

ESCCA 2017 Conference

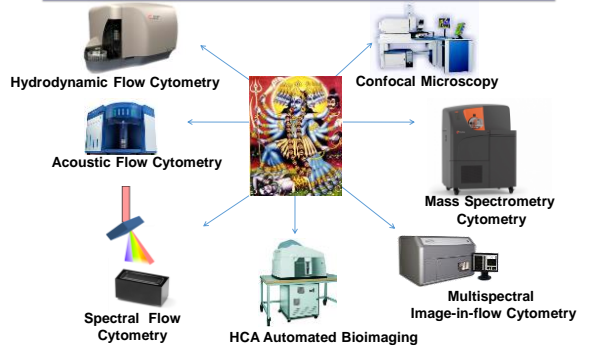


Clinical Diagnostic Cytometry Course  
**AN OVERVIEW ON CLINICAL FLOW CYTOMETRY**

Bruno Brando & Arianna Gatti  
Hematology Laboratory and  
Transfusion Center  
Western Milan Area Hospital Consortium  
Legnano Hospital, Milano, Italy  
e-mail: [bruno.brando@asst-ovestmi.it](mailto:bruno.brando@asst-ovestmi.it)



**FROM CYTOLOGY TO CYTOMICS: TECHNOLOGY**

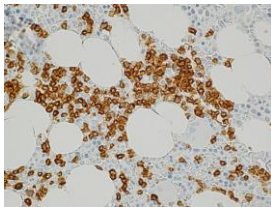


**Multicolor Flow Cytometry: Strong Points**

- Multiparametric Analysis with Full Cross-Correlation of Findings.
- Biological Markers of Different Meaning are Analyzed Simultaneously.
- Data From a Very Large Number of Cells Can Be Collected in a Short Time.
- Robust and Reliable Statistical Representation of Rare Events.
- Cells Are Examined in Their Original Milieu with Minimal Manipulation.
- Objective, Operator-Independent Measurement of Cell Parameters.
- High Level of Standardization and External Quality Assessment schemes.

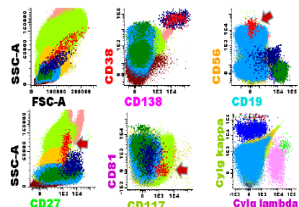
**Multicolor Flow Cytometry: Weak Points**

- Monodispersed Cell Suspensions: Tissue Architecture Is Lost.
- The Cell Compartment That Generates the Signal Cannot Be Located.
- Some Cellular Markers that Work in Histochemistry Don't Work in Flow.
- Fluorescence Background and Signal Resolution With Some Cell Markers.
- "Just One Cell" is Not Enough for Data Interpretation.



**Immunohistochemistry:**  
One Cellular Marker at a Time.

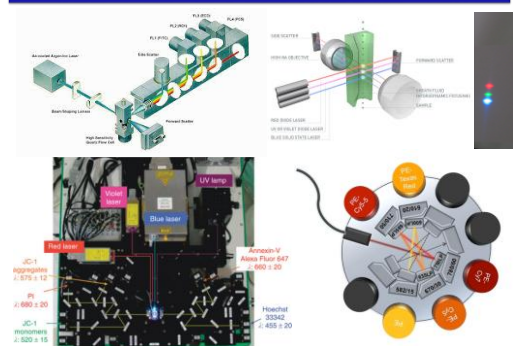
- Cell Denominator Difficult to Enumerate
- Limited Statistical Robustness of Data
- Difficult correlation between markers
- Subjective, Operator-Dependent Analysis



**Multicolor Flow Cytometry:**  
As Many Markers as You May Want.

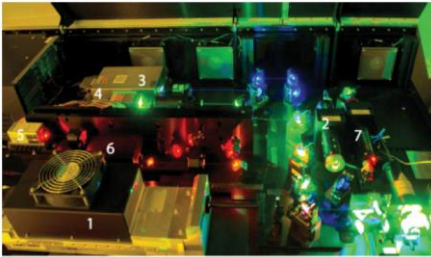
- Cell Denominator Precise
- Very High Statistical Robustness of Data
- Full cross-correlation among markers
- Objective, Operator-Independent Analysis

**The Optical System**



7-Laser  
25-Color  
Configuration

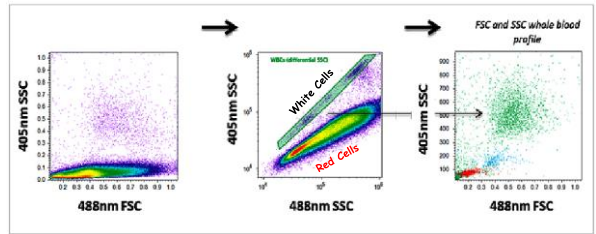
WOW!



Laser	Wavelength [nm]	Style	Power [mw]	PMT Array	PMT
1 UV	355	Mode Lock	20	Trigon	2
2 Violet	405	Diode Pumped Solid State	50	Octagon	8
3 Blue	488	Diode Pumped Solid State	20-100	Octagon	4
4 Green	532	Diode Pumped Solid State	40-150	Octagon	5
5 Yellow	594	Diode Pumped Solid State	50	Trigon	2
6 Red	638	Diode Pumped Solid State	40	Trigon	3
7 IR	785	Diode Pumped Solid State	25	Trigon	1

Pfeffer F & Dombkowski D.  
Cytometry Part B 2009;  
76B: 295 - 314.

The Availability of the 405nm (Violet) Laser Has Extended the Spectrum of Excitable Fluorochromes.  
488 vs 405nm SSC Discriminates Red and White Blood Cells With a NO-YSE Technique.



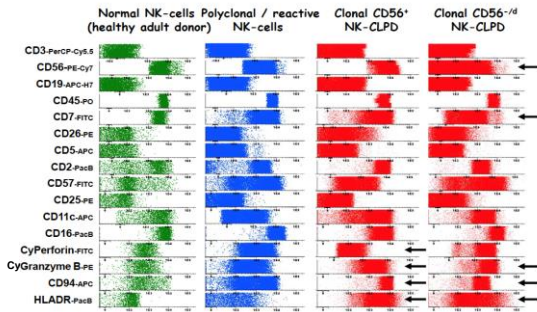
- Diagrams are from the ATTUNE™ Acoustic Cytometer.
- 405 nm SSC can be implemented in new generation cytometers with a simple filter set.

60+ Different  
Fluorochromes  
Available Today

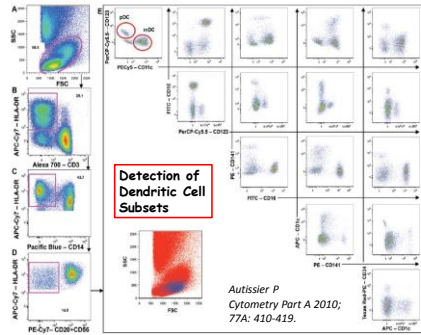
Fluorochrome	Excitation max (nm)	Excitation lines (nm)	Emission max (nm)	Emission color
Propidium iodide	300, 340	350-360, 488	620	Yellow-orange
Indo-1 Ca bound	330	350-360	420	Violet
Indo-1 Ca free	345	350-360	480	Blue
LIVEDEAD	352	350-360	420	Blue
AMCA-X	353	350-360	442	Blue
AMCA	359	350-360	462	Blue
Allophycocyanin	366	350-360	660	Red
Meriva Blue	366	350-360	442	Blue
Allophycocyanin 350	366	350-360	660	Red
Pacific Blue	404	405, 407	456	Blue
BD Horizon V450	404	405, 407	456	Blue
LIVEDEAD V450	414	405, 407	456	Blue
Allophycocyanin 405	414	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 407	414	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 409	414	405, 407	660	Red
ECFP	434	456, 488	420	Violet/blue
Allophycocyanin 438	438	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 439	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 440	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 441	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 442	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 443	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 444	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 445	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 446	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 447	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 448	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 449	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 450	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 451	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 452	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 453	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 454	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 455	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 456	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 457	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 458	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 459	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 460	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 461	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 462	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 463	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 464	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 465	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 466	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 467	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 468	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 469	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 470	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 471	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 472	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 473	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 474	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 475	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 476	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 477	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 478	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 479	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 480	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 481	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 482	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 483	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 484	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 485	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 486	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 487	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 488	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 489	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 490	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 491	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 492	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 493	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 494	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 495	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 496	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 497	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 498	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 499	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 500	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 501	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 502	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 503	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 504	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 505	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 506	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 507	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 508	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 509	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 510	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 511	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 512	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 513	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 514	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 515	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 516	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 517	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 518	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 519	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 520	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 521	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 522	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 523	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 524	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 525	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 526	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 527	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 528	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 529	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 530	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 531	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 532	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 533	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 534	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 535	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 536	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 537	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 538	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 539	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 540	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 541	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 542	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 543	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 544	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 545	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 546	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 547	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 548	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 549	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 550	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 551	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 552	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 553	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 554	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 555	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 556	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 557	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 558	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 559	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 560	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 561	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 562	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 563	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 564	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 565	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 566	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 567	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 568	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 569	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 570	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 571	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 572	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 573	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 574	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 575	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 576	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 577	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 578	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 579	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 580	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 581	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 582	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 583	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 584	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 585	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 586	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 587	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 588	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 589	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 590	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 591	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 592	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 593	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 594	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 595	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 596	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 597	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 598	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 599	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 600	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 601	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 602	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 603	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 604	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 605	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 606	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 607	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 608	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 609	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 610	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 611	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 612	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 613	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 614	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 615	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 616	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 617	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 618	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 619	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 620	439	405, 407	660	Red
Allophycocyanin 621	439	405, 407	660	Red

Why do we need so many colors?

**IMMUNOPHENOTYPIC PROFILE OF NORMAL, REACTIVE AND CLONAL NK CELLS**



Why do we need so many colors?

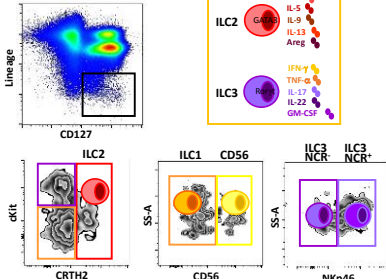


- APC CD1c
- Alexa700 CD3
- AmCyan CD4
- QDot655 CD8
- PE-Cy5 CD11c
- Pac8 CD14
- FITC CD16
- APC-Cy7 CD20
- ECD CD34
- PerCP-Cy5.5 CD123
- PE CD141
- APC-Cy7 HLADR

A 12-Color Panel to enumerate Dendritic Cell Subsets, Monocyte and Lymphocyte Populations

Why do we need so many colors?

**Innate Lymphocytes**



Identification through the combined use of surface phenotypic markers, intracellular transcription factors and cytokine synthesis.

- CD3 IFN-γ
- CD4 TNF-α
- CD8 IL-4
- CD14 IL-5
- CD15 IL-17
- CD16 IL-17
- CD19 IL-22
- CD20
- CD33
- CD34
- CD56
- CD127
- CD203c
- FcεRI
- CRTH2
- Nkp46

Courtesy of Sara Trabonelli, 2016

**Leukemia Stem Cell Detection for Diagnostic Purposes: Discrimination Between Leukemia and Hematopoietic Stem Cells (1 tube, 8 colors, 13 markers)**

Tube	FITC	PE	PerCP-Cy5.5	PeCy7	APC	APC-H7	BV421	HV500C
CD45ra	CD45ra	CD11b	CD123	CD33	CD38	CD44	CD34	CD45

- PE "Lineage (dump) Channel" contains markers that are NEGATIVE on HSC
- 1 tube for LSC detection at diagnosis and follow-up
- Identifies almost all CD34+CD38- LSC
- Needs no extensive experience in BM immunophenotyping
- Multi-institutional approach possible
- Can be extended with other markers in the PE-channel

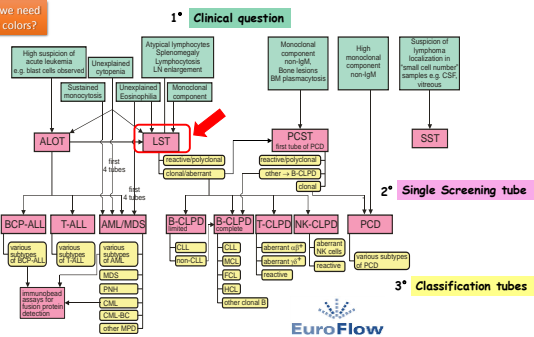
Why do we need so many colors?

Courtesy of GJ Schuurhuis, 2016

Zeijlemaker W. Leukemia 16 Sept 2016. doi:10.1038/leu.2015.295  
Zeijlemaker W. Leukemia 16 Sept 2015. doi:10.1038/leu.2015.292

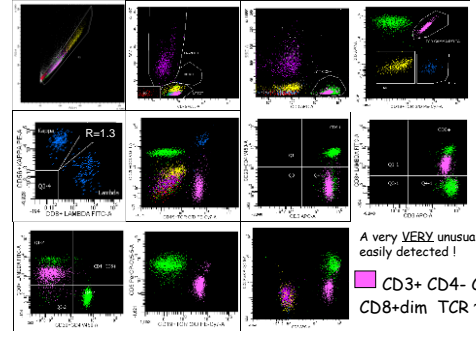
Why do we need so many colors?

**Algorithm for EuroFlow Antibody Panels in Hemato-Oncology**



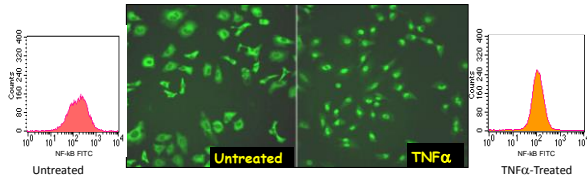
EuroFlow

**8-Color/12-MoAbs LST Tube: Lymphoproliferative Disorders Screening**



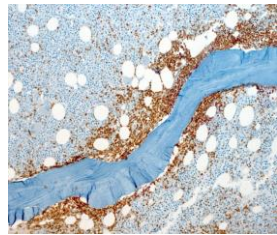
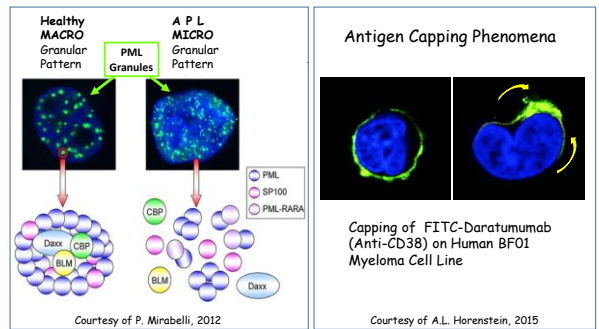
A very VERY unusual case easily detected!  
CD3+ CD4- CD5- CD8+dim TCR γ/δ+

Flow Cytometric Analysis Cannot Locate Where the Signal is Generated



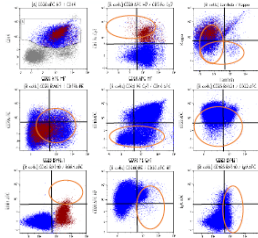
TNF $\alpha$ -Induced Shift of NF- $\kappa$ B From Cytoplasm to Nucleus of HeLa Cells

Other Signal Pattern Issues That Cannot be Appreciated by FCM



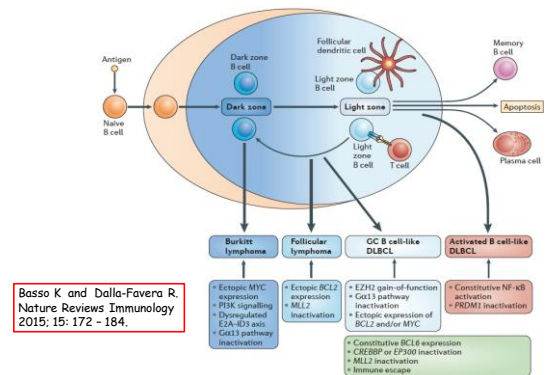
IHC - Bone Marrow Trepphine Biopsy: Paratrabecular Lymphocyte Infiltrate

Architecture of cellular clustering has a clinical meaning (i.e. Follicular Lymphoma)

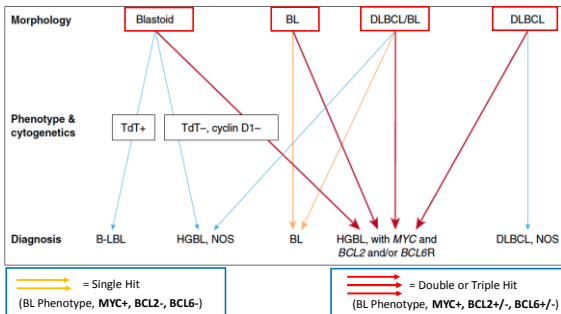


FCM Analysis of Bone Marrow Aspirate: Dissociated Particles-Homogeneous Suspension

Abnormal cells diluted and admixed with normal lymphocytes. Clonality may not emerge.



Diagnostic Approach to Aggressive, High-Grade B Cell Lymphomas (HGBL)



Swerdlow SH. Blood 2016; 127: 2375-2390.

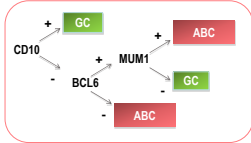
Some Important Diagnostic Markers that Cannot be Detected by FCM

- Nuclear Cyclin-D1: Translocation CCND1/IGH-t(11;14) Mantle Cell Lymphoma, Myeloma
- Nuclear Cyclin-D2: Multiple Myeloma
- BCL-6 (By FISH): DLBCL
- IGH/MYC/CEP8: (MYC-BCL2= Double Hit) MYC-Translocated DLBCL: 30% OS at 24mos MYC-wild type: 70% OS at 24 mos.
- IRF4/MUM1: Cell of Origin DLBCL ABC vs GC
- SOX11: Mantle Cell Lymphoma In situ vs Leukemized
- EBV Products (EBER By FISH): DLBCL EBV-Related, Primary Effusion Lymphoma
- MIB-1 Quantitation: Cutoff >90% or <90% DLBCL vs Burkitt
- TP53 Mutations: Multiple Myeloma, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

The 'Cell-of-Origin' of Lymphomas Cannot be Established by FCM

Mature, Clonal, Highly Proliferating B Cells (CD19+ CD20+ CD22+ CD79b+ sIg+ Ki67+40%)

- **Germinal Center (GC) Type DLBCL**: CD10+ *or* CD10- **BCL6+ MUM1-**
- **Post-GC Activated Phenotype (ABC)**: CD10- **BCL6-** *or* CD10- **BCL6+ MUM1+**



Such analysis can be accomplished by Immuno-Histochemistry (IHC) Only

In IHC slides are processed at HIGH TEMPERATURE, so antigens undergo structural changes

Histology and Immunohistochemistry of Lymph Nodes in Lymphoma Diagnosis: *Is There Any Role For Multicolor FCM Analysis?*

- It is estimated that in 10-15% of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma cases the conventional Histology/IHC analysis of Lymph Nodes may be inconclusive, thus requiring additional analytical steps.
- The 2016 WHO revision (S. Swerdlow, Blood 2016; 127: 2375-2390) highlights the need of a more cautious usage of the term 'Lymphoma' since cases of in-situ neoplasms and borderline or atypical reactive lesions may occur.
- Multicolor FCM can be of help as an ancillary technique in NHL diagnosis, especially in T-Cell Lymphomas, Composite Lymphomas, Dendritic Plasmacytoid neoplasms, PTGC (Progressive Transformation of Germinal Center), In-Situ Follicular Lymphoma, Thyroid Aspirates, to approach 100% diagnostic accuracy.
- Coupling FCM to Histology/IHC of Lymph Nodes requires a tight cooperation between operators (organization, technicalities, logistics)

But Multicolor Flow Cytometry is Unbeatable in Detecting and Characterizing Difficult and Unusual Leukemias

- Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm
- Acute Leukemias of Ambiguous Lineage:

- Acute Undifferentiated Leukemia
- Mixed Phenotype Acute Leukemia (MPAL) with t(9;22)(q34.1;q11.2); BCR-ABL1
- MPAL with t(v:11q23.3); KMT2A Rearranged
- MPAL, B/Myeloid, NOS
- MPAL, T/Myeloid, NOS

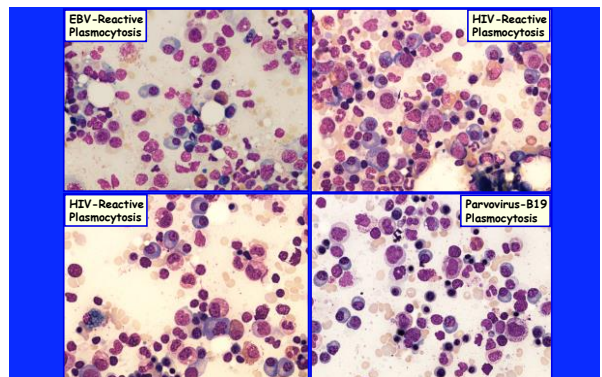
Criteria for Lineage Assignment for a Diagnosis of MPAL

<b>Myeloid Lineage</b>
MPO (flow cytometry, immunohistochemistry, or cytochemistry) or Monocytic differentiation (at least 2 of the following: nonspecific Esterase cytochemistry, CD11c, CD14, CD64, Lysozyme)
<b>T-Lineage</b>
Strong cytoplasmic CD3 (with antibodies to CD3 ε chain) or Surface CD3
<b>B-Lineage</b>
Strong CD19 with at least 1 of the following strongly expressed: CD79a, cytoplasmic CD22, or CD10 or Weak CD19 with at least 2 of the following strongly expressed: CD79a, cytoplasmic CD22, or CD10
Arber DA. Blood 2016; 127: 2391-2405.

Flow Cytometry in Hematologic Malignancies

Some abnormal phenotypes can be highly predictive of genetic defects:

- Acute Myeloid Leukemia CD34+ CD56+ CD15+/- CD19+ → t(8;21)
- Mantle Cell Lymphoma CD5+ CD23- CD79b+ CD200- → t(11;14)
- Burkitt Lymphoma CD10++ CD38++ CD43++ CD81++ → t(8;14)
- Atypical B-CLL CD5+ CD20++ CD23+/- CD49d+ → trisomy 12
- Multiple Myeloma CD20+ → t(11;14) - Standard Risk
- Multiple Myeloma CD28+++ CD27- → t(14;16) - High Risk
- Multiple Myeloma CD28- CD27- → t(4;14) - High Risk
- Pediatric ALL CD123+ → Hyperdiploidy
- Pediatric ALL CD66c+ → Hyperdiploidy, BCR/ABL
- Pediatric ALL CD44- → TEL/AML1
- Mature B-ALL CD44- → MYC-Translocation
- .....and many other.....



Four Expert Pathologists Were Asked to Analyze 50 Established MDS Cases: High Inter-Observer Variability of Morphological Evaluation of Blasts.

Table 2. Statistical analyses of interobserver degree of agreement regarding morphological features.

κ (P value)	κ (P value)	ICC
<b>Blasts in peripheral blood (N)</b>		
0	0.37 (P=0.204)	
≥1	0.09 (P=0.475)	
Overall kappa	0.30 (P=0.002)	
As a continuous variable		
		0.82
<b>Blasts in bone marrow (N)</b>		
≤2	0.50 (P=0.002)	
>2 to <5	0.38 (P=0.005)	
5-9	0.29 (P=0.048)	
≥10	0.40 (P<0.001)	
Overall	0.42 (P<0.001)	
As a continuous variable		
		0.95
<b>Bone marrow ring sideroblasts (N)</b>		
<5	0.82	
≥5	0.82	
Overall	0.82 (P<0.001)	
As a continuous variable		
		0.95

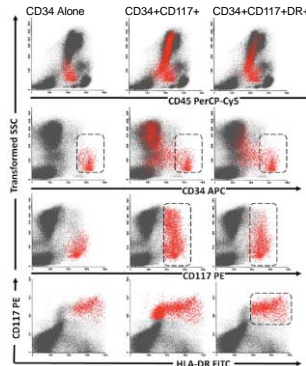
Senent L. Haematologica 2013; 98: 568-575

The same MDS patient may be classified as RCMD, RAEB-1 or -2 depending on observer

Bone marrow granulocytic dysplasia (%)		Bone marrow megakaryocytic dysplasia (%)		Bone marrow erythroid dysplasia (%)	
Percentage		Percentage		Percentage	
<10	0.39 (P=0.005)	<10	0.46 (P=0.005)	<10	0.19 (P=0.021)
10-20	0.22 (P=0.04)	>10	0.49 (P=0.04)	10-20	0.18 (P=0.05)
≥40	0.39 (P=0.04)	≥40	0.56 (P=0.005)	≥40	0.15 (P=0.07)
Overall	0.41 (P<0.001)	Overall	0.49 (P<0.001)	Overall	0.11 (P=0.06)
As a continuous variable		As a continuous variable		As a continuous variable	
	0.89		0.91		0.75

WHO 2008 subtype

RCMD	0.51 (P<0.001)
RAEB	0.26 (P=0.009)
RCMD	0.46 (P=0.01)
RAEB-1	0.29 (P=0.05)
RAEB-2	0.09 (P<0.001)
MDS-U	0.01 (P=0.87)
Overall	0.43 (P<0.001)



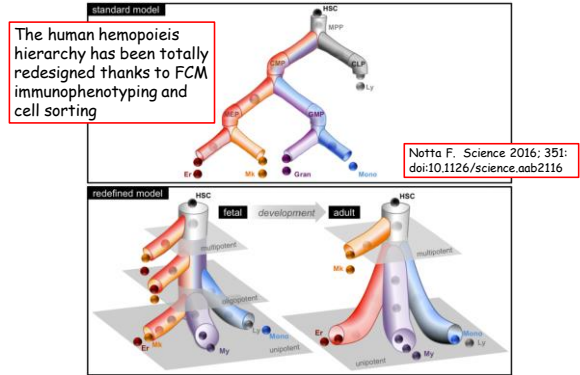
Counting BM Blasts by FCM

BM Blast enumeration by FCM using CD34+ CD117+ HLA-DR+ displays the BEST CORRELATION with morphological blast count as performed by expert readers.

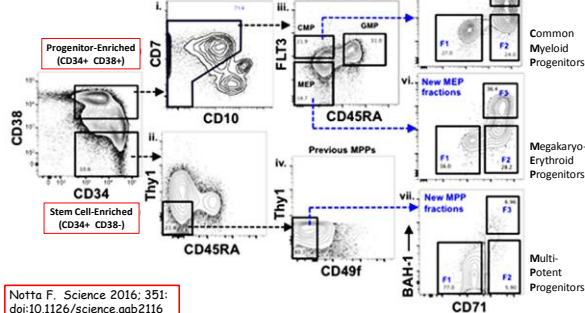
Cell denominator is made by CD45+ cells, excluding erythroid precursors.

Sandes AF. Clinical Cytometry 2013; 84B: 157-166.

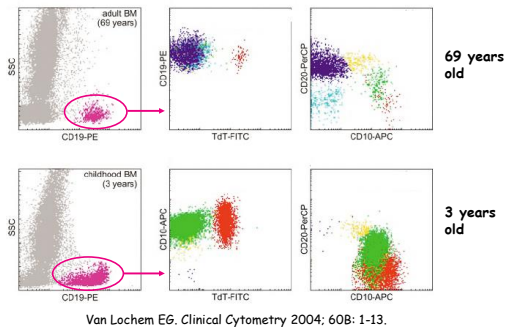
Phenotype changes with Age, Exposure & Environment



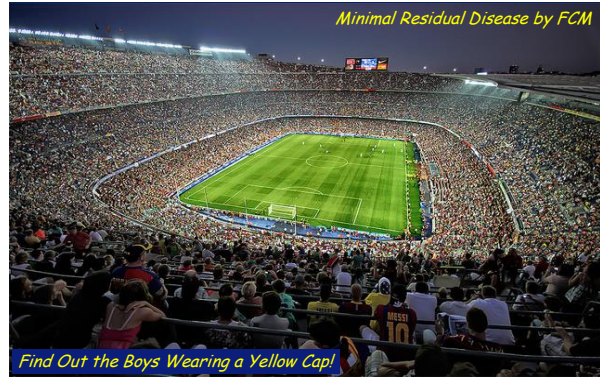
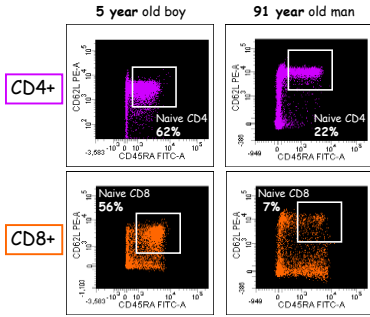
A novel 11-parameter cell sorting scheme to examine the heterogeneity within the CD34+ progenitor compartment.



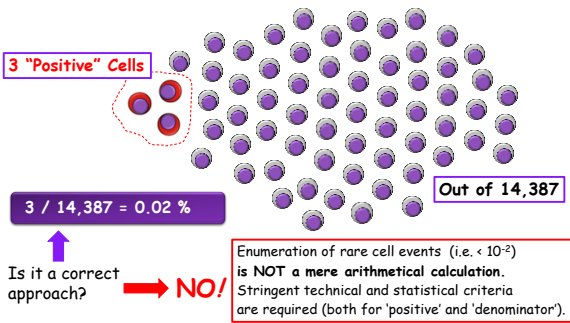
Age-related changes in the normal Bone Marrow (B Cell Lineage)



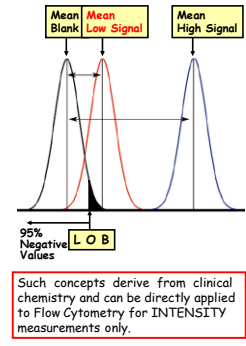
**Naive T Cells and Aging**



**Rare Event Detection and Enumeration by FCM - The Minimal Residual Disease**

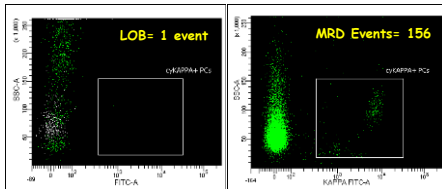
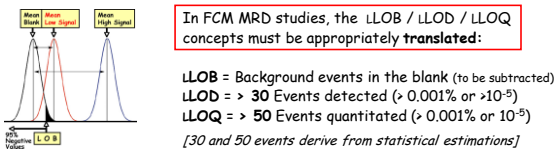


- **Lower Limit of Blank (LLOB):** The highest signal in the absence of the measurand. (Mean Blank + SD  $\times$  1.65). 95% of negative values are below this limit.
- **Lower Limit of Detection (LOD):** (Mean Blank + SD<sub>low</sub>  $\times$  1.65). 95% of negative values are above this limit. 5% false negatives and 5% false positives are assumed
- **Lower Limit of Quantitation (LLOQ):** The lowest level of measurand that can be reliably quantitated at a predefined criterion for precision and accuracy (clinical utility value). Never lower than LOD.



Wood B. ICSS/ICCS. Cytometry Part B 2013; 84B: 315-323.

**Consensus on MRD Detection in Multiple Myeloma**



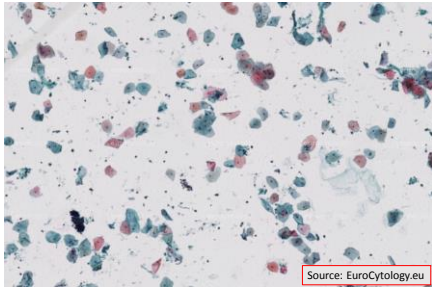
**FCM MRD Studies: Estimated LLOD & LLOQ According to the Total Number of Acquired Cells**

Total Number of Acquired Cells (Excluding Erythroid)	LLOD % $\geq 30$ Events	LLOQ % $\geq 50$ Events
100,000	0.03	0.05
200,000	0.015	0.025
500,000	0.006	0.01
1,000,000	0.003	0.005
2,000,000	0.0015	0.0025
3,000,000	~ 0.001	~ 0.0017
5,000,000	~ 0.0006	~ 0.001

The specific LLOD for the total amount of acquired cells should be reported.

Arroz M. Cytometry Part B 2016; 90B: 31-39.

When examining a PAP Smear (around 300,000 cells), **JUST ONE ABNORMAL CELL** may be enough to classify the sample as **SUSPECT**, therefore requiring expert review or resampling.



Source: EuroCytology.eu

A Limitation of FCM Analysis: **JUST ONE CELL (Event) IS NOTHING**

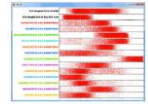
**Next Generation FCM: Extended Multiparameter Analysis by Infinicyt™**

Infinicyt™ is a software for data integration and multidimensional analysis of flow cytometry files. The main features of Infinicyt™ are:



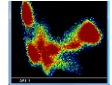
**The Merge Process**

Two or more datafiles from the same sample or from different samples with some common 'backbone' markers are merged. The resulting file sums up limitless cell phenotypes as if they were generated by a virtual single cell sample.



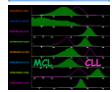
**The Automatic Population Separator (APS)**

An automatic separator of events using the 'Principal Component Analysis', Multidimensionally identified cell subsets are rendered in a 2-dimensional format.

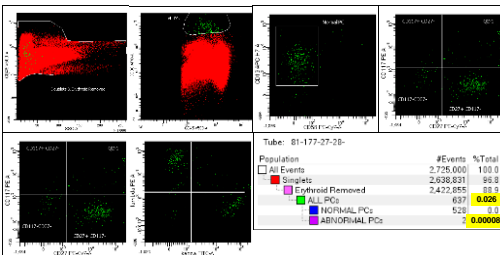


**The Internal or External Reference Case Database**

Cell analyses can be compared to reference datasets generated internally (i.e. at disease onset) or to an external case library, if analyzed by the same criteria.



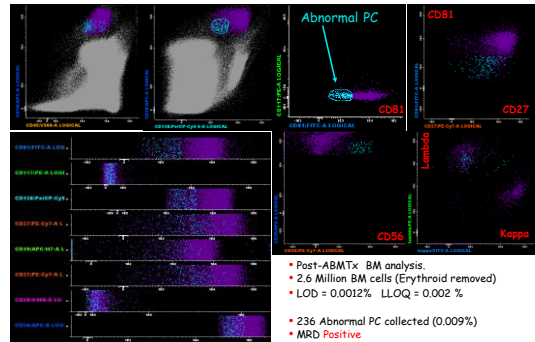
**Conventional Flow-MRD Assay: MRD - Negative Case**



Consensus on a standardized, robust MM-MRD gating protocol with conventional FCM analysis softwares is still lacking.

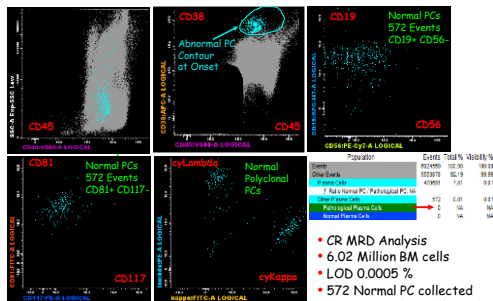
- MRD Study - 1 Tube, Conventional Analysis
- 2.725 M BM cells acquired & erythroid removed
- LOD = 0.0012%
- 2 Abnormal PCs collected (0.0008%)
- MRD Negative

**Next Generation Flow-MRD Assay: 2 EuroFlow Tubes Merged**



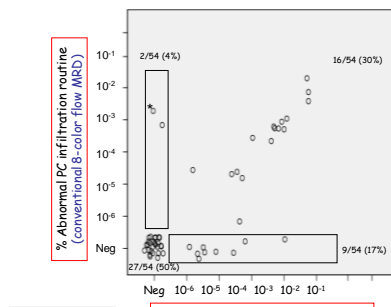
- Post-ABMTx BM analysis.
- 2.6 Million BM cells (Erythroid removed)
- LOD = 0.0012% LLOQ = 0.002 %
- 236 Abnormal PC collected (0.009%)
- MRD Positive

**Next Generation Flow-MRD Assay: 2 EuroFlow Tubes Merged**



- CR MRD Analysis
- 6.02 Million BM cells
- LOD 0,0005 %
- 572 Normal PC collected
- No Abnormal PC collected
- MRD Negative

**Next Generation Flow MRD vs Conventional 8-color Flow MRD**



\* Proven polyclonal by CyIg staining

Courtesy of Alberto Orfao, 2015

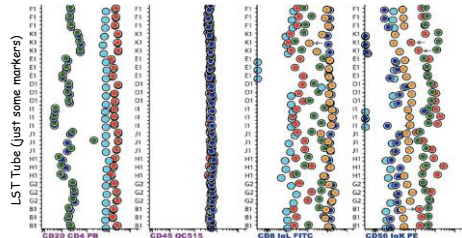


**Next-Generation Flow-MRD is now considered equivalent to ASO-qPCR and NGS**

	Allele-specific oligonucleotide qPCR	MFC	VJ sequencing
Applicability	50-70%	Near 100%	≥50%
Need for baseline sample	Yes, requires production of patient-specific probes	Not required; axonemia plasma can be identified in any sample by three distinct immunophenotypic patterns in normal plasma cells	Baseline samples required for identification of the dominant clone; alternatively, a stored sample from a time point with detectable disease can be used to define baseline status
Sample requirements	<1 million cells	>5 million cells	<1 million cells; higher numbers improve sensitivity
Sample processing	Can be delayed; can use both fresh and stored samples	Needs assessment within 24-48 h; requires a fresh sample	Can be delayed; can use both fresh and stored samples
Sample quality control	Not possible. Additional studies required	Immediate with global bone marrow cell analysis	Not possible. Additional studies required
Sensitivity	≤1 in 10 <sup>7</sup>	≤1 in 10 <sup>6</sup>	≤1 in 10 <sup>7</sup>
Information regarding sample composition	No further information available	Detailed information available on leucocyte subsets and their relative distribution	Information about immunoglobulin gene repertoire of B cells in the studied patient samples
Turnaround and complexity	Labour intensive; requires the development of patient-specific primers/probes; can take several days	Can be done in a few hours; automated software available	Can take several days for turnaround; requires intense bioinformatics support. Use of local laboratories could speed up this limitation
Standardisation	Has been done for other diseases (EunIMRD); can be done for myeloma as well	Standardised by the EuroFlow consortium	In process
Availability	Wide*	Most hospitals with four-colour flow cytometry. Eight or more-colour flow cytometry requires more experienced centres/laboratories. Many laboratories have adopted the EuroFlow laboratory protocols and use the EuroFlow MRD tubes	So far limited to one company/platform

New International Myeloma Working Group (IMWG) Response Criteria  
 Kumar S. *Lancet Oncology* 2016; Aug (17): e328-e346

**EUROFLOW: Long-Term Monitoring of Instrumental Standardization (MedFI)**



- When the analysis output is an **Intensity of Expression** variable, the control of consistency and stability of **MedFI** over time is mandatory.
- Despite Instrument setup, Calibration microspheres, and Reagents are fully homogeneous, some markers still display a high grade of intrinsic expression variability.



Kalina T. *Cytometry Part A* 2015; 87A: 145-156.

**STANDARDIZATION vs HARMONIZATION IN FLOW CYTOMETRIC ANALYSES**

**Standardization**

**Tchaikovsky's Piano Concert N. 1 in Bb Major op. 23**



Notes are always exactly the same at every performance

The Tchaikovsky's 1st Piano Concert in Bb is immediately recognized **BECAUSE** the notes are always the same.

**Harmonization**

**A 12-bar Jazz Blues in F**



Notes vary greatly among the various performers

A 12-bar Jazz Blues in F is immediately recognized **DESPITE** the notes are different at each performance.

**STANDARDIZATION vs HARMONIZATION IN FLOW CYTOMETRIC ANALYSES**

**Standardization**

- Rather easy to implement for simple, repetitive analyses (i.e. CD4, CD34, CD64, FMH, Low Level Leucocytes...)
- Requires a lot of time for validation of MoAb recipes. Scientific evidence may change meanwhile, making guidelines rapidly obsolete (esp. in Leukemia).
- The strict rules may cause excessive selection of labs according to their available technologies.
- Everyone invoke 'standardization' in FCM, but once technical guidelines are published criticism and variations become quickly the rule.

**Harmonization**

- Requires a strong agreement on basic general principles and technical operating procedures.
- Detailed recipes of antibody mixtures are not strictly necessary.
- Guidelines can be applied more flexibly, even in labs not equipped with state-of-the-art technology.
- It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice. (Deng Xiaoping, 1960)

**OPTIMIZATION OF THE TWO 8-COLOR MM MRD ANTIBODY COMBINATIONS**

Panel version	Tube	Pac8	PacO	FITC	PE	PerCP Cy5.5	PE Cy7	APC	APC H7
1	1	CD45	CD138	CD38	CD56	CD27	CD19	CD117	CD81
	2	CD45	CD138	CD38	CD56	CD229	CD19	OyIgk	OyIgl
2	1	CD45	CD138	CD38	CD56	CD27	CD19	CD117	CD81
	2	CD45	CD138	CD38	CD56	CD229	CD19	OyIgk	OyIgl
3	1	CD45	CD138	CD38	CD56	CD27	CD19	CD117	CD81
	2	CD45	CD138	CD38	CD56	CD229	CD19	OyIgk	OyIgl
4	1	CD138	CD27	CD38	CD56	CD45	CD19	CD117	CD81
	2	CD138	CD27	CD38	CD56	CD45	CD19	OyIgk	OyIgl
5	1	CD138	CD27	CD38 (ME)	CD56	CD45	CD19	CD117	CD81
	2	CD138	CD27	CD38 (ME)	CD56	CD45	CD19	OyIgk	OyIgl

ME= Multi-Epitope CD38

**REPORTING IN HEMATOLOGICAL MALIGNEANCIES:**

**A Matter of Communication**

An example of a modern, integrated hematological report.

The results of all the various technical approaches are summarized in the **same** report file, each one signed by the respective responsible academic.

A unified, collegial clinical conclusion is offered.

Johansson U.  
 Brit J Haematol 2014; 165: 455-488

**Leukemia / Lymphoma Report**

**Report no:** WBC 609-3-107/1 | **Hb:** 82 g/l | **Plt:** 129-107/l | **Ly:** 656-D+107/l

**Dr. Slinckx:** | **Date received:** Day-Month-Year | **Patent name:** Jm. Slinckx

**Dr. Gheuens:** | **Lab number:** 1234567 | **Date of Birth:** Day-Month-Year | **Ref no:** 1123456

**Address:** | **Referral lab no:** 145678 | **Referring Clinic:** St. Luke's

**LEUKAEMIA DIAGNOSIS - INTEGRATED REPORT**  
 Clinical Details: None stated

**Flow cytometry:** WBC 609-3-107/1 | **Flow cytometry:** WBC 609-3-107/1 | **Flow cytometry:** WBC 609-3-107/1

**Morphology/Cytochemistry (Name of Section Head, phone number)**  
 The vast majority of cells are variable sized, largely mature lymphoid cells. Many have a single prominent cent. (initial of reporter)

**Immunophenotyping (Name of Section Head, phone number)**  
 There is a moderately bright kappa clone of CD19+CD5+ B cell present which accounts for 88% of the total nucleated cells in this sample. Many of the lymphoid cells show an increase in forward scatter signal, indicating a larger cell size. The B cell phenotype is FMC7+HLA-DR+CD22+CD79b+/-CD10+/-CD138+/-CD34+/-CD200+/-IgM+/-IgD variable. Ki67 is positive on 15% of the B cells. CD38 was not tested for. This is unlikely to be CLL, the CLL score is 1-2/5. Await FISH for IGH/CCND1 gene rearrangement to test for mantle cell lymphoma. (initial of reporter)

**Cytogenetics/molecular Cytogenetics (Name of Section Head, phone number)**  
 Result from bone marrow sample taken (date)  
 Probe hybridized: (company name) IGH/CCND1 dual Fusion.  
 Sample hybridized: bone marrow cultured.  
 Result: positive.  
 All 200 nuclei examined showed a signal pattern consistent with an IGH/CCND1 gene rearrangement. This is consistent with the diagnosis of mantle cell lymphoma. (initial of reporter)

**Comments and Conclusions**  
 Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL/CLL)  
 (initial of reporter)



Courtesy of Alberto Orfao, ESCCA Course 2016



Not Only  
Leukemia

### Flow Cytometry in the Blood Bank

- **Quality Control of Blood Components:**
  - Low-Level Leucocyte Count in Leucoreduced products
  - Control of Platelet Function and Sterility in PLT Bags
  - Study of the RBC 'Storage Lesions'
- **Control of CD34+ PBSC Units for Transplantation:**
  - Evaluation of Apheresis Yield and PBSC Collection
  - Enumeration of Viable PBSC at Freezing
  - Evaluation of Viable PBSC after Thawing
- **Management of Feto-Maternal Hemorrhage (Anti-D):**
  - FCM to Guide the Anti-D Therapy
- **Experimental Applications:**
  - Anti-RBC Antibody Studies
  - Monitoring the kinetics of transfused RBC survival
  - Large-Scale in-Vitro Production of Red Blood Cells

Not Only  
Leukemia

### Bronchoalveolar Lavage: Clinically Important Questions To Be Answered by the FCM Analysis of the Recovered Immune Cells

- **Overall Cellular Concentration:**
  - Hypercellular BAL indicates active disease.
- **Lymphocyte Percentage:**
  - Relative lymphocytosis indicates an ongoing immune process.
- **T Lymphocyte Subset Distribution:**
  - Prevalence of T CD4+ or T CD8+ cells varies in different diseases.
- **Presence of Other Cell Types:**
  - PMNs, Eosinophils, CD1a+ Histiocytes (sometimes disease-specific).
  - Leukemia/Lymphoma Cells (Lung involvement in hematological malignancies).
  - Activated Lymphocytes, TH1/TH2/TH17 Cells, Dendritic Cells (experimental)

## UK NEQAS

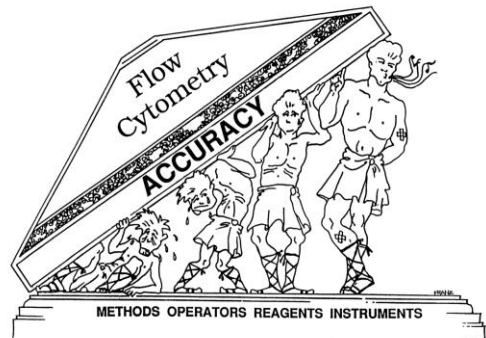
### Leucocyte Immunophenotyping

UK NEQAS National External Quality Assessment Site

The screenshot shows the UK NEQAS website interface. On the left, there is a 'Select Trials for' dropdown menu with a list of programs including BCR-ABL Kinase Domain Mutations, BCR-ABL1 and AML Translocations, BCR-ABL1 Quantification, CD34 Stem Cell, Chimerism, FLT3 Mutation Status, IgT/TCR Clonality, Immune Monitoring, Immune Monitoring (Alternative Technologies), JAK2 p.Val617Phe (V617F) Mutation Status, Leukaemia Diagnostic Interpretation (Part 2), Leukaemia Immunophenotyping (Part 1), Leukaemia Immunophenotyping (Part 1.5), Low Level Leucocytes, Minimal Residual Disease - ALL, Minimal Residual Disease - AML, Minimal Residual Disease - BCLL, Minor BCR-ABL1 Quantitation, NPM1 Mutation Status, Paediatric Acute Leukaemia Translocations, Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria, Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria (April 2016+), Pilot BSAF p.Val600Glu (V600E) Mutation Status for Pilot KIT p.Asp816Val (D816V) Mutation Status for PNH High Resolution.

On the right, there is a 'Participation Certificate' section with a 'register for the next financial year' button and a 'Logout' button. Below this, there is a box titled 'UK NEQAS For Leucocyte Immunophenotyping' containing the following text:

- 12 FCM and 12 Molecular Schemes.
- Unique Programs for Leukemia and MRD.
- 1500+ Participants all Over the World.
- Most Schemes are ISO 17043 Certified.
- Primarily Educational for Both Technicians and Academics.
- Helps Operators to Reach and Maintain High-Level Professional Competence.
- Running Scores to Monitor Performance With Time.
- Friendly Technical and Scientific Support.



### An Overview of Clinical Flow Cytometry (Conclusions)

- **New developments in medicine require extensive patient monitoring in many different diseases (Hematology/Oncology, Autoimmune Diseases, Immunodeficiencies, Infectious Diseases, Reproductive and Cardiovascular Medicine).**
- **Changes in diagnostic strategies are needed to follow the new targeted therapies (Humanized Antibodies, TKI- and BCL2-blockers, CAR-T Cells etc.) also by implementing new data analysis systems.**
- **The new (immune)therapeutic agents may induce prolonged overall survival and better quality of life for patients, thus making the clinical follow-up longer and made of complex sequential runs of therapy (i.e. Myeloma).**
- **The more targeted the therapy, the higher the chance of mutations and consequent resistance. An early detection of therapy resistance will be increasingly important.**
- **As a consequence, Flow Cytometry Monitoring is the answer!**