# Assessing Equity and Equality of Emerging Technologies

An NSF Graduate Research Fellow at Georgia Tech and collaborator with CNS-ASU, **Thomas Woodson's** research explores inequality in nanomedicine research and the role of public-private partnerships (PPP) in addressing health inequality.

He has found that some PPPs oppose the use of nanomedicine for treating diseases of poverty (DOP) because the cost of the technology prohibits the medicine from reaching the market in developing countries fast enough. They argue instead for directing R & D dollars to more mainstream technologies to treat DOP.

Through his collaboration with CNS-ASU, Woodson has presented his work on nanotechnology equity and equality at the Society for the Social Studies of Science Meeting in Denmark and the Universidade Federal do Parana in Brazil, among other conferences and workshops.

Nanomedicine holds great promise for treating cancer, Parkinson's, and asthma, among other diseases. But does it hold the same promise for diseases that predominantly affect the poor, such as malaria and tuberculosis?
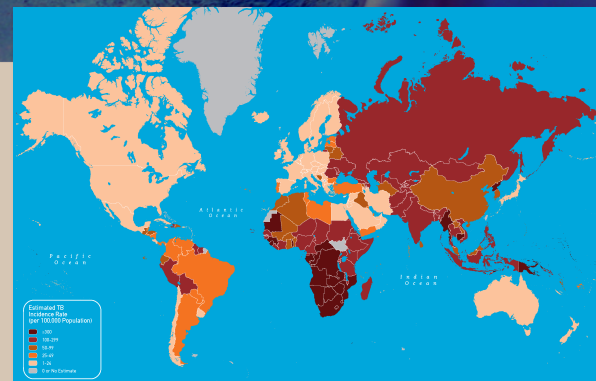
Estimated tuberculosis incidence rates, 2010. Data from the World Health Organization. Map from CDC.gov.

"CNS, and TRC 1 in particular, has been invaluable for my training and development as a scholar," says Woodson. "I learned a variety of research techniques and worked alongside senior scholars. One of the things that excites me about CNS is that our work clearly impacts development and poverty around the world."

Woodson has accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Technology and Society at Stony Brook University, where he will study the intersection of technology and society at regional and global levels.

Thomas Woodson is an NSF Graduate Research Fellow at Georgia Tech. He has collaborated with Thematic Research Cluster (TRC 1) faculty at CNS-ASU. TRC 1 is co-led by **Dr. Jameson Wetmore** at ASU and **Dr. Susan Cozzens** at Georgia Tech and focuses on equity and equality of nanotechnologies.