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

Collaboration as an important mechanism attracting women

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)

Women's contribution