Mark Wiesner Named Member of the National Academy of Engineering

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Mark Wiesner, a James L. Meriam Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering within the Edmund T. Pratt, Jr. School of Engineering at Duke University (in Durham, North Carolina), has been appointed a member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), which is part of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences (NAS). This appointment is, in the United States, one of the highest professional distinctions awarded to an engineer.

Trained in the United States, Professor Wiesner is an important player in French-American cooperation in the area of Environmental Engineering. His nomination reflects the importance of his scientific contributions to membrane technologies for water treatment and understanding environmental behavior and risk of nanomaterials. Over the course of his career, Professor Wiesner has conducted several research trips in France, first as a post-doc at the École Nationale Supérieure des Industries Chimiques (ENSIC – Nancy), then as a researcher at the Research Center of the Lyonnaise des Eaux (Le Pecq, France). He was also a guest lecturer at CEREGE (The Center for Research and Teaching of Environmental Geosciences - CNRS - Université Aix-Marseille III – IRD – Collège de France) and then received a Chair of Excellence at the Laboratory of Industrial Chemistry of Toulouse (INSA, INPT, Université Paul Sabatier). Professor Wiesner rejoined Duke University in 2006 where he helped found the Center for the Environmental Impacts of Nanotechnology (CEINT), which he is the current director of. He has been involved in important work demonstrating that nanomaterials accumulate in living organisms and increase in concentration as they climb the food chain, revealing the potential impacts of nanotechnology on the environment.

Professor Wiesner ensures coordination, on the American side, of an International Research Group (GDRI [1]) entitled iCEINT (International Consortium for Environment Implications of Nanotechnology), which combines French laboratory networks with the American network CEINT. This GDRI, which was renewed in 2014, has ambitious objectives to bring together a wide range of nanomaterials with different types of properties, their possible dispersion in the environment and the biological and ecological effects that may result. Rather than a vision for a case by case basis, the approach developed by iCEINT is to elucidate the general principles that govern the behavior of nanomaterials that will allow for an assessment of environmental risks.

Professor Wiesner has both American and French nationality, and the French scientific community is delighted with his appointment to the NAE.

For more information:
- Website for GDRI iCEINT: http://www.i-ceint.org/?lang=en

Footnote
[1] A GDRI is a tool developed by the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) to structure international cooperation and create a network of international research teams based around a common research theme.