

Newsletter

www.cytometry.be

From the
Belgische Vereniging voor Analytische Cytologie
Association Belge de Cytologie Analytique



February 2008

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EDITORIAL

Dear members, friends and colleagues,

We are happy to send you our first Newsletter of the year. Thanks to the dynamics of the board, 2008 will be punctuated by three major events organised by our society.

First, a few years ago, the BVAC/ABCA decided to extend its activities to molecular hematology and, in this context, a meeting will be organised in Antwerpen by Pieter De Schouwer on bead applications (HLA, SNPs, μ RNAs, translocation) mainly in molecular hematology next April 25. Please find the program as well as the registration document in this newsletter and also on our website (www.cytometry.be).

Beginning of May (5th and 6th of May), Bernard Chatelain will run a two day course on flow cytometry at Mont-Godinne hospital (near Namur). Beside the usual flow cytometry course for the beginners, this third edition of the course will also focus on 6 to 8 colour panels, software, bead assays and quality assurance. The two first editions had a lot of success with more than 90 people who followed this training at each edition. More information about the content of the course can be found on our website.

Finally, please note that our society will organize its annual meeting in Liège on November 14. More information will be communicated in due course.

We hope to meet you at our forthcoming events!!

Kind regards,

On behalf of all board members,

Sarah Baatout, President



BOARD MEMBERS

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Report of the annual BVAC/ABCA meeting of 2007

On October 26 the annual meeting of the BVAC/ABCA took place, which was organised in Mons. This year's scientific program addressed the interesting topic of "rare event analysis". "Rare event analysis" remains technically challenging and can be compared by finding a needle in a haystack. However, a growing number of flow cytometry-based assays depend on rare-event detection for both basic science and clinical applications. Therefore this topic is an increasingly issue for most haematologists and scientists. The program was designed to provide a clear and broad overview of subjects related to "rare event analysis", from science to clinical haematology. The quality of the speakers and the work presented was excellent and as a consequence, the program was very well attended and appreciated by participants.

Normally, as indicated in the program, from all abstracts submitted, the most excellent four are selected for short presentations. Apparently, this year's choice was much more difficult and the jury equally rated 6 abstracts to be the best. The presentations of these abstracts can be viewed at the website www.cytometry.be. Also new this year was the electronic voting system. At the end of the meeting all participants were able to vote anonymously which of those 6 selected abstracts was, in their opinion, the most interesting one. The public chose the study: "A highly sensitive and robust method for the detection of minimal residual disease in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukaemia". The winner of this voting contest received the super award of 500 euro. More information of this study is presented in the abstract below. The other abstracts received an award of 200 euro.

In conclusion, a warm thankful to the organisers of this nice, interesting and well organised meeting.

Contribution written by Karen Hensen



Abstract of the winner

Karen Hensen / Virga Jesse Hospital Hasselt

A HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND ROBUST METHOD FOR THE DETECTION OF MINIMAL RESIDUAL DISEASE IN B-CELL CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA.

The introduction of new therapeutic strategies has resulted in increased complete remission rates in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Preliminary data have suggested that the absence of minimal residual disease (MRD) is an end point of therapy that, if achieved, translates into an improved survival. We developed and validated a novel, combined method to assess MRD in CLL using fluorescence-activating cell sorting (FACS) and interphase fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) for the detection of numerical chromosomal aberrations. Cell sorting was performed on a FACS-Aria, based on the CD19+CD5+ co-expression. Interphase FISH analysis was applied to purified cells with commercially available probes. Spiking experiments of CLL cells harboring a numerical chromosomal abnormality into normal blood with dilutions of 10^{-3} to 10^{-6} were performed. FISH detection of the specific chromosomal aberration in CD19+CD5+ purified cells allowed discrimination of CLL cells from normal precursor B-cells. Positive results, were demonstrated in all dilutions up to 10^{-5} or even 10^{-6} . This approach for the assessment of MRD in CLL reaches a sensitivity at least as high as and even higher than other methods, such as four-color flow cytometry or quantitative allele-specific PCR. It can be used for at least 80 % of CLL patients, including all CLL patients with poor prognosis as assessed by the presence of the deletion 11q (ATM) or the deletion 17p (p53). Furthermore, it allows easy standardization among laboratories, applying FACS cell sorting, as it is based on a two-color labeling only and on FISH assays using commercially available probes.

Hensen K, Franke S, Berten M, Jongen H, Peeters V, Rummens JL, Maes B



Belgische Vereniging voor Analytische Cytologie
Association Belge de Cytologie Analytique

Scientific Workshop



FOLLOW the BEADs

Friday, April 25th, 2008

*Mehta complex ZNA Middelheim
Lindendreef 1
2020 Antwerpen*

PROGRAM

9.00	Registration desk open – Welcome Coffee	
9.50	Welcome & introduction	
10.00	Cytokines and Beads.	Ger Rijkers, Utrecht, NL
10.45	Beads in the detection of fusion proteins in leukaemia en lymphoma diagnosis.	TBD
11.30	Rapid identification of genotypes.	Dirk van Alewijk, Delft, NL
12.15	Discussion	
12.30	Lunch & exhibition visit	
13.30	Beads in Transplantation: HLA typing, HLA antibodies and KIR genes.	Christian Demanet, UZ Brussel
14.15	microRNAs and Beads	to be determined
15.00	Discussion	
15.15	Closing and bye-bye drink	



Accreditation Mons Meeting

Comité paritaire en
Paritair Comité voor **klinische biologie**

Note
Nota 08/86.25

Dénomination de l'organisateur : 1.086 AZ -VUB - BVAC
Benaming van de organisator :

Responsable de l'accréditation
ou lieu si activité à l'étranger : DEMANET
Navormingsverantwoordelijke
of plaats (enkel bij buitenlandse act.) :

N° agréation Erkenningsnr	Date Datum	Type Rubriek	Intitulé Titel	Durée Duur	U.F.C. N.E.	C.P.
4786.0306	26.10.07	3	Annual Meeting Rare events analysis (P)	5 u		5.0

Forthcoming BVAC / ABCA events



1. Meeting: FoLLow the BEADS, ZNA Middelheim, Antwerp on the 25 of april 2008
 - i. www.cytometry.be

2. Cytometry Course, Montgodinne on the 05-06 of May 2008.
 - i. www.cytometry.be

Program in preparation.

Topics : Software, 6 - 8 colours panels, MRD, Beads, ISO in the cytometry

Labs , ...

3. Workshop in collaboration with the AFC and Luxembourg, Nancy October 2008, 13^{ième} Congrès Annuel de l'AFC.
 - i. www.afcytometrie.fr

4. Annual meeting BVAC/ABCA, Liège, Colonster, Sart Tilman on the 14 of november 2008
General Assembly (13H30)
 - i. www.cytometry.be



Forthcoming cytometry meetings / events

5. European Cytometry Network. Heidelberg on the 28-29 of February 2008.
 - i. www.fccf.embl.de
6. ISCO Congress “ Cellular Oncology ”, Amsterdam, on the 5-8 of March 2008.
 - i. www.isco2008.org
7. ISAC XXIV International Congress, Budapest, on the 17-21 of May 2008.
 - i. www.isac-net.org
8. EHA 13th Congress, Copenhagen, on the 12-15 of June 2008.
 - i. www.chaweb.org
9. International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT Europe),
Antwerp, on the 12-13 of September 2008
10. ESCCA 4th European course on Clinical Cytometry, Bremen, on the 16-17 of September 2008.
 - i. www.escca.eu
11. ESCCA 8th Euroconference on Clinical Cell Analysis, Bremen, on the 18-20 of September 2008.
 - i. www.escca.eu
12. AFC 13^{ième} Congrès Annuel, Nancy, on the 22-24 of October 2008.
 - i. www.afcytometrie.fr
13. NVC. Annual Meeting, Zwolle, the 28 of November 2008.
 - i. www.cytometrie.nl



JOB OFFER

Scientist cell biology for ABLYNX

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION OBJECTIVE:

To strengthen our department of Cell Biology and Immunology, we are looking for a newly (or recently) qualified PhD scientist with experience in cell biology.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Working closely with a small team of Research Associates you will be responsible to develop, optimize and implement a range of cell based screening assays

As an active member of a number of project teams, you will be required to work effectively in a matrix

The candidate will keep track of scientific developments in the area of cell analysis and cell-based assays

Responsible for data analysis, results interpretation and presentation of findings to the immediate supervisor

Current role will be mainly hands-on and laboratory-based

REQUIREMENTS

PhD degree in Biological Sciences

Strong scientific background in cell biology and cell signaling is required

Hands-on experience in cell based assay development is required

(proliferation assay, cAMP assay, Ca²⁺ release assay, reporter gene assays, binding assay, cytotoxicity assay,..)

Familiarity with assay platforms (AlphaScreen, FRET-based assays,..) is strongly preferred

Skilled in standard molecular biology (PCR, cloning).

2+ years of industrial experience is an asset

Knowledge of Dutch and English

Please make sure your attached CV contains a paragraph containing your technical expertise

<http://www.cvwarehouse.com/ablynx/jobsite%5Fnew/jobdetail.aspx?id=3326>



JOB OFFER

Scientist immunology for ABLYNX

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION OBJECTIVE:

To strengthen our department of Cell Biology and Immunology, we are looking for a newly (or recently) qualified PhD scientist with experience in immunology.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Working with and supervising a small team of (senior) research associates

Active involvement in setting up and optimizing in vitro immunological bioassays

Cytokine release assays

Cytokine effector function assays

Cell proliferation assays

Cell death induction assays

Design, execute and analyse flow cytometry experiments, both analytical and for cell sorting

As an active member of a number of project teams, you will be required to work effectively in a matrix

Responsible for data analysis, results interpretation and presentation of findings to the immediate supervisor

Current role will be mainly hands-on and laboratory-based

REQUIREMENTS

PhD which includes experience in immunology research

Skilled in tissue culture and bioassay technologies

Hands on experience in analytical flow cytometry and cell sorting is required

Experience as an effective supervisor

Knowledge of Dutch and English

Please make sure your attached CV contains a paragraph containing your technical expertise

<http://www.cvwarehouse.com/ablynx/jobsite%5Fnew/jobdetail.aspx?id=3325>



MEMBERSHIP FORM

**BELGISCHE VERENIGING VOOR ANALYTISCHE CYTOLOGIE
(BVAC) VZW / ASSOCIATION BELGE DE CYTOLOGIE
ANALYTIQUE (ABCA) ASBL**

MEMBERSHIP 2008 RENEWAL DOCUMENT (REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2008). PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY AND COMPLETE!

Last name:.....

First name:

E-mail address (required):

Institution:.....

Department:.....

Mailing address:.....

City + code: Country:

Telephone No: Fax No:

No RIZIV/INAMI (if applicable):.....

- Full membership € 50.00
- In training, technician € 25.00
- Student € 0.00 (copy of the studentcard mandatory)
- Delete me from your mailing list Yes No
- Insert MY coordinates on BVAC/ABAC website: Yes No

PLEASE SEND THIS DOCUMENT TO OUR SECRETARIAT BY:

REGULAR MAIL:

Mrs. Els van Musscher, Secretary of the Institute for Environment, Health & Safety,
Belgian Nuclear Research Center, SCK•CEN, Boeretang 200, B-2400 Mol

FAX: 014/32.10.56

EMAIL: evmussch@sckcen.be

**PAYMENT TO THE BVAC/ABCA ON THE ACCOUNT NO:
001-2653141-73 (BIC: GEBABEBB, IBAN: BE27 0012 6531 4173)
MENTION YOUR NAME + 2008 ON THE MONEY TRANSFER!**



REGISTRATION FORM

FoILOW the BEADs

Scientific Workshop

Friday, April 25th, 2008

Mehta complex ZNA Middelheim, Lindendreef 1, 2020 Antwerpen

(pre-registration deadline: April 11, 2008 !!! Payment on site: + € 25 !!!)

Please write clearly and completely!

Last name:

First Name:

Institution:

Address:

City + code: Country

E-mail:

No RIZIV/INAMI (if applicable):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership (€50) | <input type="checkbox"/> + Registration Workshop €60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In training or Technician (€25) | <input type="checkbox"/> + Registration Workshop €35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (provide copy of studentcard) (€ 0) | <input type="checkbox"/> + Registration Workshop €10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delete me from the mailing list | <input type="checkbox"/> Only Registration Workshop €60 |

Protection of privacy:

Cross the box hereunder if you do NOT allow the BVAC/ABCA to

send you announcements for scientific activities

insert your coordinates on our website

Please send this document **ASAP** to our secretary by:

Fax: +32 14 32 10 56 (additional forms on the website: www.cytometry.be)

Regular mail: **Els van Musscher**

Secretary of the Institute for Environment, Health and Safety

Belgian Nuclear Research Center, SCK•CEN, Boeretang 200, B-2400 Mol, Belgium

Payment to the BVAC/ABCA on the account no: 001-2653141-73

(BIC: GEBABEBB, IBAN: BE27 0012 6531 4173)

Mention your **NAME + Meeting Antwerp + 2008 (if membership)** on the money transfer!