef.fl/ecotox/2016/06/27/hands-on-research-with-chironomus-riparius/





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Grouping and Read-Across essential



Approaches to similarity

- There are several methods being developed to assess similarity
- Similarity by bandings (fixed)
 - E.g. OECD TG318 proposes banding of dispersion stability
 - <10% | 10 to 50% | 50 to 90% | >90%
 - Fixed/bandings require clear thresholds which are difficult to justify
 - Fixed thresholds lead to problems with cases that lie close to the threshold/cut-off.
- Similarity by relative difference (floating)
 - E.g. to be in Group B, ROS production by NFs must be within a 5-fold range of each other (or a target NF) according to protocol x.x.1
 - Reduce issues associated with NFs that are close to a threshold/cut-off
 - Requires consideration of what dissimilarity is acceptable between NFs to allow them to be grouped
Grouping and Read-Across essential



Approaches to similarity

- The GRACIOUS Framework generates a data matrix containing several relevant endpoints
 - A similarity assessment needs to be generated across all NFs per endpoint/assay
- To facilitate a similarity assessment even a single property often requires data reduction
 - A size distribution \rightarrow D50 median size;
 - dose-response \rightarrow BMD20 or EC50 or ...
- "Acceptable dissimilarity" must consider:
 - measurement accuracy
 - biological relevance of dissimilarity
 - dose metrics
 - E.g. Surface area vs Mass
- Calibration of a case study tier 1 data with existing tier 3 data is required

Similarity historical example

Biologically relevant x-fold differences: fiber biodissolution



As Kdis increases from 13 to 329 (25fold) the pathogenicity becomes qualitatively different.

Pathogenicity is moderately different at k=72 (5-fold)

If values are > 5-fold different, then the values are not similar (close to a biological threshold of HARN effects).

> IARC MONOGRAPHS ON THE EVALUATION OF CARCINOGENIC RISKS TO HUMANS

VOLUME 81 MAN-MADE VITREOUS FIBRES

Table 65. Lung biopersistence, in-vitro dissolution and pathogenicity of selected fibres from inhalation studies in rats

Fibre		Biopersis clearance		es > 20 μm in	length; lung	In-vitro dissolution	Pathogen	Pathogenicity (chronic		
		Slower pool (T½)	WT½ (days)	90% clearance (T ₉₀ , days)	Reference	(k _{dis}) at pH 7.4 (pH 4.5)*	Lung fibrosis	Thoracic tumours	Reference	
Amosite	Asbestos	1160	418	2095	Hesterberg et al. (1998a)	< 1	+	+	McConnell et al. (1999)	
Crocidolite ^d	Asbestos	0	817	2770	Hesterberg <i>et al.</i> (1996a)	< 1	+	+	McConnell et al. (1994)	
MMVF32	E Glass wool	179	79	371	Hesterberg <i>et al.</i> (1998a)	9 (7)	+	+	Davis <i>et al.</i> (1996a)	
RCF1a ^a	Refractory ceramic fibre	88	55	227	Hesterberg et al. (1998a)	3	+	+	Mast <i>et al.</i> (1995a,b)	
MMVF33	475 Glass wool	155	49	240	Hesterberg et al. (1998a)	12 (13)	+	+/_ ^b	Davis et al. (1996a); McConnell et al. (1999)	
MMVF21	Rock (stone) wool (96)	613	91	206	Hesterberg <i>et al.</i> (1996a)	20 (72)	+	-	McConnell et al. (1994)	
MMVF21	Rock (stone) wool (98)	95	67	264	Hesterberg <i>et al.</i> (1998a)					
MMVF10 ^d	901 Glass wool (96)	0	37	123	Hesterberg <i>et al.</i> (1996a)	300 (329)	-	-	Hesterberg et al. (1993)	
MMVF10.1 ^c	901 Glass wool	30	14.5	69	Hesterberg et al. (2002)		-	-	McConnell et al. (1999)	

W. Wohlleben

Similarity Case Study



Biologically relevant x-fold differences: NF biodissolution

- Assess dissolution in
 - lung lining simulant fluid (LSF) pH7.4
 - Phagolysosomal simulant fluid (PSF) pH4.5
- Tested 17 NFs of silica, organic and inorganic pigments
- Benchmarked against
 - TiO₂ very slow dissolution rate
 - BaSO₄ partial dissolution
 - ZnO quick dissolution.
- Assessed dissimilarity of dissolution halftime.



■ LSF pH 7.4 ■ PSF pH 4.5

Johannes Keller

Similarity Case Study



Biologically relevant x-fold differences: NF biodissolution

- Dissolution divides the colloidal silica NFs into
 - group with Al-doping
 - group w/o Al doping.
 - NM200 remains separate
- Shape & silane treatment less important!



half time	Silica_std	_std Silica_anis_st Silica_Al Silica_ar d I			Silica_silan e	SiO2 NM200					
	LSF pH 7.4										
Silica_std		1.96	7.28	5.78	1.26	8.29					
Silica_anis_std	1.16		3.72	2.95	1.55	4.24					
Silica_Al	1.07	1.08		1.26	5.78	1.14					
Silica_anis_Al	1.03	1.13	1.04		4.59	1.44					
Silica_silane	1.08	1.26	1.16	1.12		8.29					
SiO2 NM200	9.03	7.76	8.41	8.74	9.77						
	PSF pH 4.5										
				simila	similar						

J. Keller

Pairwise similarity matrix Case study: FRAS assay





Georgia Tsiliki

GRACIOUS eNanoMapper Using existing and new data

Home

About

Projects FAIR Data

Help -





Data to support GRACIOUS Framework

- Phys-chem
- Cell viability, oxidative stress, reactivity
- Harmonized templates and terminology
- Nanomaterial similarity
- Range of output formats
- All data is used by the blueprint test environment

Protocol appostation (1203)

GENM

https://search.data.enanomapper.net/projects/gracious Nir

Nina Jeliazkova

Release and exposure Templates with quality scores



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WP2-Lifecycle: Human exposure & environmental release

https://search.data.enanomapper.net/projects/gracious

Nina Jeliazkova

Exploratory multidimensional similarity analysis Data similarity - eNanoMapper



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Nina Jeliazkova



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Data quality assessment methodology

Developed methodology to assess data quality aimed at reducing as much as possible the need of expert judgment.

The methodology takes into account the following criteria:

- data completeness;
- data reliability;
- data relevance;
- data adequacy.
- Scores are calculated for each of these criteria and those are aggregated into a **quality score** and a **completeness score**.





Data quality assessment methodology

The last step involves the assignment of final data quality and completeness scores to a traffic light system.

- Green data high quality
- Yellow data is sufficient quality, but needs further consideration to be used for a specific task
- Red data is of insufficient quality.

The whole process can be automised.

Data quality is highlighted on eNanoMapper user interface and/or in templates when uploading/downloading data from the database.







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Gracious local About Contact



This tool is used to test the gracious framework and blueprint.

earn more »

Getting started To use this tool and get started you will need an account.

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Project

This tool is used within the GRACIOUS project funded from the European Union's H2020 Framework Programme under grant agreement №760840

GRACIOUS project »

Development

This tool is developed using ThinkWorks Intelligent Objects engine.

ThinkWorks »

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Ralph Vanhauten

Gracious local Cases About		Ralph [ThinkWorks] Log off
Case What they are - Life cycle -	Where they go 👻 Grouping	්ට <mark>ෆ්</mark>
Target nanoform(s)		
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H2020-NMBP-2016-2017 under grant agreement №760840

CHN-Analysis (CHN)

X-ray diffraction (XRD)

Screening batch dissolution test () Continuous Flow System (CFS) Electrophoretic Light Scattering (ELS)

Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS)

Thermogravimetric Analysis/Mass Spectrometry (TGA-MS)

Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES)



Gracious local	Cases About Contact	
Case What they a	are Life cycle Where they go Grouping	ଅ୯
Pooring 💼 Nano fibre	e suspension disposed toward WWTP 🗑 • Transform: 🗑 +	
General info Name: Pooring Testing strategy: Tier 2	Grouping context (1) Contributing Scenario (CS): Adding Ag nanofibres to suspension (2) Target nanoform (NF): Ag nanofibres (3) Surrounding medium: Factory hall air medium	
POS EXP-OCC-I-D	Hypothesis H-I-1 (Lead: HWU)	
POS 'H-I-1'	Respirable, biopersistent, rigid HARN: Following inhalation, long-term pulmonary retention of particles can occur resulting in lung toxicity.	
MIS 'H-I-2'	Potential for inhalation exposure	
MIS 'H-I-3'	Aerodynamic diameter [nm]: 200.0-nm Assay result(s) found:	
MIS 'H-I-4'	Scanning Electron Microscopy: [PC_GRANULOMETRY::EP_AERODYNAMIC_EQ_SPHERE_DIAMETER] = 200.0-nm	
MIS 'H-I-5'	Deposition in the alveolar region of the lung	
MIS 'H-O-1A'	Dissolution of NF in lung lining fluid is: very_slow V	
MIS 'H-O-1B'	Tier 2: In vitro dissolution assay in lung lining fluid (pH 7.4)	
MIS 'H-O-1C' MIS 'H-D-2'	Translocation to the plural cavity	
MIS 'H-D-3'	Dissolution of NF in lysosomal fluid is: very_slow >	
MIS 'H-D-1'	Average fibre length in µm: 6000.0·µm	
NYI 'H-D-4'	Tier 2: NF size measurements by TEM/SEM (ISO/TS 11888:2017) from an airborne dispersion of the material	
MIS 'TRANSPORT'	Are NF fibres rigid with a needle like morphology? Yes	
	Tier 2, 3: In vitro incubation with macrophages 'Biologically stiff'-experimental, morphological assessment and size measurements after in vitro incubation with macrophages, degree of change from modelled	
	Incomplete uptake by alveolar macrophages, failed clearance.	
	Does NF cause frustrated phagocytosis? Yes 🗸	
	Tier 2: In vitro incubation with macrophages Acute • Markers of lysosomal disruption and frustrated phagocytosis • Cytotoxicity • Pro-inflammatory markers Chronic • Granuloma formation	
	Group as poorly soluble, rigid HARN with potential to cause lung hazard	

Ralph Vanhauten

GRACIOUS Grouping Framework Design



Current status

- Hypotheses
 - Pre-defined list complete
 - User-defined template complete
- IATAs
 - Human complete
 - Environment complete
- Blueprint of software
 - Machine readable and open access
 - Integrates hypotheses, IATAs and data sources
 - Software undergoing internal testing

- Similarity methodology
- Quality criteria incorporation
- Blueprint and Framework testing
- Guidance document editing

There is still time to get involved in testing the GRACIOUS IATAs and Framework using your own case studies

GRACIOUS Framework

Detailed form





Justification criteria are purpose specific. i.e. less stringent for SbD than for RA or legislation



Thank you!

We look forward to hearing your ideas

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Project no. 760840