

Newsletter



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Editeur responsable / Verantwoordelijke uitgever:
Peter Meeus, O.L.Vrouw Ziekenhuis, Moorselbaan 164, 9300 Aalst. e-mail : Peter.Meeus@olvz-aalst.be

BOARD MEMBERS (NOV 2001 - OCT 2003)

Xavier BOSSUYT (QC-issues)
UZ Gasthuisberg
Laboratoriumgeneeskunde
Herestraat 49
3000 LEUVEN
Phone: 016/34.70.09 Fax: 016/34.70.42 e-mail: Xavier.bossuyt@uz.kuleuven.ac.be

Bernard CHATELAIN (Educational committee)
Cliniques de Mont-Godinne UCL
Hematology Lab.
Avenue G. Therasse 1
5530 YVOIR
Phone: 081/42.32.00 Fax: 081/45.32.04 e-mail: Bernard.Chatelain@onco.ucl.ac.be

Christian DEMANET (Membership secretary)
A.Z. VUB
Hematology Lab.
Laarbeeklaan 105
1090 BRUSSEL
Phone: 02/477.67.00 Fax: 02/477.67.27 e-mail: lhemgsb@az.vub.ac.be

Bernard HUSSON (Newsletter + website)
Centre Hospitalier Jolimont-Lobbès, Site de Jolimont
Laboratoire d'hématologie - Unité CMF
159, rue Ferrer
7100 Haine-Saint-Paul
Phone: 064/23.40.98 Fax: 064/23.38.47 e-mail: Bernard.Husson@swing.be

Peter MEEUS (Newsletter + website)
O.L.Vrouw Ziekenhuis
Laboratory
Moorselbaan 164
9300 AALST
Phone: 053/72.46.06 Fax: 053/72.45.88 e-mail: Peter.Meeus@olvz-aalst.be

Evelyne MEYER (Treasurer)
University of Ghent
Dept. Physiol. Biochem. Biom.
Salisburylaan 133, Blok A, 1ste v.
9820 MERELBEKE
Phone: 09/264.73.21 Fax: 09/264.74.98 e-mail: Evelyne.Meyer@rug.ac.be

Jan PHILIPPE (President)
University Hospital Ghent
Clinical Biology
De Pintelaan 185
9000 GENT
Phone: 09/240.34.08 Fax: 09/240.49.85 e-mail: Jan.Philippe@rug.ac.be

Nicole SCHAAF-LAFONTAINE (Vice-president)
Universite de Liege
Immunology and Hematology Lab, +6 Tour 2
CHU Sart-Tilman
4000 LIEGE
Phone: 041/366.82.60 Fax: 041/371.31.60 e-mail: Nicole.Schaaf@chu.ulg.ac.be

Dirk VAN BOCKSTAELE (Board secretary)
University Hospital Antwerp
Hematology Lab
Wilrijkstraat 10
2650 EDEGEM
Phone: 03/821.39.00 Fax: 03/825.11.48 e-mail: Dirk.Van.Bockstaele@uza.be

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Again, you waited for almost one whole year for this letter. Again this is for sure a **News**letter.

We are pleased to announce the new (elected) board. I especially welcome the new board members Bernard Husson (Jolimont) and Xavier Bossuyt (KUL). I am sure that both experienced cytometrists are very enthusiastic and will strengthen the board. They will take care of the Educational Committee and QC issues, respectively. Of course I wish to thank heartily the leaving board members Olivier Pradier (ULB) and Roland Greimers (Liège) for their support to the BVC/ABC and I am convinced that we will often meet each other during the upcoming cytometry-events in the near future.

On behalf of the ABC/BVC board, I would like to thank all attendees of the Antwerp meeting in November 2001, which was a great success. On Thursday there were 58 Belgian participants for the AFAP meeting and on Friday there were 106 Belgian participants for the Symposium. Also the Dutch participants were present in large numbers. In spite of the late program changes of the symposium we are proud to conclude that the high level of the speakers contributed to the success of the meeting.

Obviously, we are planning many new activities for 2002. First, I want to fix your attention to the BVC/ABC website (supervised by Peter Meeus and Bernard Husson) to be found at <http://www.cytometry.be/>. It is our intention to initiate a discussion forum on the web and we invite you all to have a look and eventually participate actively in the discussions. Make it a 'Favorite'! There will be a flow cytometry training course in the French speaking part of Belgium, organized during the spring of this year by Bernard Chatelain (UCL) and Bernard Husson. And the next National Symposium is planned for November with the probable location of Namur. Hopefully, Jim Jett (Los Alamos, USA) and Catherine Verfaillie (Minneapolis, USA) will be able to be present this year. Another point of attention is the QC. There is a further collaboration with the Dutch (SKZL or 'Stichting Kwaliteitszorg ZiekenhuisLaboratoria' and SIHON) and the WIV/LP activities will be continuously supported by our Society. Christian Demanet remains in charge of the membership list/status, Dirk Van Bockstaele (UIA) and Bernard Chatelain, together with Bernard Husson will take care of the Educational Committee, Evelyne Meyer (RUG) again accepted to take care of our money and I am glad to announce that Nicole Schaaf-Lafontaine (Liège) accepted the function of President-elect (to be the next president).

I hope to meet you 'on the web' or on one of our future activities and if you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to communicate them to us!
For the board,

Jan Philippé, president

First announcement of training courses

During the first BVC-ABC board meeting, the need for training courses was evoked. From discussions with sales managers of the major companies working in the area of cytometry, it has become evident for the BVC/ABC board members that there is a high demand for training courses from people that are entering the field.

Last year, a training course was organized in the North using Dutch language. The BVC board has decided to organize a similar course using French language this spring **in the South**.

Where? Cliniques Universitaires de Mont Godinne (UCL).

When? 2 consecutive days: May 2002, 15 and 16.

Modalities? Theoretical and practical topics will be discussed during the 2 days of this training course. The content will focus on general topics that are considered as essential for good practice of flow cytometry in a clinical laboratory. Possibility will be given for participants to subscribe for only one of the 2 consecutive days of this training course. The first day will be dedicated to topics concerning good laboratory practice for setting and following-up of a cytometer to make multiple color analysis and the second day will be focused on applications. Each day, a theoretical session will be organized in the morning followed by a practical session in the afternoon. Handouts in French will be available to all participants. During the practical sessions, it will be possible to use cytometers from the major companies. Help for this practical training will be given by manufacturers specialists but also by experienced users working on a daily basis on these cytometers for diagnosis and research purposes.

In the near future, it will be possible to obtain more information about this training course on the website of the BVC-ABC (<http://www.cytometry.be>) and a registration form with more precise information will be sent to all the BVC-ABC members.

Dirk Van Bockstaele

Bernard Chatelain

Bernard Husson

BVC-ABC Annual Symposium

Please mark your agendas!

We are organizing our annual symposium in Namur this autumn, on Friday, November 15 at the "Centre Culturel Marcel Hic ter", rue des marronniers, 5100 Wépion

News from the web site

As you may know, it is possible to read "fresh" news on cytometry topics on the BVC-ABC web site (<http://www.cytometry.be>).

On this site, you can find more information about the BVC/ABC, the composition of the board, and links to major international websites in relation with cytometry.

This year, the BVC/ABC will start an Internet discussion forum on cytometry topics. We will start with a mailing list with an archive on the web site. To subscribe, send an email to Peter Meeus with "subscribe BVC/ABC" as the subject. We will reply with detailed instructions for using this mailing list. You can ask for help in cytometry or make suggestions to all other members of the mailing list. Please feel free to use English, Dutch or French.

In the future, it will be possible to consult the totality of the web site in the language used by your browser.

We hope to read from you on our new discussion forum.

Peter Meeus

Bernard Husson

GEIL 2002 : Immunology of Leukemia.

- Dijon (France). January 31, February 1-2 2002.
- More information on the BVC/ABC website.

External quality assessment for flow cytometry

The ISSP-LP-WIV organizes an external QA scheme for flow cytometry for around 40 participating labs in Belgium. If you want to take part, contact Marjan Van Blerk:

Marjan Van Blerk
WIV-LP/ISSP-LP
Klinische Biologie/Biologie Clinique
J.Wytsmanstraat 14/Rue J.Wytsman 14
1050 Brussel/Bruxelles
Tel : 02 642 53 83
Fax : 02 642 56 45
m.vanblerk@iph.fgov.be

Do you want to become a BVC/ABC member ?

Register on our website:
www.cytometry.be