

# Newsletter

[www.cytometry.be](http://www.cytometry.be)

From the  
Belgische Vereniging analytische Cytologie  
Association Belge de Cytologie Analytique



## June 2008

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## Editorial

Dear members, friends and colleagues,

During the first part of 2008, two main activities were organised by our society. The first event was the thematic workshop on "FolLOW the beads", on 25<sup>th</sup> of April. This meeting, organised by Pieter de Schouwer and held in Antwerp, convened more than 70 participants and dealt with all bead technology matters mainly in molecular hematology.

The second important event was organised with regard to the training activities of our society. This 2-day cytometry course prepared by Bernard Chatelain, was held in Mont-Godinne hospital. Around 80 participants followed two mornings of plenary sessions and the two afternoons of workshops organised in modules on specific matters related to cytometry. Around 30 experts gave lectures and presented the technical modules. In total, around 110 participants shared their knowledge and expertise during those two days.

Since 2007, a forum for debate was held between various Belgian universities and institutions under the auspices of UZ Brussels (Christian Demanet) in order to prepare common guidelines for an integrated diagnostic approach in the routine hematological laboratory in Belgium for chronic lymphoproliferative diseases. The report is now almost finalised and it is intended to submit it soon for publication. The purpose is to inform the Belgian community of clinicians, researchers, students and decision-makers in private and public organisations on the common Belgian consensus for chronic lymphoproliferative disease diagnostic.

Concerning the next activities of our society to be held in 2008, please note that our annual meeting is foreseen in the beautiful Castle of Colonster in Liège on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2008. The event is organised by Nicole Schaaf-Lafontaine. The topic chosen for the day is "Intracellular cytometry : what's inside?". You will find more information in this newsletter as well as on our website. It is already possible to register and we plan to organise that the abstracts will be published in Acta Clinica Belgica. Hold also at the end of this year (October) is the annual meeting of the French Society for Cytometry (AFC) organised in Nancy with a special Belgian day organised during the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. BVAC/ABCA members can register and pay the same interesting fees as the AFC members. There is also a possibility to attend for a day.

If you would like to see the presentations given during the Antwerp and Mont-Godinne events, please have a look on our website : [www.cytometry.be](http://www.cytometry.be). Our website is kindly updated by Peter Meeus.

For the ones who are not in order of membership, may I ask you to register ASAP? The form can be found on our website as well as in this newsletter. It is free for students

On behalf of the board members of the Belgian Association of Analytical Cytology, I hope to see you at our forthcoming events.

Kind regards,

**Sarah Baatout**  
President



## **Workshop on FoLLOW the BEADS, Antwerp, April 2008**

Our “FoLLOW the BEADs” meeting was a great succes. More than 70 participants attended this meeting organized at the ZNA Middelheim hospital in Antwerp on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

The morning session started with an exciting presentation about bead assays to detect cytokines and their possible clinical applications. After a presentation on how to detect PCR amplified fusion transcripts using beads and a flow cytometer, the use of a commercially available bead assay was illustrated with some experimental data comparing it with the Western blot technique and investigation of ZAP-70 and the T-cell signaling pathway. To finish the morning session we focused further on immune profiling using bead assays.

After lunch we started with the focus on rapid identification of genotypes, followed by a state of the art lecture on the HLA system and the use of bead assays in relation to other techniques used in transplantation labs. Finally, the scientific part was closed with an insight in how barcode and other data can be written in the middle of beads. With this view of a bright future, most of us enjoyed some relaxed but exciting discussion together with the obligatory farewell drink.

### **Pieter De Schouwer**

Organiser of the event

Vice-president



## **Cytometry course, Mont-Godinne, May 2008**

On the 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2008, a two-day training on cytometry was organized by the BVAC/ABCA in UCL Mont-Godinne.

During those 2 sunny days, 76 participants coming from Flanders, Wallonia and Luxembourg attended the oral sessions during the two mornings and workshops in small groups during the afternoons.

Apart from the usual cytometry subjects, plenary sessions dealt with cytometry and imaging. Furthermore, for the first time, hematimetry and flow cytometry were also associated.

Twelve workshops were programmed including initiation to flow cytometry, multicolour approach, cytometry in microbiology, minimal residual disease, cellular maturation, softwares, multiplexing,...

Thank you to Becton Dickinson, Horiba ABX, Analis, Beckman Coulter, Seraglu, Goffyn Meyvis, Sysmex, Luminex, Siemens, Abbott and Guava Technologies who contributed by making available machines.

Thank you very much to all the supervisory staff: Julie Cadrobbi, Bernard Chatelain, Yvan Cornet, Jean-Pierre Delville, Louis de Saint-Georges, Gauthier Detry, Alex Dromelet, Myriam Ghardy, Nicolas Hougardy, Bernard Husson, Michel Janssens, Véronique Kerrels, Martine Massy, Nicolas Morin, Christian Muller, François Mullier, Nicolas Neyman, Sébastien Plançon, Nicole Schaff-Lafontaine and to Analis who kindly printed the syllabus.

To conclude, we hope to see you at the next cytometry training that will be held in Mol on the 8th and 9th May 2009.

**François Mullier, Yvan Cornet and Bernard Chatelain**

Organisers of the event

Bernard Chatelain is responsible for the Educational aspects of the BVAC/ABCA



## **Working group on guidelines on lymphoproliferative diseases.**

### ***Report on the advancement of the working group on gguidelines for an integrated diagnostic approach in the routine hematological laboratory in Belgium for chronic lymphoproliferative diseases: what should minimally be done.***

In the beginning of 2007 within the board of our Society an initiative was taken to develop guidelines for the hematological laboratory procedures for diagnosis and follow-up of chronic lymphoproliferative disorders (CLPD). In 1997 a Belgian consensus recommendation for flow cytometric immunophenotyping had been developed (Van Bockstaele et al. Acta Clinica Belgica 1997). Anno 2008, the scope of our Society has been broadened by inclusion of clinical molecular analyses. Therefore an initiative was undertaken to write an updated Belgian consensus recommendation more specifically for the diagnostic procedures for CLPD, integrating cytomorphological, immunophenotypical and molecular analyses.

Obviously, conclusions should be drawn in close consideration with the clinician and other experts such as clinical cytogeneticist and the anatomical pathologist. The laboratory procedures performed by the last two specialists are not included in the present guidelines since it is assumed that these are done properly in separate laboratories.

The diseases to be included are: all CLPD (without Hodgkin since this is merely diagnosed by the anatomical pathologist), including B-, T-, NK-cell proliferative disorders and myeloma.

It was not the purpose to develop 'diagnostic pathways', but the guidelines should be useful to develop local diagnostic pathways.

We decided to meet regularly with hematology laboratory supervisors and molecular biologists from several university and non-university hospitals of medium size (500 to 1200 hospitalized patients). Relevant literature was assembled on one private website and local procedures used in the hematological laboratories were shared. The main purpose of the guidelines is to describe what should minimally be performed in a laboratory of hematology in order to obtain an accurate diagnosis (or staging) of CLPD according to the state of the art. Also a description of follow-up procedures,

prognostic markers and definition of therapeutic targets is considered. The starting point was essentially based upon medical indications: peripheral blood lymphocytosis or cytopenia (anemia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia or pancytopenia), lymphadenopathy or extranodal masses, monoclonal gammopathy or unexplained plasmocytosis of bone marrow, (hepato)splenomegaly, skin rash, fever of unknown origin (FECI).

The samples to be studied can be peripheral blood, bone marrow aspirates, lymph node aspirates or biopsies (to be further processed into cell suspensions), body fluids (cerebrospinal -, pleural -, or ascites fluid), tissue material also has to be further processed into cell suspensions.

Whereas initial 1<sup>st</sup> line diagnostic procedures, such as complete blood count (CBC), cytomorphological examination and 1<sup>st</sup> line immunophenotyping are broad, the extended flow cytometric panels and molecular analyses which are being done in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> line are most frequently focussed on distinction between a limited number of disorders. Immunoglobulin- and T cell receptor gene rearrangements can be explored to distinguish clonal from non-clonal samples, bearing in mind that clonality is not synonymous for malignancy.

We organised eight meetings where all abovementioned issues were discussed and the purpose now is to summarize the consensus guidelines in a paper which will be submitted to Acta Clinica Belgica. BVAC/ABCA has also been invited to present these guidelines at a meeting organised by the Scientific Institute of Public Health next year (26<sup>th</sup> March 2009).

**Jan Philippé**  
Secretary of the BVAC/ABCA



## ISAC meeting, Budapest, May 2008

ISAC (International Society for Analytical Cytology) seems to shift more and more towards imaging. More input is given from engineers. Quantitative single cell measurements gain in importance... Also several sessions on signal transduction pathways in leukemia and other cells. Further interest in pattern analysis in high throughput screening.

Joint meeting with affiliated and associated societies : 37 attendees participated from over 20 countries. Everyone briefly presented their activities. Also representations from Japan, Australia, and India were present. Both representatives presented their activities more extensively. BVAC/ABCA represented by Jan Philippé

Andy Riddel from European Cytometry Network (ECN) presented his initiative and pointed out that emphasis is put on techniques, SOPs, standardisation and that all information can be found on the (commercial) website. It is mainly inspired by the 'EMBL' model (European Molecular Biology Laboratories). Dirk van Bockstaele attended the first meeting organised by the European Cytometry Network and represented the BVAC/ABCA.

Introduction of the European Society for Clinical Cell Analysis (ESCCA) was given by Janos Kappelmayer who gave a historical perspective of ESCCA (12 years old).

It was further discussed how ECN and ESCCA can be involved in the next ISAC meeting. The next meeting of the Clinical Cytometry Society is planned for October 2009 in Jacksonville, Florida. The question has also been put where the next European-located ISAC meeting in 2012 would be organised. If someone is interested as local co-organiser....(s)he is welcome to propose to Bob Murphy. One proposal is that in joint meetings an extra day could be organised ('pre-ISAC') which could be more clinically oriented.

Possible regional meeting could be organised for the newly joined Societies (Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria).

Importantly, the financial issues were mentioned. Should the Council of ISAC Associated Societies have a budget from ISAC. Bob Murphy confirmed that this is possible...on the other hand some representatives were afraid to become too dependent... ISAC is willing to support a web-page including news from ISAC Associated Societies. Coordinated by Scott Cram.

**Jan Philippé**

Secretary of the BVAC/ABCA



## Forthcoming BVAC / ABCA events

1. Annual meeting of the French Society for Cytometry with a Belgian-Luxemburg day, Nancy  
October 2008, 13<sup>th</sup> annual congress of the AFC.
  - i. [www.afcytometrie.fr](http://www.afcytometrie.fr)
2. Annual meeting BVAC/ABCA, *Intracellular cytometry : what's inside?* ,  
Liège, Colonster, Sart Tilman, 14<sup>th</sup> of november 2008.
  - i. General Assembly ( at 13H30 )
  - ii. [www.cytometry.be](http://www.cytometry.be)
3. Cytometry course, SCK-CEN, Mol, 8-9/5/2009
4. WIV / ISP Symposium, 20 years external QC management, 26/3/2009.
  - i. Jan Philippe will present the CLPD guidelines.
  - ii. [www.IPH.FGOV.be](http://www.IPH.FGOV.be)
5. GFHC (groupe français de cytogénétique hématologique) meeting, Brussels, 27-29/5/2009



## Forthcoming cytometry meetings / events

5. International Society for Cellular Therapy ( ISCT Europe ),  
Antwerp, September 14-16 2008.
  - i. [www.celltherapysociety.org](http://www.celltherapysociety.org)
6. ESCCA 4<sup>th</sup> European course on Clinical Cytometry, Bremen, September 16-17 2008.
  - i. [www.escca.eu](http://www.escca.eu)
7. ESCCA 8<sup>th</sup> Euroconference on Clinical Cell Analysis, Bremen, September 18-20 2008.
  - i. [www.escca.eu](http://www.escca.eu)
8. AFC 13<sup>ième</sup> Congrès Annuel, Nancy, October 22-24 2008.
  - i. [www.afcytometrie.fr](http://www.afcytometrie.fr)
9. NVC. Annual Meeting, Zwolle, November 28 2008.
  - i. [www.cytometrie.nl](http://www.cytometrie.nl)



Belgische Vereniging voor Analytische  
Cytologie  
Association Belge de Cytologie Analytique

## Annual Meeting

# Intracellular cytometry : what's inside? Friday 14 November, 2008

Château de Colonster  
Allée des Erables  
Liège-Luik

### PROGRAM

- 9.00 Registration desk open - Poster installation
- 9.50 Welcome
- 10.00 Provisional title : **Reimbursement of new cancer drugs**  
*Luc Dirix, Iridium Kankernetwerk Sint-Augustinus, Wilrijk, Belgium*
- 10.30 Provisional title : **The kinome**  
*Maikel Peppelenbosch, Groningen University, The Netherlands*
- 11.00 Coffee break + poster walking + exhibition visit
- 11.30 Provisional title :  
*Garry Nolan's coworker, USA*
- 12.00 Provisional title : **Cytoplasmic analysis**  
*Bart Lambrecht, Ghent, Belgium*
- 12.30 **Role of Jak kinase overexpression in tumoral transformation**  
*Jean-Christophe Renauld, Brussels, Belgium*
- 13.00 LUNCH + poster walking + exhibition visit
- 14.15 General assembly
- 14.30 Oral presentations (4 x 10 min)
- 15.10 Provisional title : **Measurement of bcr-abl gene product in leukemia cells**  
*Jack van Dongen, The Netherlands*
- 15.40 Provisional title : **Intracellular signalling in breast cancer**  
*Agnès Noël, Liège, Belgium Speaker n°7*
- 16.10 Announcement of the super award winner (500 euro)
- 16.45 Closing



Belgische Vereniging voor Analytische  
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## REGISTRATION FORM

### INTRACELLULAR CYTOMETRY : WHAT'S INSIDE?

**Friday 14 November, 2008**

**(pre-registration deadline: October 15, 2008!!)**

Please write clearly and completely!

Last name: .....

First Name: .....

Institution: .....

Address: .....

City + code: ..... Country .....

E-mail: .....

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

**Member :** € 25.00 (including lunch)

**Non-member:** € 50.00 (including lunch)

**Student:** € 10.00 (including lunch)

**Payment on site:** + € 25!!!

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

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

e-mail: [els.van.musscher@sckcen.be](mailto:els.van.musscher@sckcen.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 Liège + 2008** on the money transfer!



## 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:**

**FAX: 014/32.10.56**

**EMAIL: [evmussch@sckcen.be](mailto:evmussch@sckcen.be)**

**REGULAR MAIL: Mrs. Els Van Musscher**

**Secretary of the Institute for Environment, Health and Safety  
Belgian Nuclear Research Center, SCK•CEN  
Boeretang 200, B-2400 Mol**

**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!**