

# **Will There Be an A.Q Khan of Nanotechnology? Anticipating Future Proliferation Threats in a Globalized World**

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*<http://www.acdis.uiuc.edu/>*

The scientific pursuit of the minutely small—nanotechnology—is thriving in academia and in the private sector. Through the science fiction of Star Trek and other quasi-fictional works, the notion of nanotechnology has entered the collective public psyche. To date, three broad topics have dominated discussion regarding nanotechnology risk: health and environmental consequences, privacy and legal implications, and uncontrolled self-replication and artificial intelligence. Security implications, both for traditional nonproliferation regimes and for potential misuse by non-state actors, have not received commensurate attention. As 21st century science and technology intrinsically traverses traditional borders—academic, public-private, and international—previous models are inadequate. Recognizing and developing technically robust analyses of the potential for malevolent use co-option of this emerging technology is an unexplored, cutting-edge research area for international security. Alternatively, the future may grapple with a nanotechnology A.Q. Khan.

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