

Newsletter



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www.cytometry.be

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

First I would like to thank all participants of the training course in flow cytometry organized in Gent April 4th. There were a lot of lively discussions on many FC-topics thanks to the active participation of all attendees. I am sure that these practical sessions are of great interest to technicians as well as clinicians and researchers. We had put the limit up to 30 participants, but received more registrations. So it is our profound belief that it is worthwhile to continue organizing these workshops in the future. Next time it will be organized in the French speaking part of Belgium.

As already mentioned in the previous newsletter, the next annual symposium will take place in **Leuven at Friday November 7**, please take note of this date in your agenda. You will find more details further in this newsletter. I cordially invite you to send in one or more abstracts. The deadline is October 1 and accepted abstracts will be published in Acta Clinica Belgica.

A topic of major interest is the potential enlargement of the scope of our Society. Molecular analyses in the clinical laboratory are a rather new topic and to the best of our knowledge no other Belgian scientific society covers this subject. It is our experience that there are common interests between molecular experts and cytometric researchers. This is illustrated by issues that were presented during our National Symposia (minimal residual disease analysis, the use of biochips etc.). Recently, we have checked this idea by discussing it with a number of people more actively involved in molecular analyses with emphasis on clinical diagnostic applications. It seems that there are many practical questions about molecular techniques and how these can be transferred in a robust way from the research environment to the clinical laboratory environment. Moreover, this aspect was one of the main reasons to found our cytometry society. One of our future aims is to organize practical workshops for molecular analyses as we do it now for flow cytometry. A specific item that has a close link with the activities of the BVC/ABC is the fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH). We think that this diagnostic technique also deserves our special attention. It is our intention to present the proposal of enlargement of the BVC/ABC scope at the upcoming national Symposium to get the agreement of the General Assembly. As a consequence we should change the name of our Society and also the bylaws. In the meanwhile, please feel free to let us know your opinion about this idea, or even better to communicate your suggestions.

And last but not least do not forget do have a look at our website where you can always find all the information of interest to our society: www.cytometry.be

For the board,

Jan Philippé, president

Board 2003-2005: call for candidates.

By the next general assembly on November 7 in Leuven, a new board for the BVC/ABC will be elected. If you wish to become a member of the board, please send your application to our president, Jan Philippé, before 15 september 2003. Please attach a small curriculum vitae to be included with the voting forms.

In view of the present board's intentions to enlarge the society's scope towards molecular analysis, we specifically invite members with an interest in molecular biology to apply.

For more information and applications contact:

Jan Philippé
Laboratorium Hematologie
UZ Gent
De Pintelaan 185
9000 Gent
tel: 09-240.34.08
e-mail: jan.philippe@ugent.be

Training course flow cytometry April 4 in Gent

The BVC/ABC training course in flow cytometry in Gent in April was a real success with 31 participants, a healthy mixture of established clinical biologists, technicians and trainees.

In the morning session, each of the most preferred topics was introduced in a short theoretical presentation:

Introduction and hydrodynamic and optical principles of flow cytometry. Xavier Bossuyt
Leukemia and lymphoma phenotyping. Peter Meeus.

Cell function analysis by FCM. Evelyne Meyer & Bernard Husson

Single platform absolute counting. Jan Philippé

Apoptosis. Jan Philippé

DNA and multiparametric cell cycle analysis. Dirk Van Bockstaele

After lunch practical experiments were performed on the different instruments that were made available by Analis and BD Biosciences

We feel there is real demand for this kind of practical workshops and plan to continue organizing them in the future. Next time it will be organized in the French speaking part of Belgium. Watch this space!

Annual Symposium of the BVC/ABC

Friday 7 November 2003 @ UZ Gasthuisberg, Onderwijs & Navorsing, Leuven

Preliminary program:

Dendritic cell immunotherapy for cancer and HIV: Reality and Promises. Viggo Van Tendeloo (UA, Antwerpen)

Characterization of acute leukemias by line markers: comparison between "RNA" and "antigen" approaches. Pascale Saussoy

Tumor vaccination for malignant brain tumors: from laboratory to patient. Stefaan Van Gool (KULeuven)

Natural Killer cells: biology and their role in allogeneic stem cell transplantation. Christian Demanet (VUB, Brussels)

Veterinary application of BAL analysis. Alain Vanderplasschen (ULG, Liège)

Poster sessions.

Oral presentations of the best abstracts submitted.

For more information, please contact Xavier Bossuyt.
(xavier.bossuyt@uz.kuleuven.ac.be)

Location:
UZ Gasthuisberg, Onderwijs en Navorsing
Auditorium
Herestraat 49
3000 Leuven

Call for abstracts:

Anybody wishing to make a presentation is cordially invited to email an abstract to Xavier Bossuyt (Xavier.bossuyt@uz.kuleuven.ac.be)

It should consist of:

Title

Names and affiliation of the authors

Abstract of the presentation of no more than 500 words

Preferred format (Oral or poster presentation)

Email address of the presenting author

Preferentially, abstracts should be sent in the body of the email message, but attached RTF, TXT or MS Word files are also acceptable.

To register:

1. Transfer €50 (or €25 for students and members of the BVC/ABC) to the account of the society: 001-2653141-73 and clearly mention the name(s) of the participant(s) and "BVC/ABC Symposium 2003"

2. Send this form or email with the same information to Christian Demanet, AZ VUB, Laboratorium Hematologie - Immunologie, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1090 Brussel.
eMail: lhemgsb@az.vub.ac.be

First name:

Name:

Affiliation:

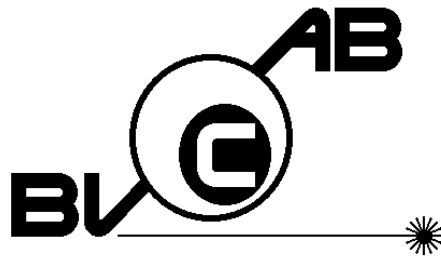
Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Is participating to the annual BVC/ABC Symposium, 7 November 2003.



Last call for BVC/ABC membership 2003.

BVC/ABC membership appliance will close at the end of July 2003.

If you want to benefit from the membership of our association (reductions to the annual symposium and workshops, newsletters, mailing list,.....) fill in your coordinates and fax this page to our secretary: 02 477 50 63

Transfer the membership fee of €50 (€25 for students – add proof of status) to the society bank account: 001-2653141-73 and clearly mention your name and “membership 2003”.

Deadline July 31

First name:
Name:
Title:
Affiliation:
Department:
Address:

Telephone:
Fax:
Email:

Student member: yes/no

Upcoming events:

25-27 september 2003

EWGCCA Third Workshop - Third Euroconference.

Salamanca, Spain.

7-10 October 2003

9th congress of the French Association on Cytometry (AFC)

Strasbourg, France.

21-22 october 2003

Congress of the Groupe Français d'Hématologie Cellulaire (GFHC)

More info on the websites of these societies.

You can reach them via our own site:

www.cytometry.be