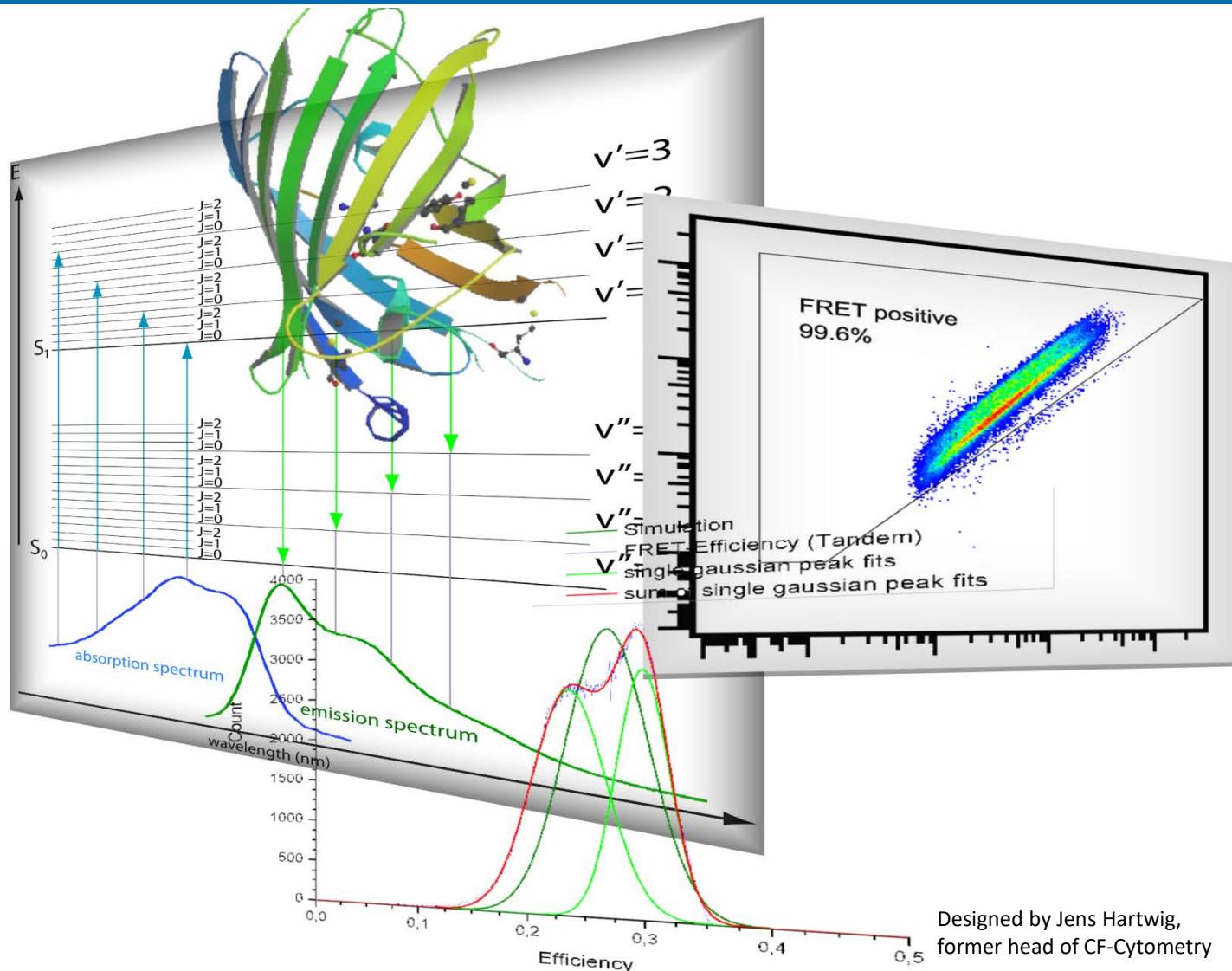


# Introduction to Flow Cytometry



# Flow cytometry in daily life

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- Routine blood diagnostics and blood count is still done by Coulter Counters, which are forerunners of today's cytometers and sorters
- Especially leukemia diagnostics is done by flow cytometry (surface marker staining of blood cells with fluorescently labelled antibodies)

# Overview

---

- History of Flow Cytometry
- What is Flow Cytometry
- Flow cytometry parameters: FSC, SSC, fluorescence
- Flow Cytometer Components:
  - Fluidics, Optics, Electronics
- Data presentation
- Cell Sorting
- Overview of applications
- Instruments
  - Flow cytometers, cell sorters, special instrumentation

# Overview

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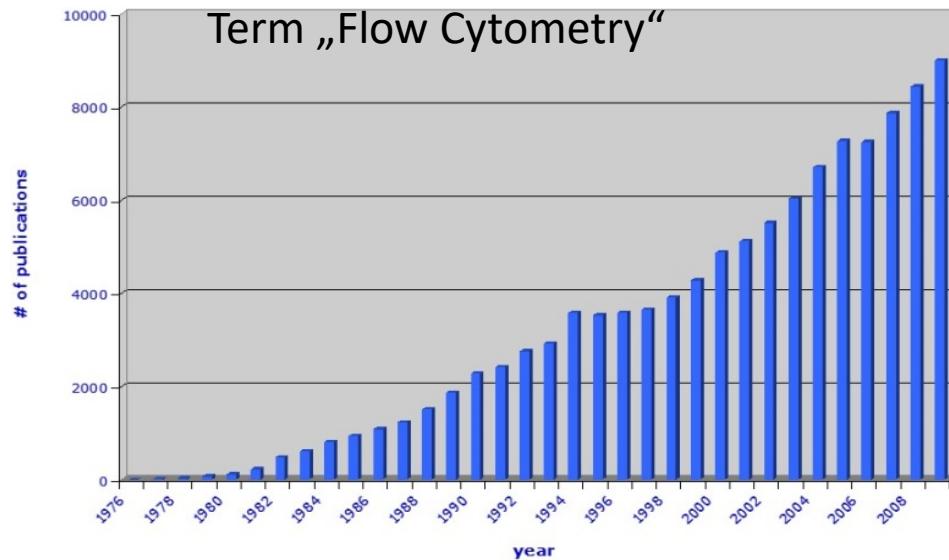
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# History of Flow cytometry and cell sorting

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- 1930s:** Andrew Moldavan designed a photoelectric apparatus to count individual cells flowing through a capillary tube that was mounted on a microscope stage
- 1950s:** Wallace Coulter began the development of the first instrument that could electronically calculate cell volume: The Coulter Counter. This is still used in todays haematological cytometers
- 1965:** Mack Fulwyler invented the forerunner to today's type of flow cytometers, particularly the cell sorter as he included techniques described by Richard Sweet concerning charging and deflection of droplets (originally used in printers)
- 1969:** Len Herzenberg (Stanford) combined the invention with simultaneous detection of fluorescence parameters
- 1972:** Invention of the term „FACS“ by Herzenberg  
Herzenberg teamed up with Becton-Dickinson

# History of Flow cytometry and cell sorting



Year 2016 - 11.000 of publications

**1999: Alexa Fluor®**

Alexa Fluor Synthetic Fluorochromes  
Figure 8  
(a) Alexa Fluor 488  
(b) Alexa Fluor 550  
(c) Alexa Fluor 647

The Alexa Fluor® dyes were originally made by Richard Haugland and Molecular Probes. These organic fluors, named for Richard's son, Alex, span the visible spectrum and even go into the infrared. Individual members of this fluor family are numbered based on their maximum excitation wavelength. The Alexa Fluor® dyes are typically very photostable for microscopy applications and can also be used for flow cytometry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXEnlSzE-u-c>

**2002: Quantum Dots**

Quantum dots are nanocrystals made with semiconductor material. When semiconductors are hit by a beam of light, some of their electrons are excited into higher energy states. As the electrons fall back to the ground state, they emit wavelengths of light dependent on the diameter of the quantum dot. Work with quantum dots was done as early as the 1970s, but they were not established in biological applications until 1998 when papers were published by the Alivisatos and Nie labs. They began to be commercialized in 2002 with the Quantum Dot Corporation. Quantum dots are resistant to photobleaching and have a narrow emission spectra. They can be used in applications like flow cytometry and microscopy.

**1871: Fluorescein**

Fluorescein was first synthesized by Adolf von Baeyer. This organic molecule has been used in many applications, but may be most well-known for its derivative, fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC).

**1983: PE and APC**

Not all fluorophores are man-made. Nature supplied phycobiliproteins from algae. Vernon Oi, a former Leonard Herzenberg disciple, worked with Alex Glazer and Lubert Stryer's labs in isolating phycobiliproteins and using them as fluorescent labels. This produced two of the most common fluorophores we use today in phycoerythrin (PE) and allophycocyanine (APC).

**2011: Brilliant Violet™**

The Brilliant Violet™ family of fluors were synthesized by Sirigen and first sold by BioLegend. These fluors greatly expanded fluor options for the violet (405 nm) laser and increased multicolor flow cytometry options. These fluors are organic polymers with a high capacity to absorb energy and the ability to convert this into an emitted signal. They provide bright signals for flow cytometry. BV421™ and BV510™ have also been used for microscopy imaging applications.

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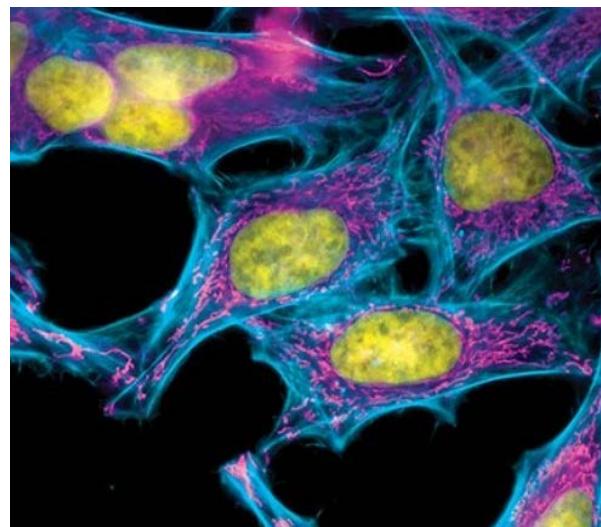
# What is Flow Cytometry?

**Flow - Fluid**



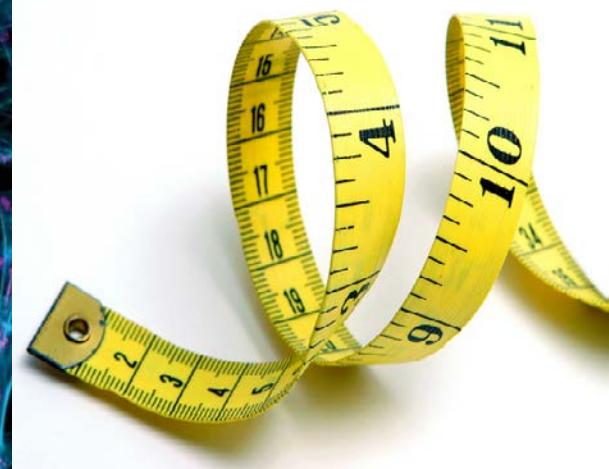
[pbbase.com](http://pbbase.com)

**Cyto - Cell**



[smithsonianmag.com](http://smithsonianmag.com)

**Metry - Measurement**

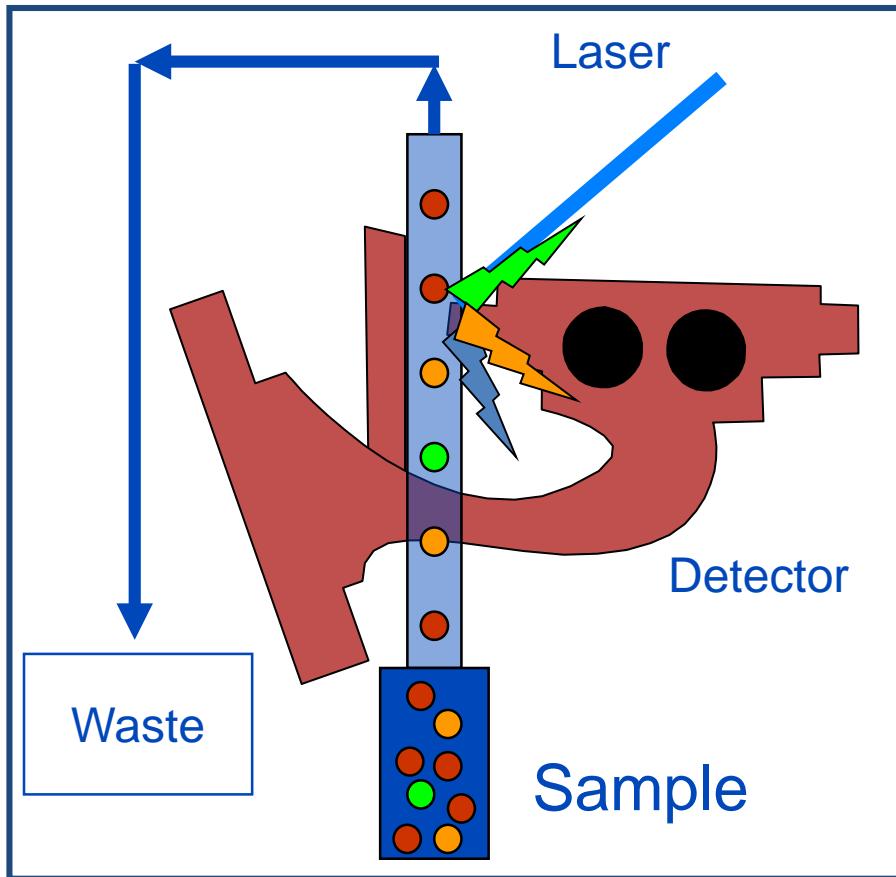


[clipartkid.com](http://clipartkid.com)

## Definition of flow cytometry:

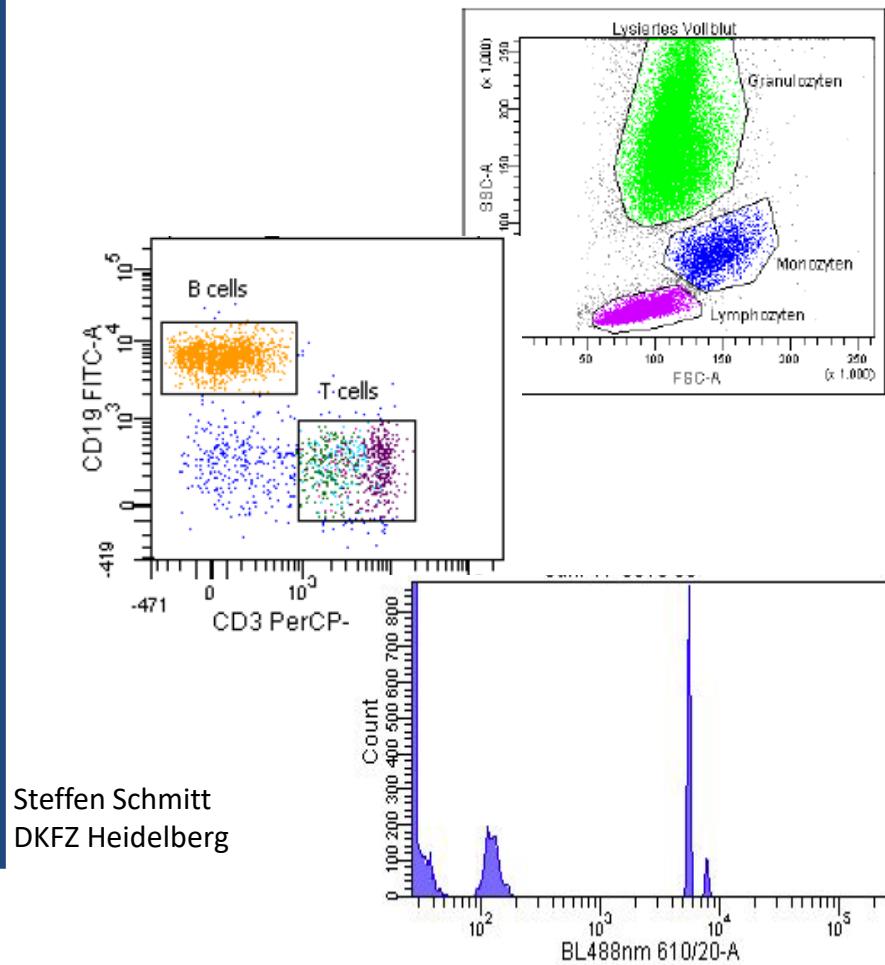
Single cells in suspension that pass a laser beam produce characteristic light signals which are analyzed by different detectors

# What is Flow Cytometry?



## Definition of flow cytometry:

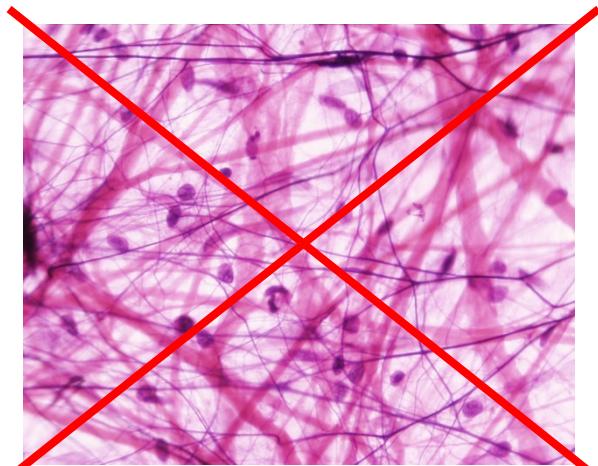
Single cells in suspension that pass a laser beam produce characteristic light signals which are analyzed by different detectors



# What a flow cytometer cannot measure

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No solid tissue



.... only cells in suspension



Tissue must be disaggregated, e.g. by using enzymes (e.g. Dispase or Collagenase)

- Cannot ordinarily locate a component within the cell
- Cannot see how the fluorescent component is uniformly distributed in the cell
- No detailed intracellular morphology

# Flow cytometry sample preparation

---

- Preparation of single cells in suspension
  - Suspension cell lines
  - Detachment of adherent cells with trypsin or EDTA, etc.
  - Tissue digest with collagenase, dispase, liberase, DNase, etc.
  - Filtration to remove cell clumps



- Enrichment of rare cell populations
  - Magnetic sorting
  - Density gradient centrifugation (e.g. Percoll or Ficoll)

# Size range of suitable particles

## Conventional flow cytometer



## Special instruments

Smaller particles: Extracellular vesicles (0.03 - 1 μm)

Larger particles: Whole organisms or cell clusters like *C.elegans*, *Drosophila* larvae, pancreatic islets (100 μm – 1800μm)

# Examples of flow cytometrical measurements

---

## Analysis parameters

Surface antigens

Intracellular antigens

DNA/RNA content

Cell activation

Intracellular distances  
protein-protein-interaction

Cell or particle number

## Examples – Details later

Phenotyping, cell type identification by surface marker analysis, protein expression (e.g. GFP fusion proteins), developmental stages, activation markers

Cell cycle analysis

cell death, apoptosis, proliferation, membrane potential,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release, phosphorylation

FRET, YFP complementation

Counting of cells, quantification

# Advantages of flow cytometrical measurements

---

- Quick sample processing  
In most instruments up to 20.000 events per second
- High statistical power
- Study of (sub)populations of cells
- Rare cell detection, e.g.: CTCs (circulating tumor cells)
- Sort option (e.g. clonal cell lines)
- Single cell sorting
- Multi-parametric analysis – up to 20 parameters simultaneously at IMB; up to 50 on most recent instruments (more to come)

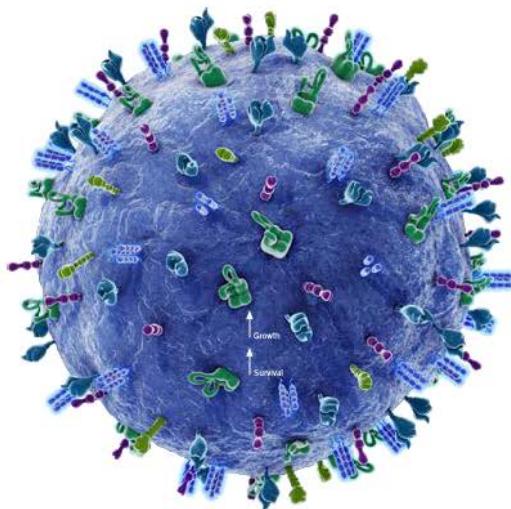
# Overview

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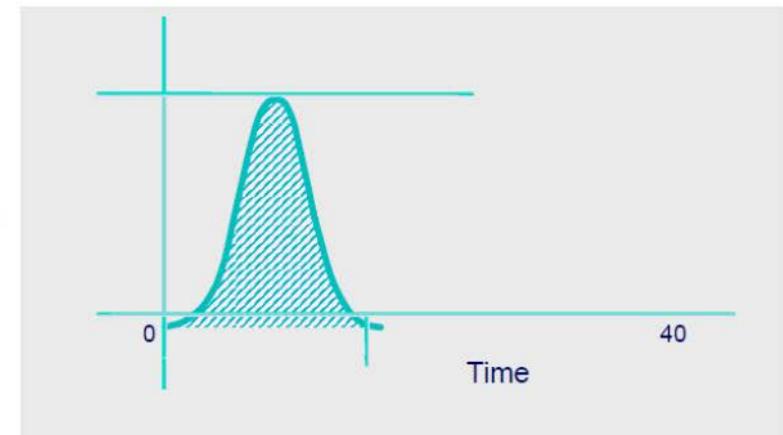
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# What happens in a flow cytometer?

Properties of a cell



Detectable light signal

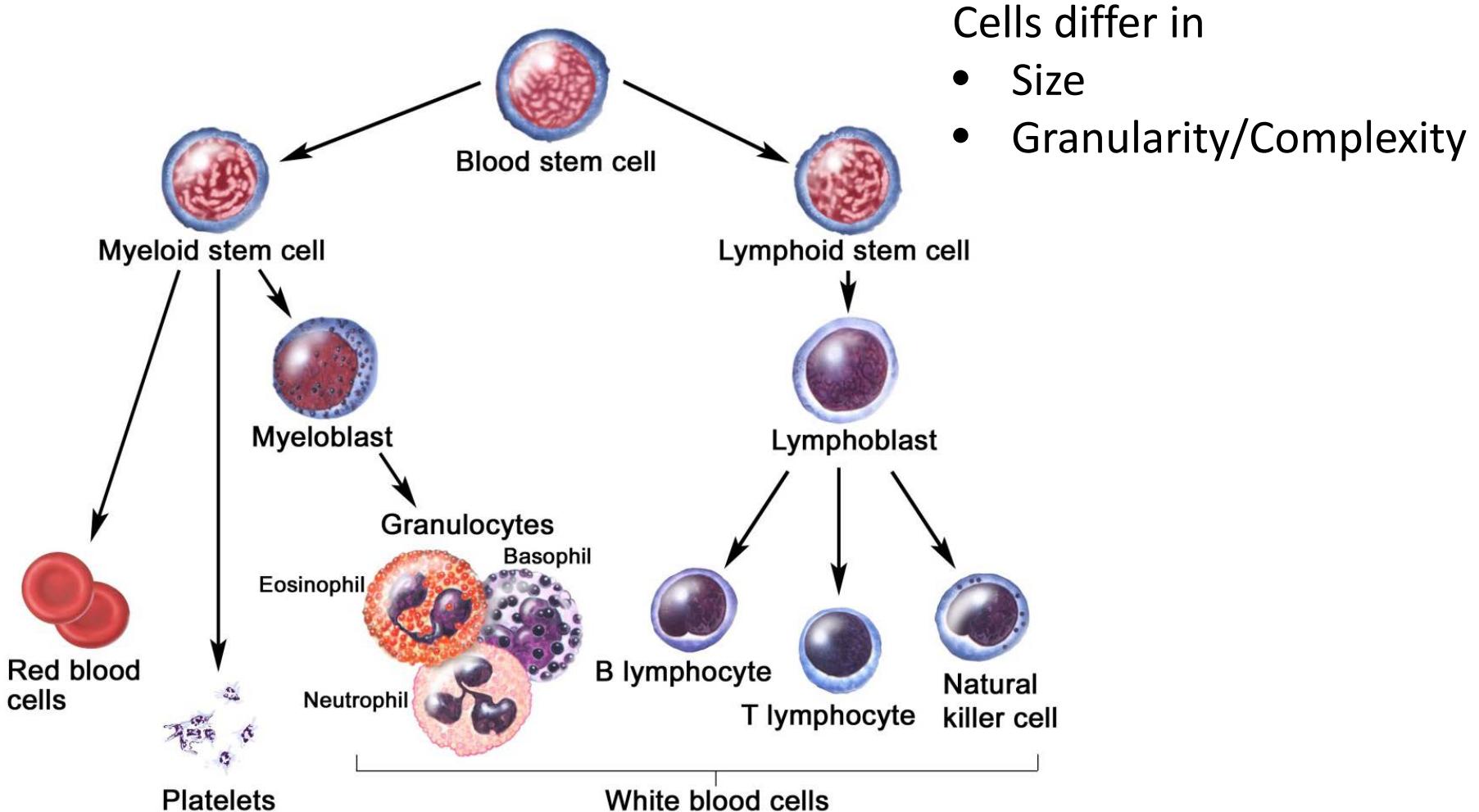


Size

Granularity/complexity/

Fluorescence (antibody staining or intrinsic like GFP)

# Analysis based on cell morphology



© 2007 Terese Winslow  
U.S. Govt. has certain rights

# Forward and Side Scatter

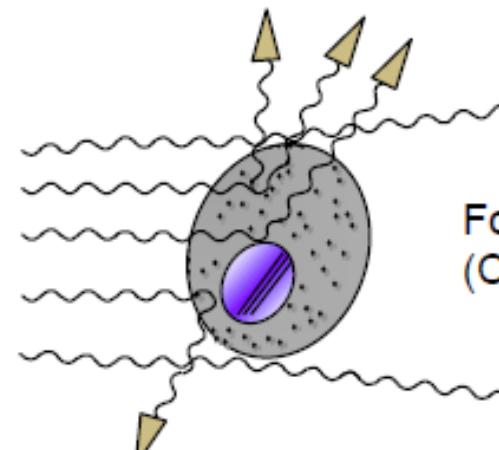
## Forward Scatter (FSC)

- Measured along the axis of the incoming light (diffracted light)
- **Roughly proportional to cell size or cell surface area**  
(only true for perfectly round cells, not applicable for small particles)

measured in 90° angle

Right Angle Light Detector  
(Cell Complexity)

Incident Light Source



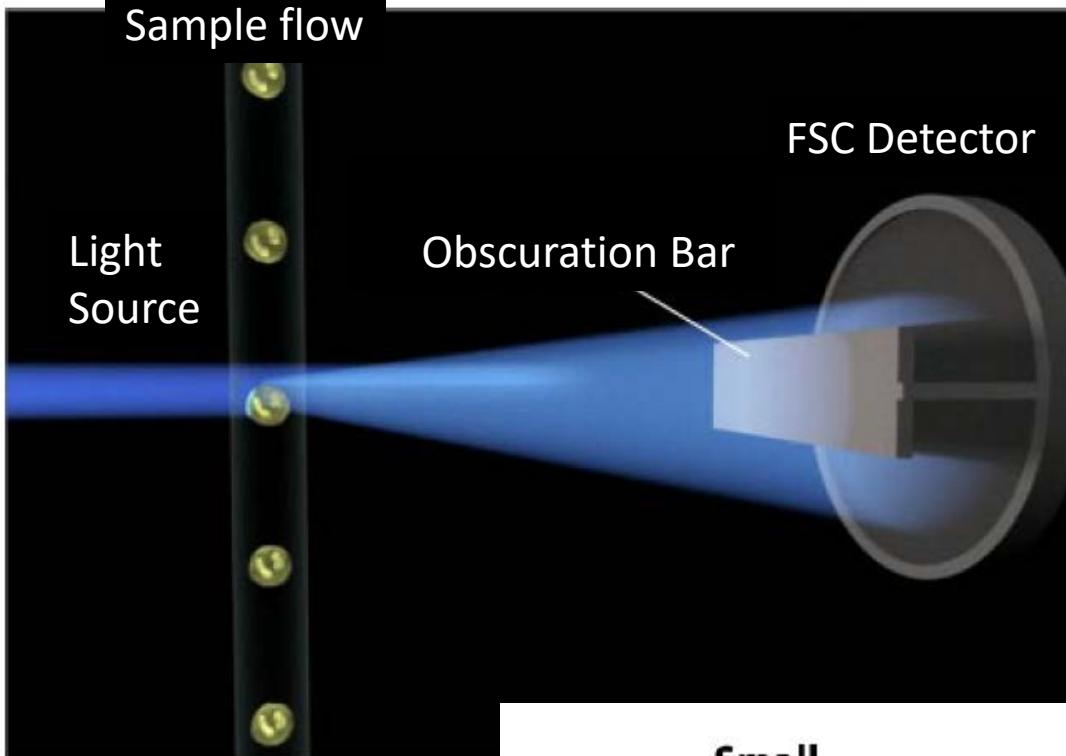
## Side Scatter (SSC)

- Measured in 90° direction to the incoming light (reflected or refracted light)
- $\propto$  cell “complexity” or **granularity**

BD Biosciences  
Flow cytometry tutorials

# Forward Scatter

Sample flow

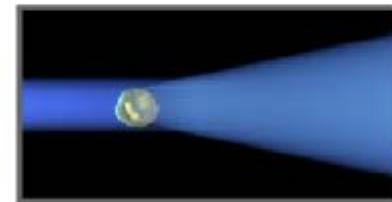


The obscuration bar blocks the intense laser light from reaching the FSC detector

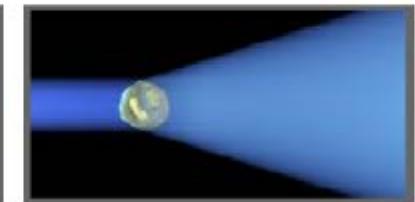
**Small**



**Medium**

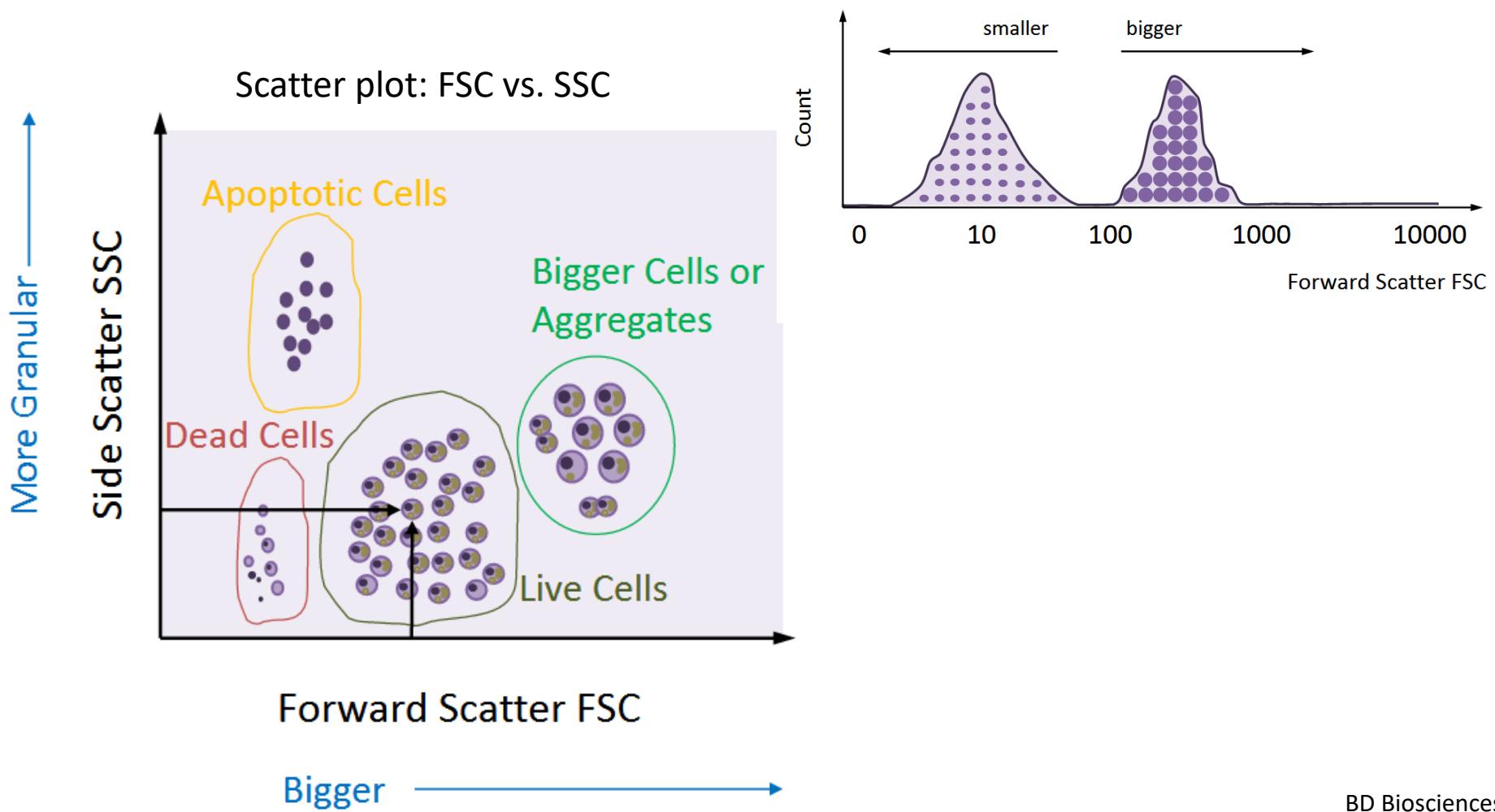


**Large**



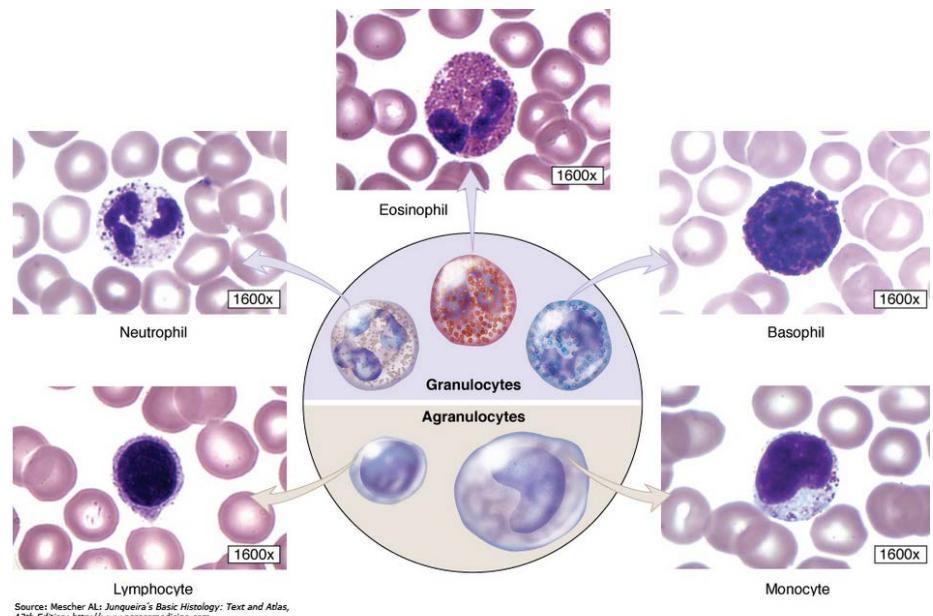
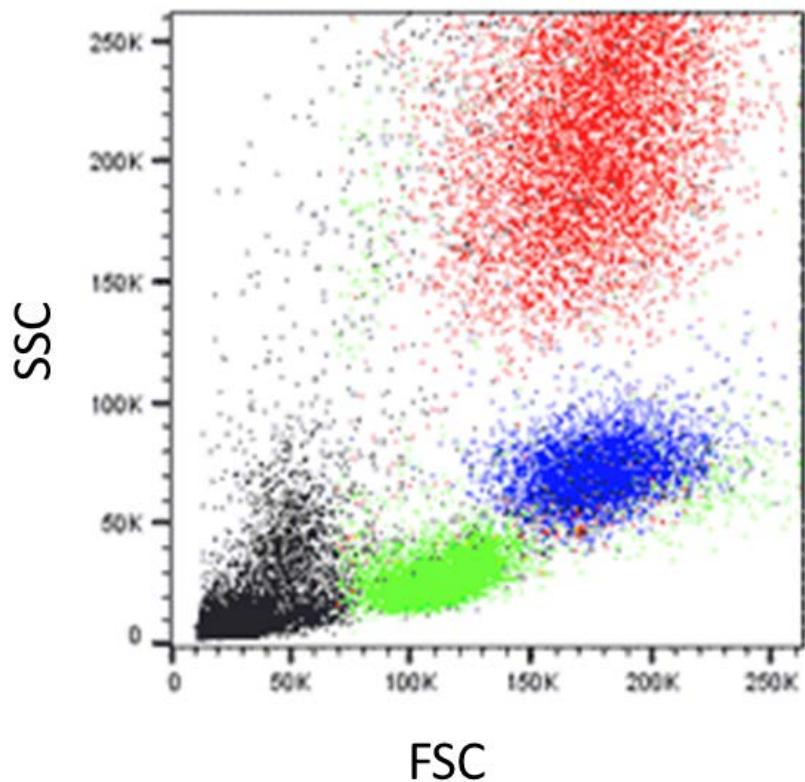
Attune Acoustic Focusing Training Guide, Thermo Scientific

# Cell analysis based on morphology



# Cell analysis based on morphology

Scatter plot  
Lysed whole blood



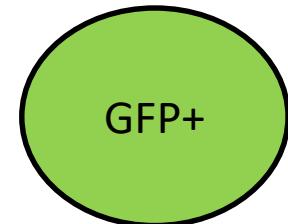
Lymphocytes: small, low granularity

Monocytes: big, low granularity

Granulocytes: big, high granularity

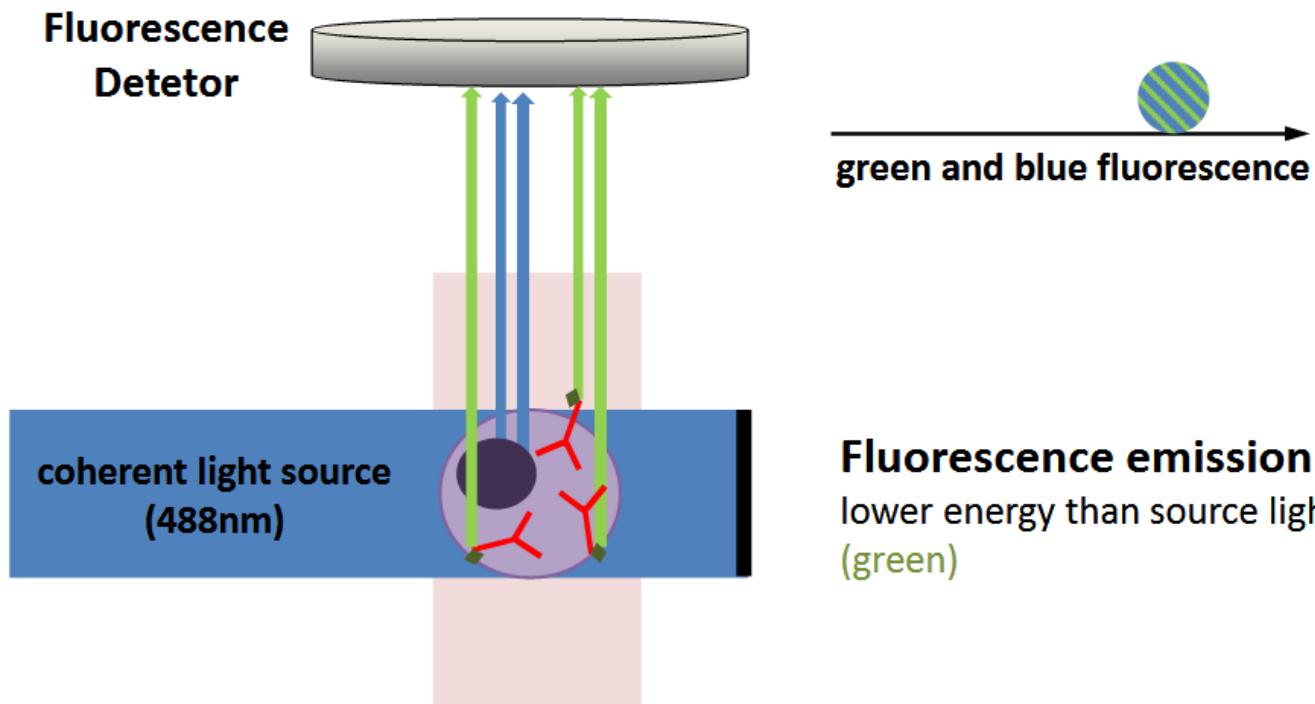
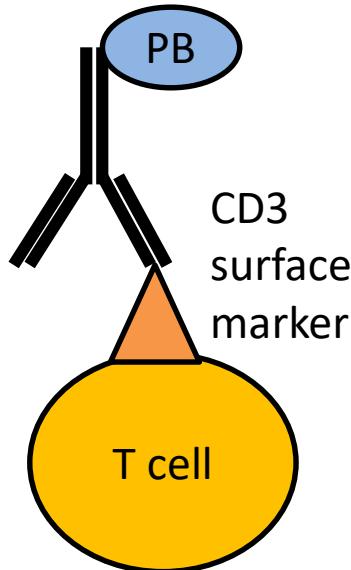
Which population show lymphocytes, monocytes and granulocytes?

# Analysis of fluorescence by flow cytometry



Emitted fluorescence is measured in a 90° angle, just as the side scatter

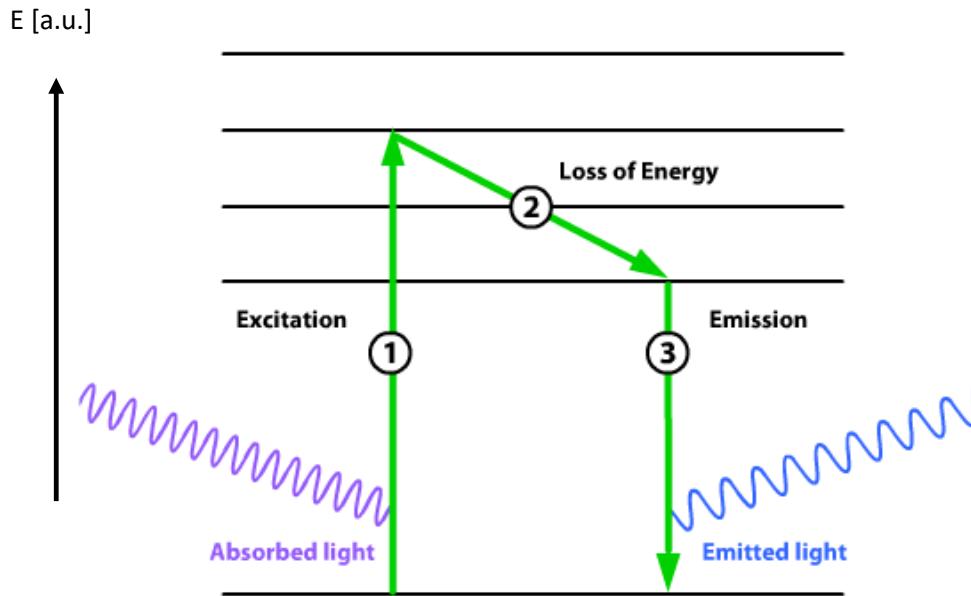
Anti CD3 Antibody with  
fluorescent label



**Fluorescence emission**  
lower energy than source light  
(green)

BD Biosciences

# Fluorescence electronic state diagram (Jablonski diagram)

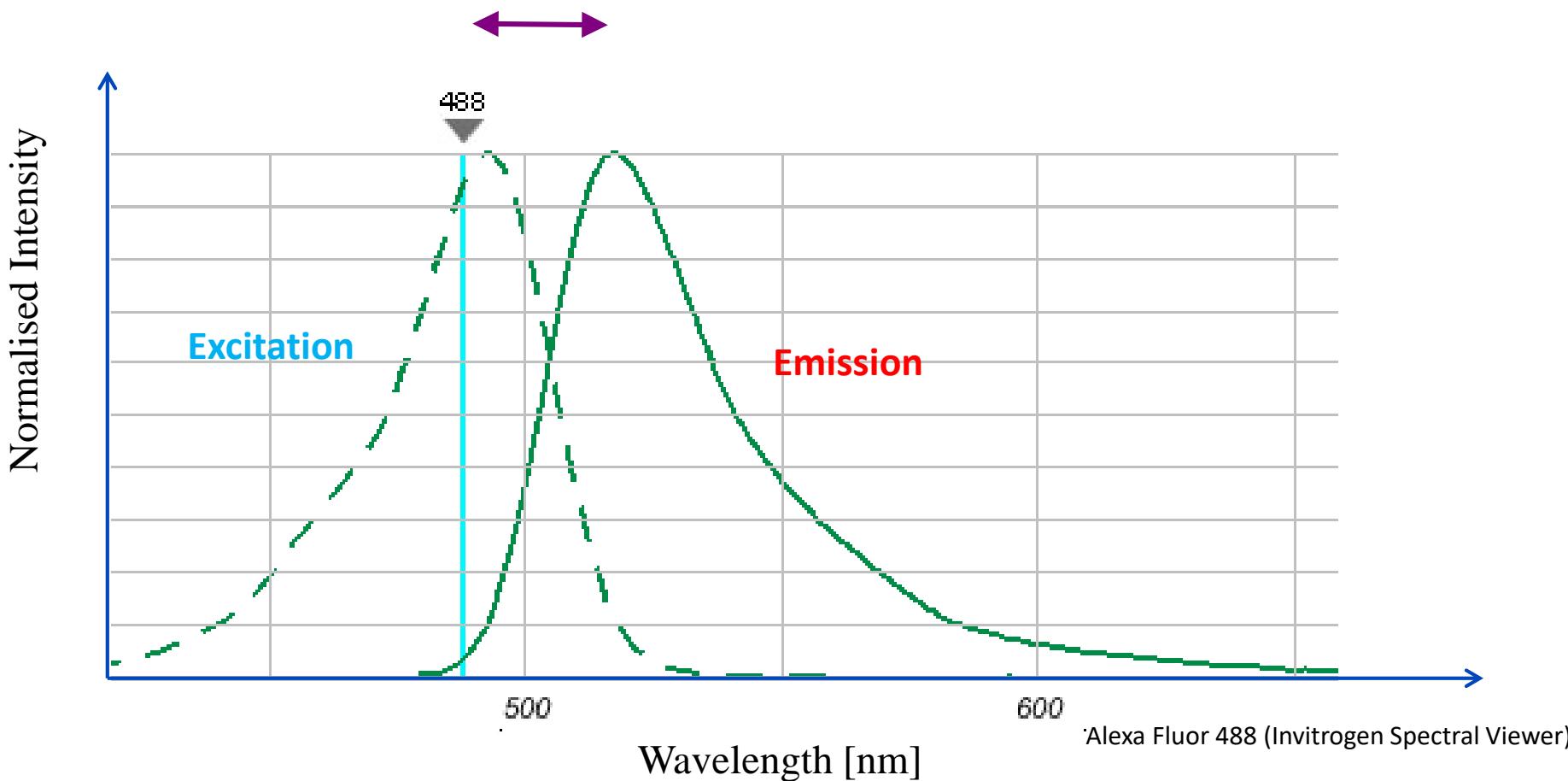


1. **Excitation:** Energy intake  
-> absorbing a photon raises an electron up to a higher energy level
2. **Excited state lifetime**  
-> loss of energy by vibration, rotation
3. **Emission:** Energy release  
-> the electron falls back to the ground state and emits a photon with less energy than the absorbed one

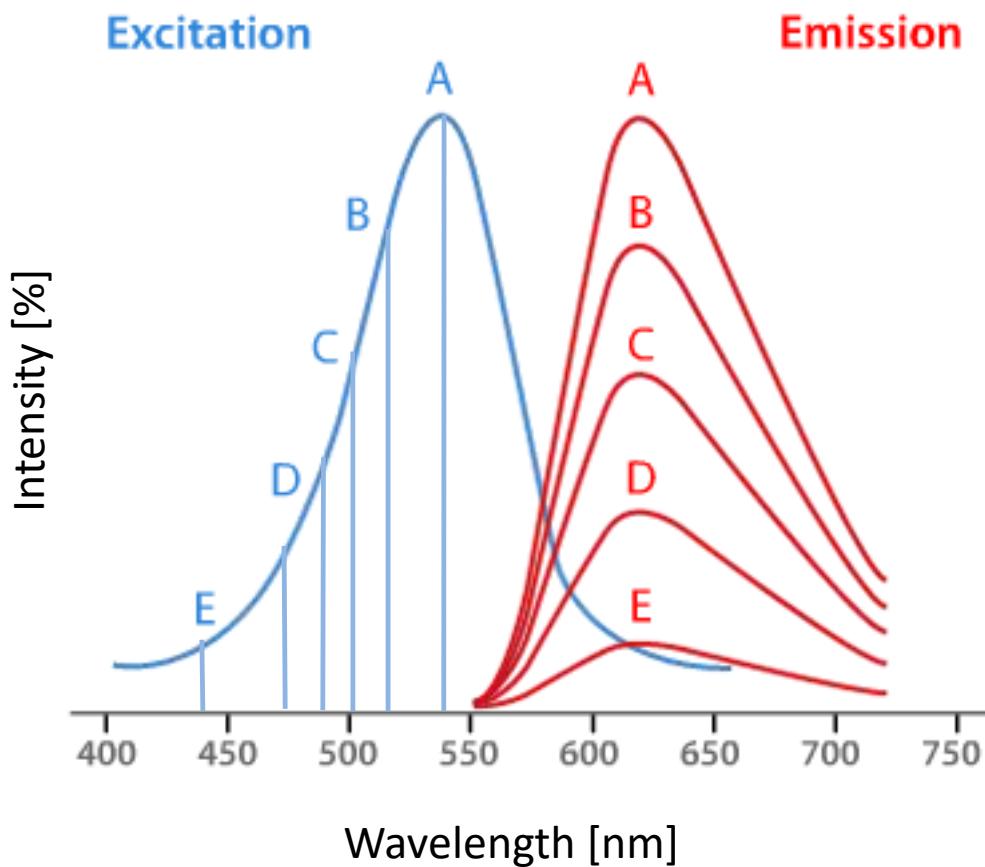
# Fluorescence

The energy difference between an absorbed and emitted photon is called :

„Stokes Shift“

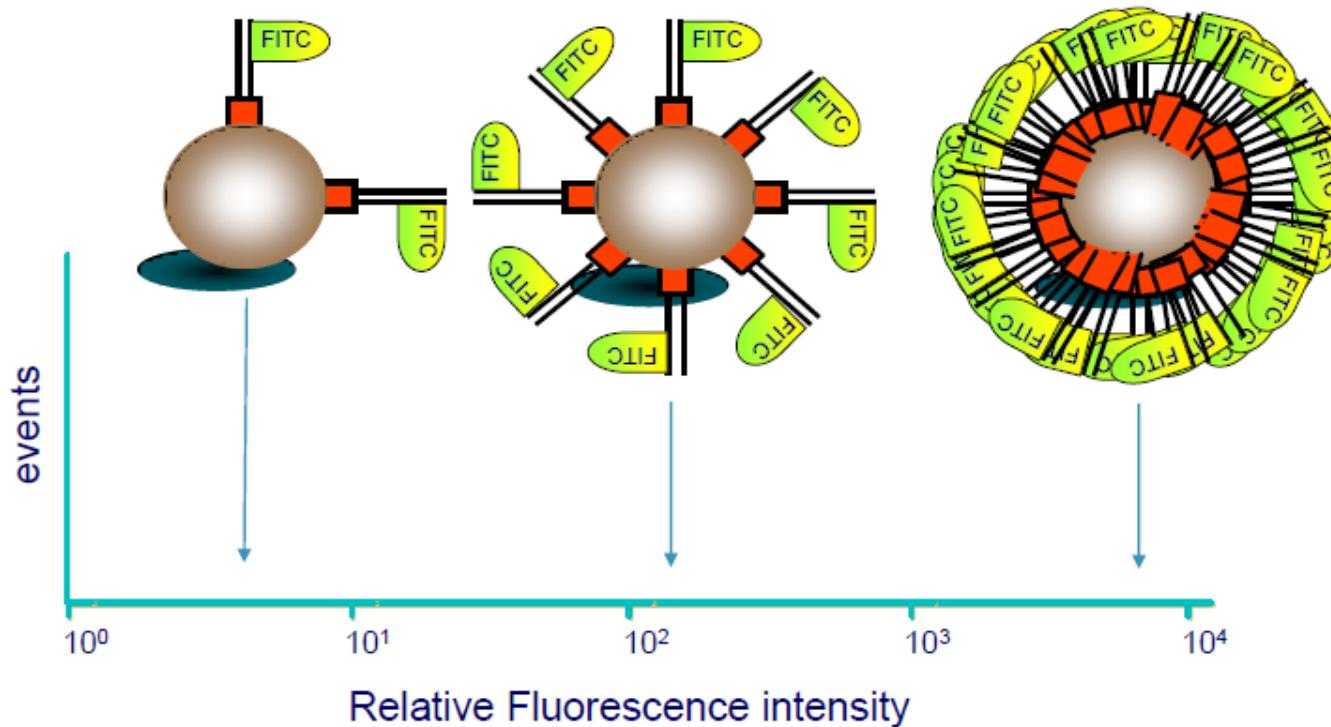


# Fluorescence



- The illumination at lower or higher wavelength affects only the intensity of the emitted light (area below the curve)
- the spectrum of the emitted light is not affected (shifted)

# Fluorescence intensity



The emitted fluorescence light is proportional to the amount of bound fluorescence molecules

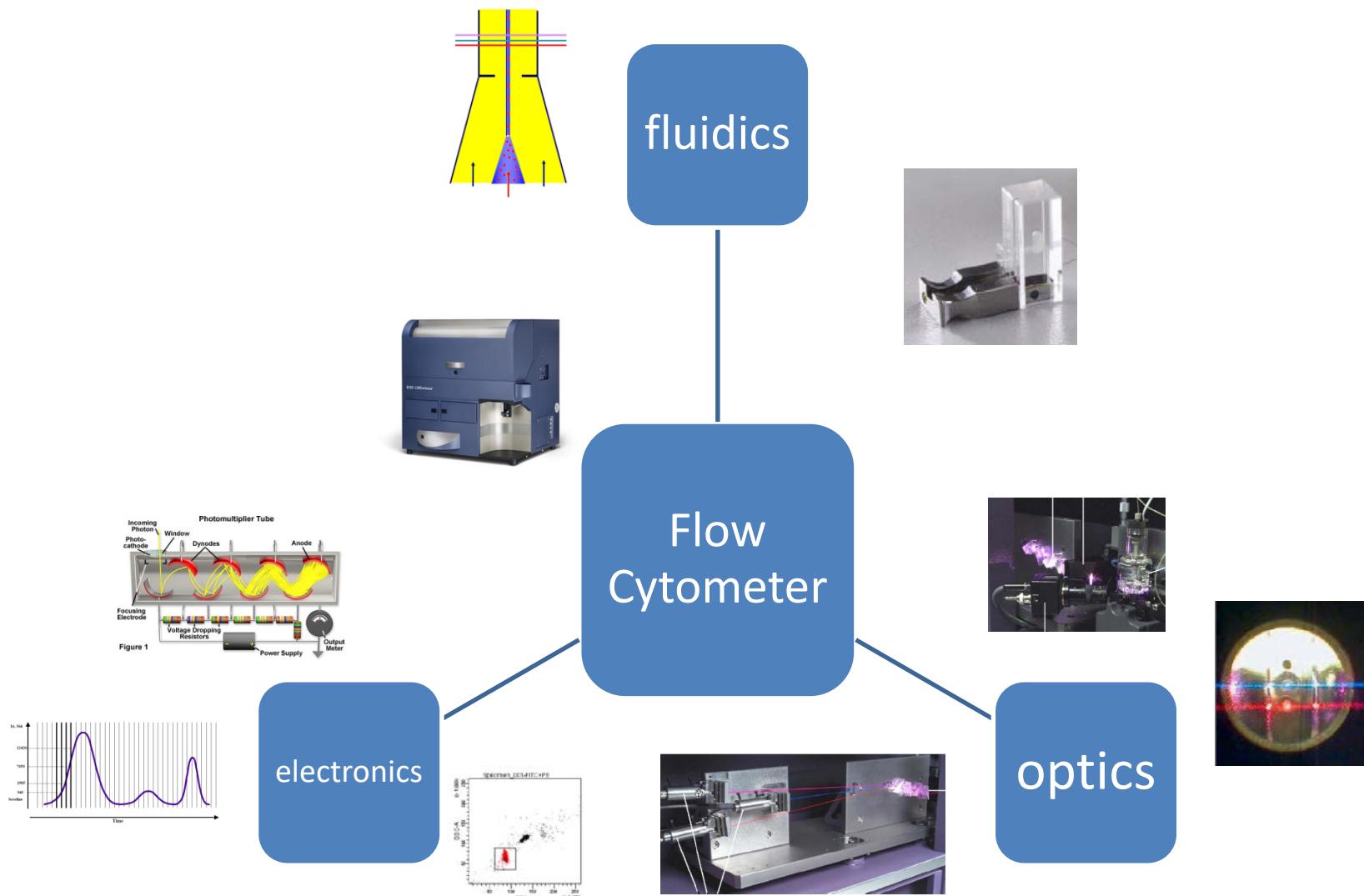
BD FACSaria Operator Manual

# Overview

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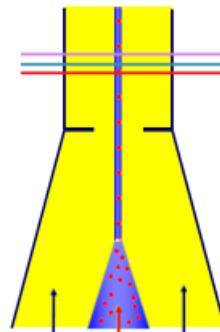
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# Flow cytometer components



# Fluidics

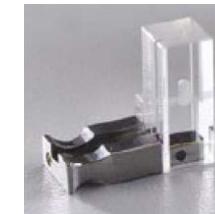
---



fluidics



Flow  
Cytometer



# Fluidics: Fluidic cart or reagent bottles



Sheath  
↑↑  
Waste  
↑↑

„Carrier liquid“  
Normally PBS with stabilizers



Waste

Sheath  
(PBS)



Sheath

Waste

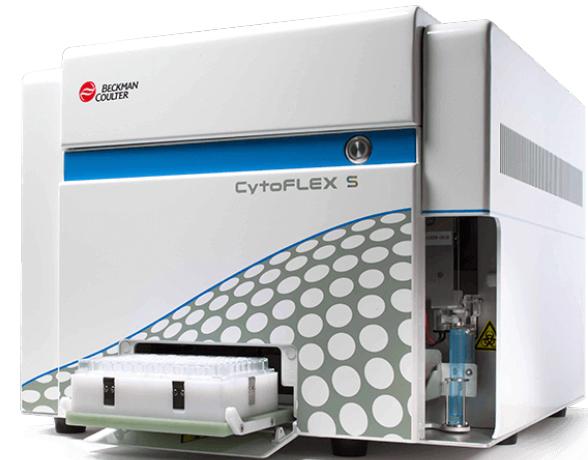
# Fluidics: Sample injection



Sample Injection Port (SIP)  
Sample Injection Tube (SIT)

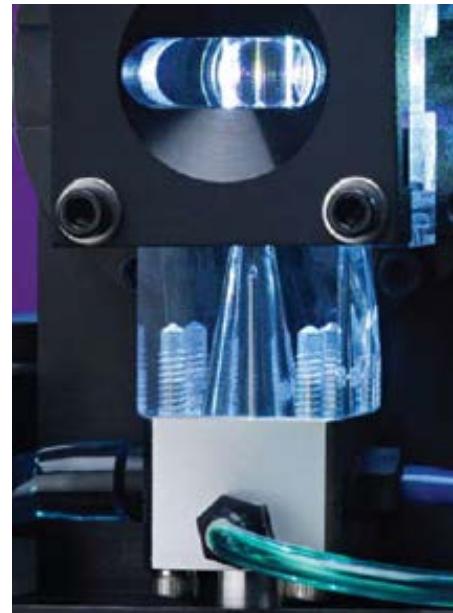
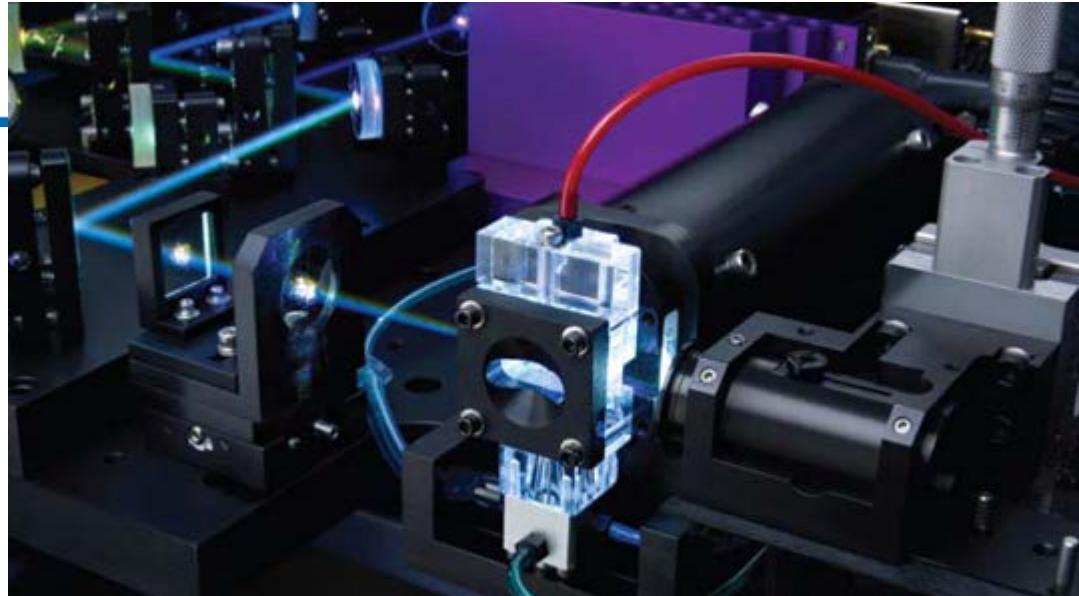
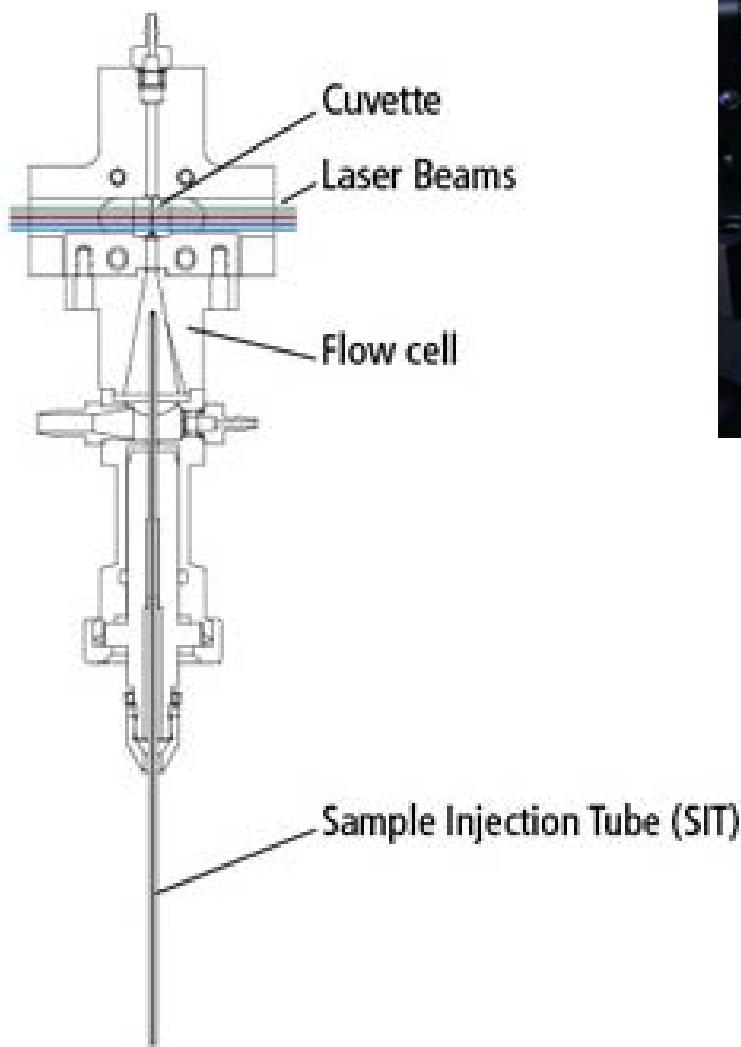


High Throughput Sampler  
(HTS)  
for 96 or 384 well plates

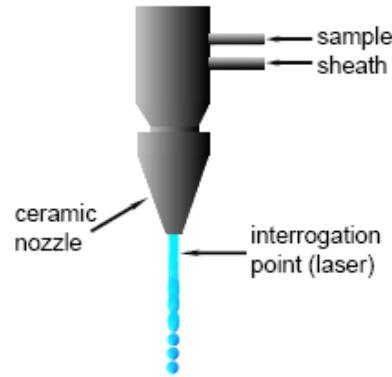


Adapter for tube racks

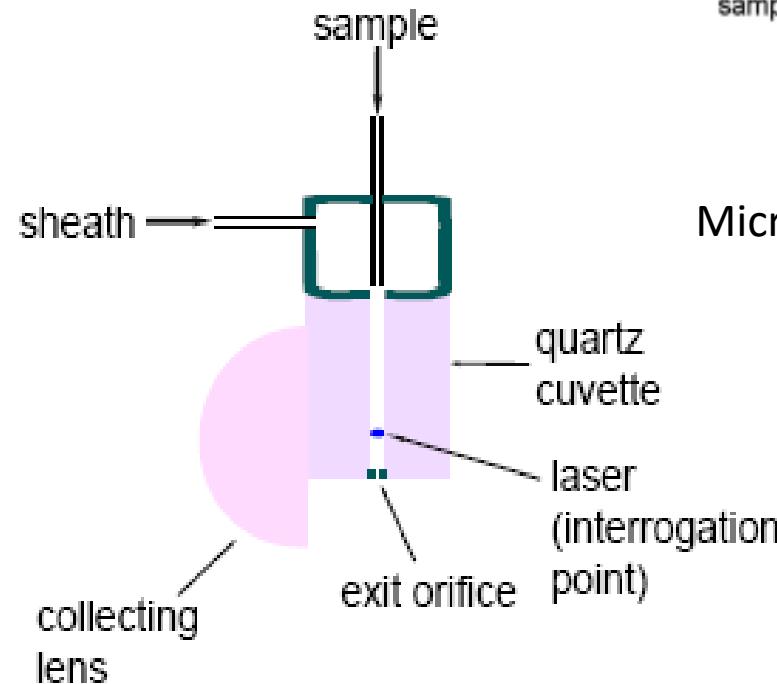
# Fluidics: Flow cell



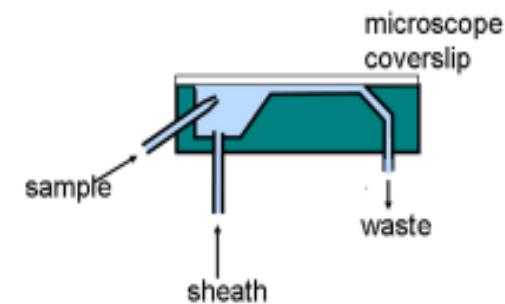
# Fluidics: Flow cell types



„Stream-in-air“ system  
(Cell sorters only)



Cuvette based system



Microscope based flow chamber

<http://flowbook.denovosoftware.com/chapter-2-flow-cytometer>

# Fluidics: Hydrodynamic focussing

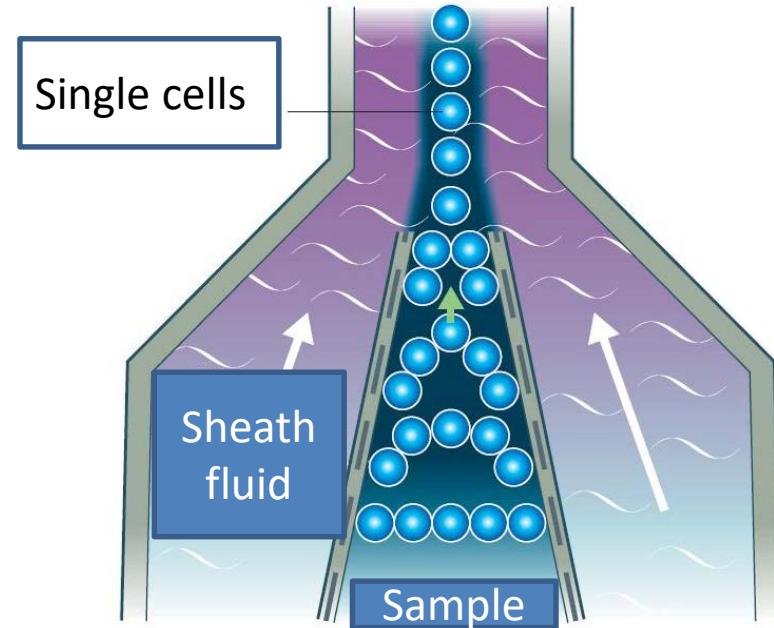
## Principle of fluid dynamics

If two fluids differ enough in density and/or velocity, so they do not mix!

They form a two layer stable flow (laminar flow)



Rio Negro & Amazon river Avesci.com



Only one cell or particle can pass through the laser beam at a given moment

<http://www.biologydiscussion.com/biochemistry/flowcytometry/principles-of-flowcytometry-with-diagram-2/12973>

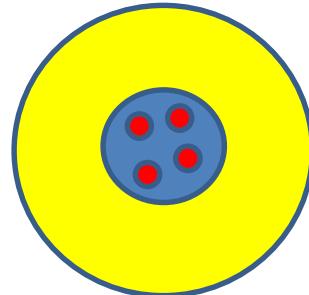
# Fluidics- Hydrodynamic focussing in flow cell

Laminar flow (stream) by  
„hydrodynamic focussing“

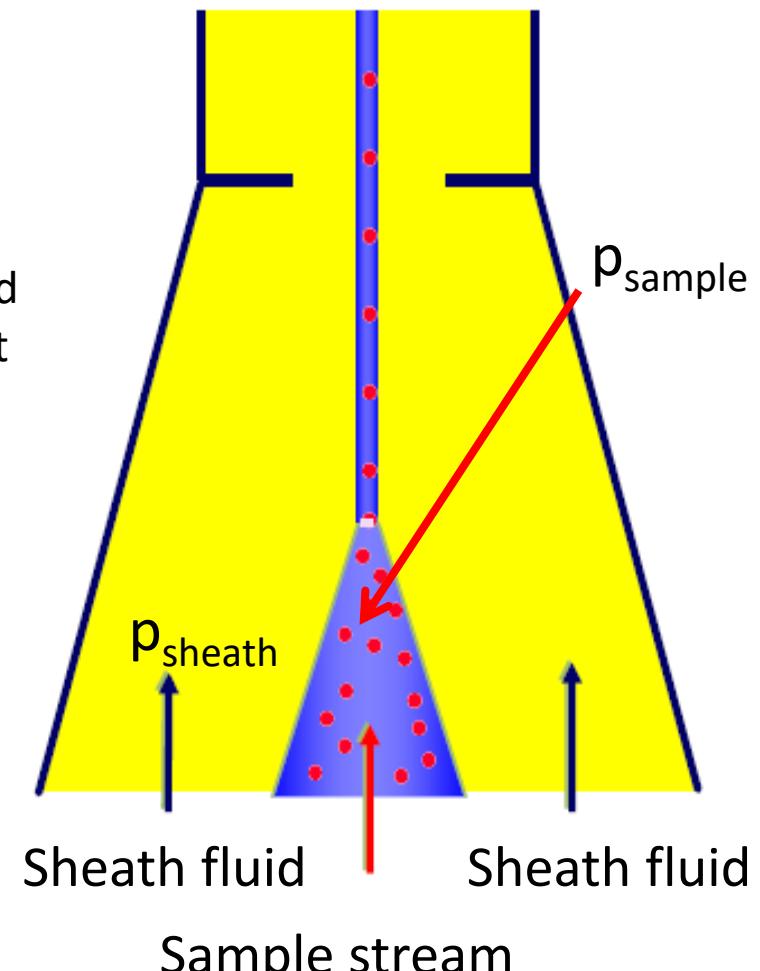
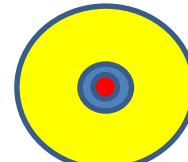
- Sample is injected into the centre of sheath fluid
- Difference of pressure,  $p_{\text{sample}} > p_{\text{sheath}}$  (different velocities)
- Design of flow cell

View from above

Core diameter and cells at time of sample injection



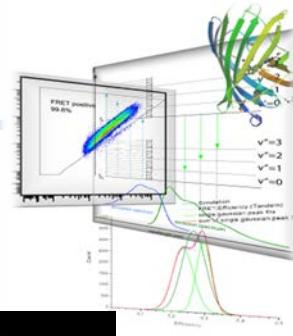
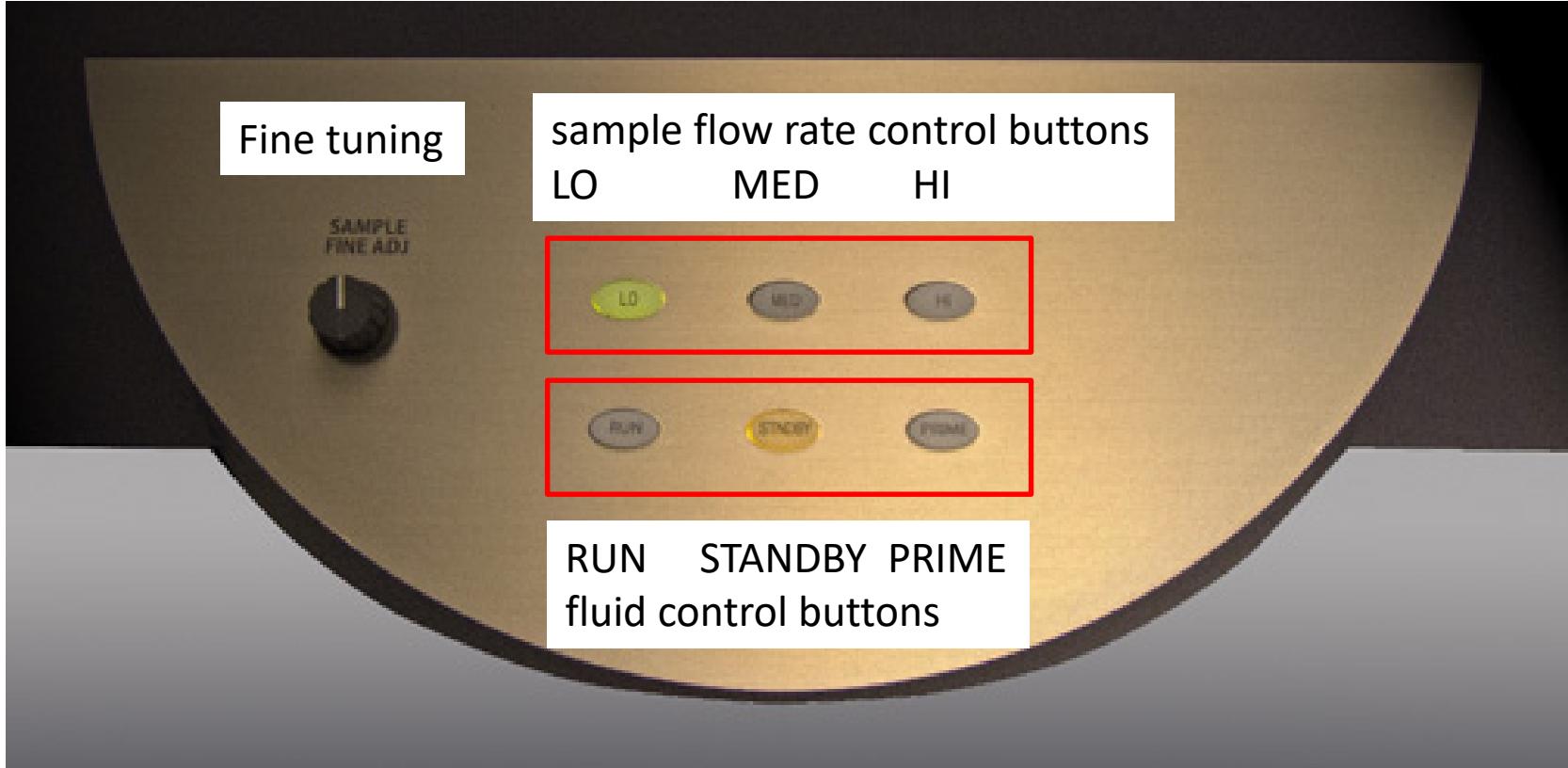
Core diameter and cells at time of measurement



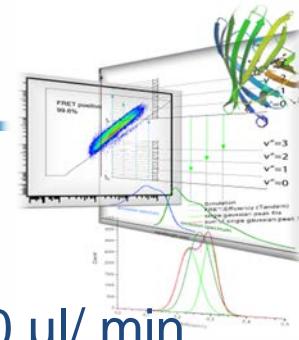
BD Biosciences, modified

# Fluidics – Flow rate

## Front panel of the LSRFortessa



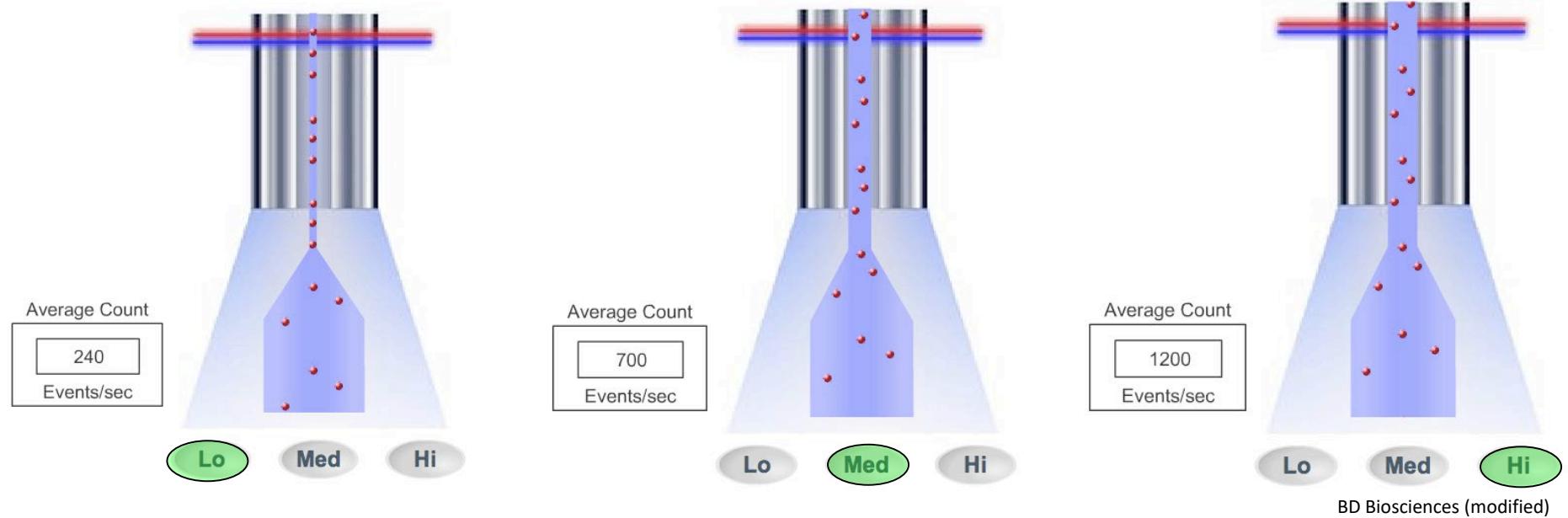
# Fluidics – Flow rate



Low:  $\approx 12 \mu\text{l}/\text{min}$

Medium:  $\approx 35 \mu\text{l}/\text{min}$

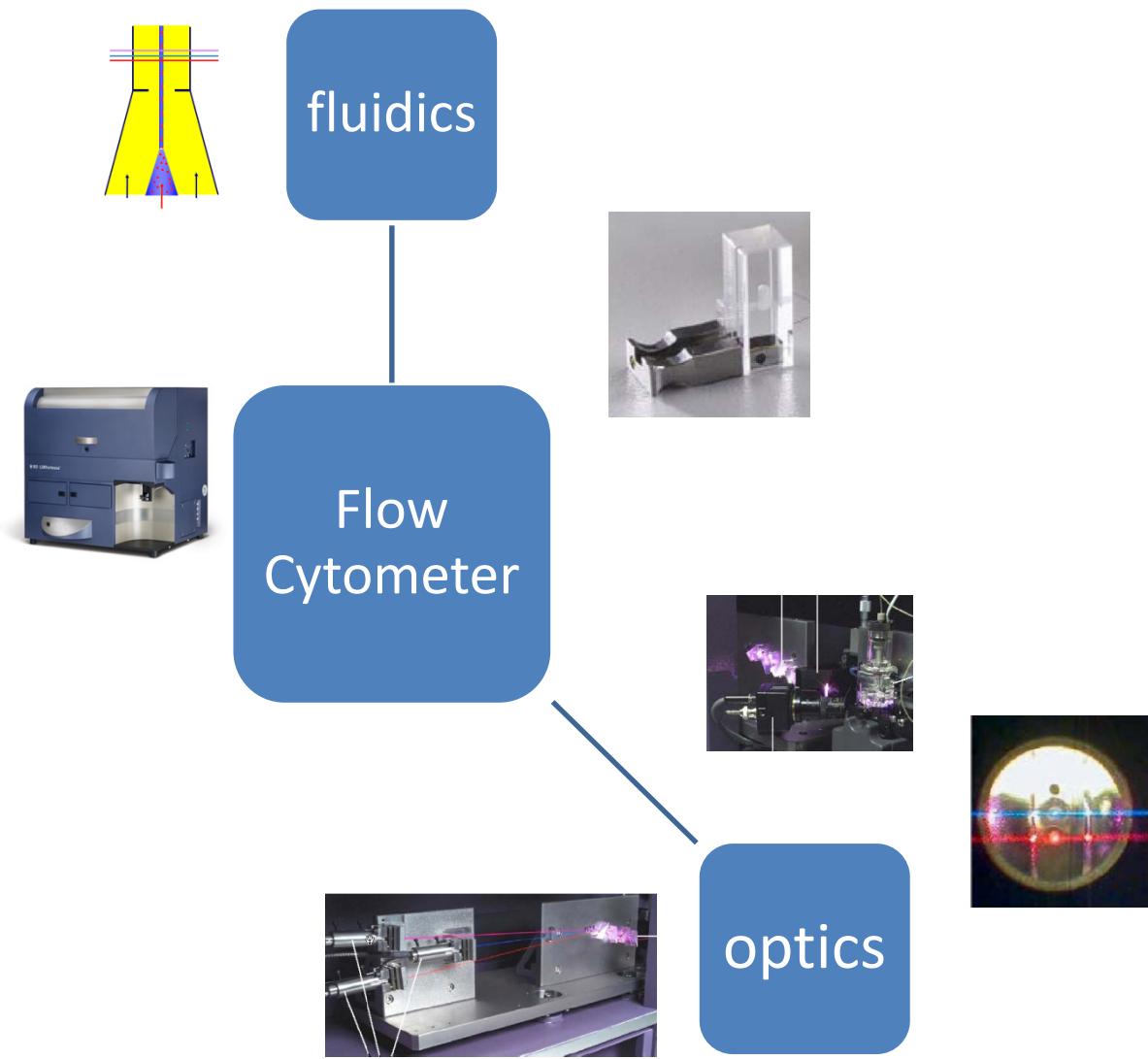
High:  $\approx 60 \mu\text{l}/\text{min}$



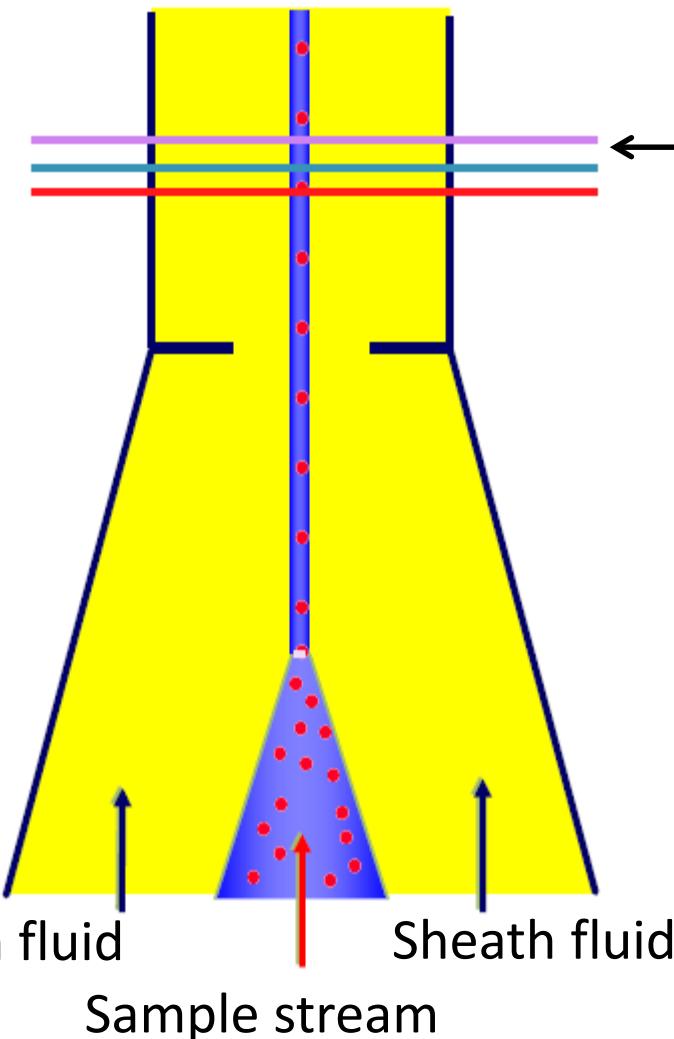
Higher flow rate  $\rightarrow$  higher sample pressure  $\rightarrow$  higher core stream diameter  
(lower signal resolution)

# Optics

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# Optics - Excitation



- Excitation by multiple lasers when cells are aligned in the liquid stream and pass one by one through the laser beam  
→ **Interrogation point**
- @IMB: 355nm (UV), 405nm, 488nm, 561nm, 640nm
- Horizontally aligned with separate pinholes for the lasers

BD Biosciences, modified

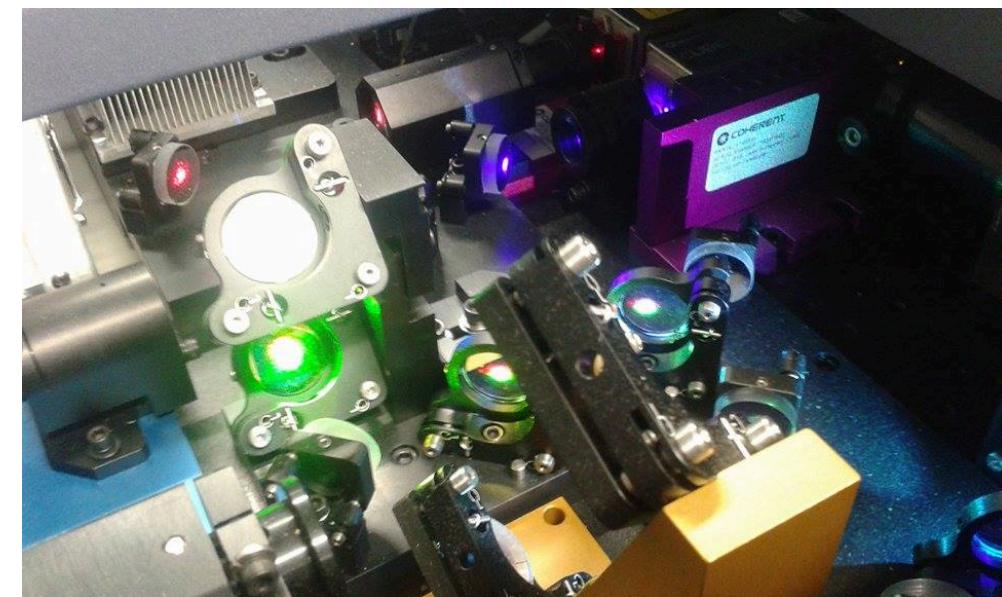
# Excitation optics



BD FACSaria Operator Course Manual

## BD FACSaria

- Laser light comes from fiberoptic cables
- Steering optics with prisms and lenses direct the laser light to the cuvette

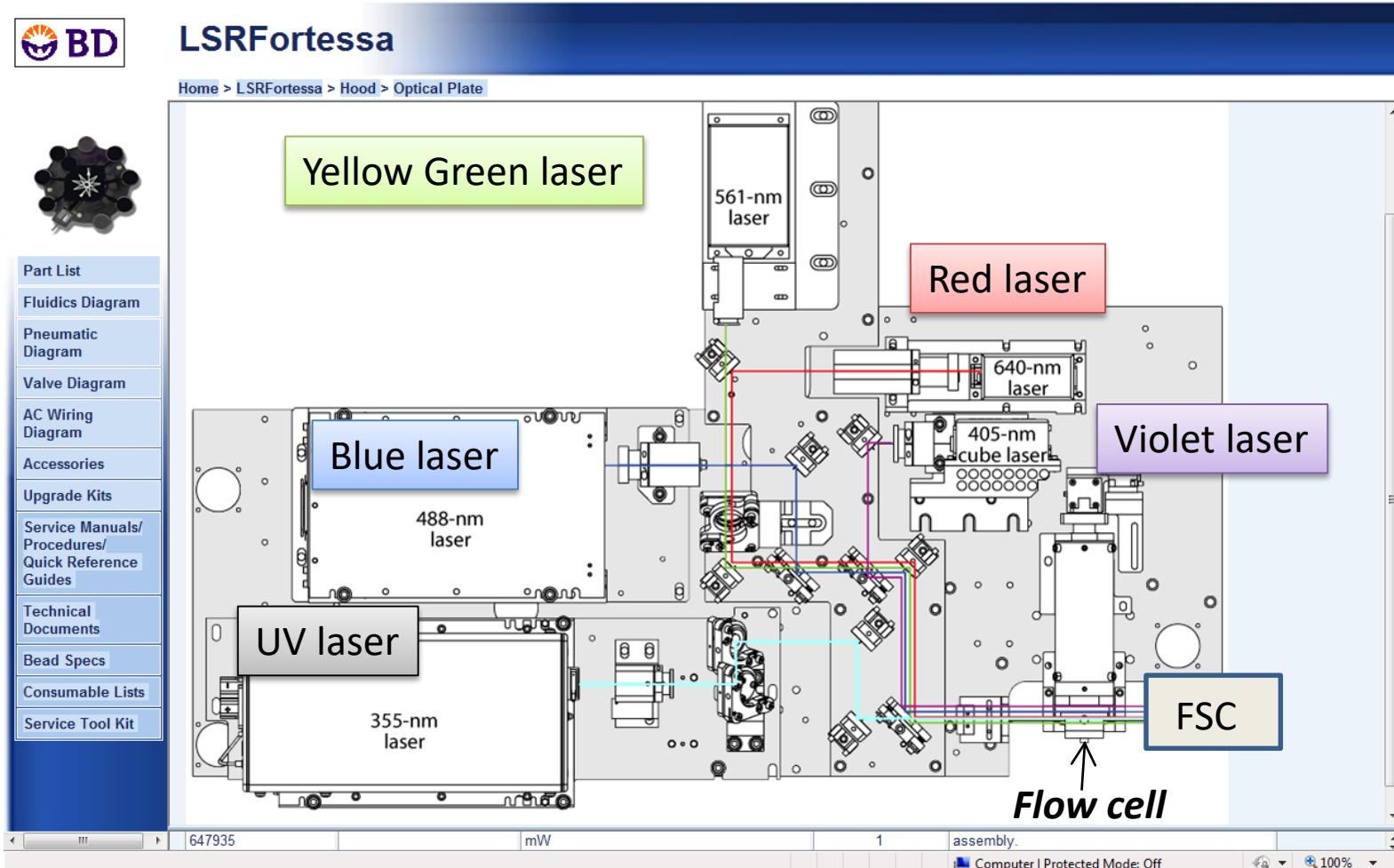


## BD LSR Fortessa

- Laser light is directed via mirrors and focussing lenses towards the cuvette

# Optics - Excitation

- LASER array of the analyzer LSRFortessa

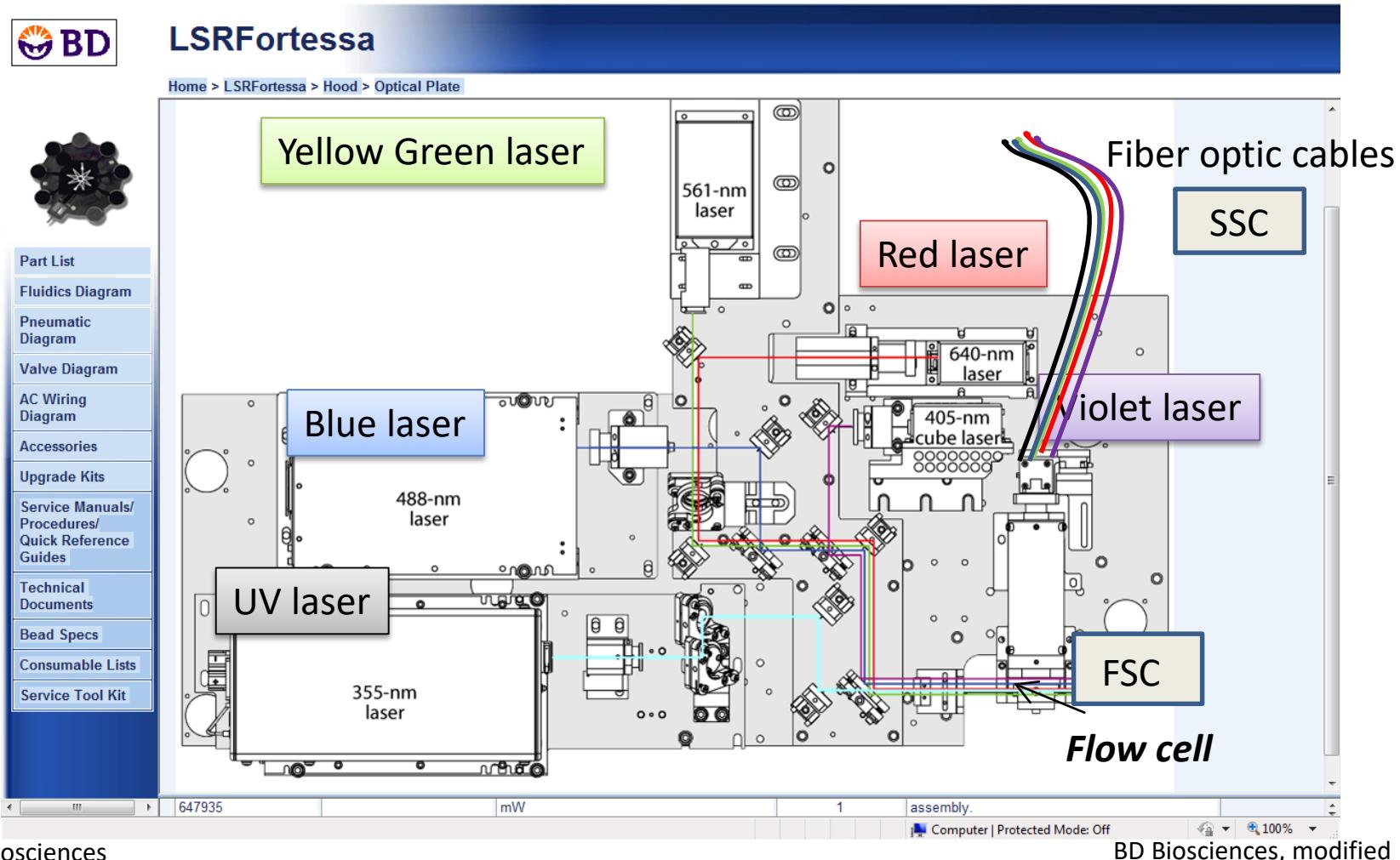


BD Biosciences

BD Biosciences, modified

# Optics – Excitation and collection of emitted light

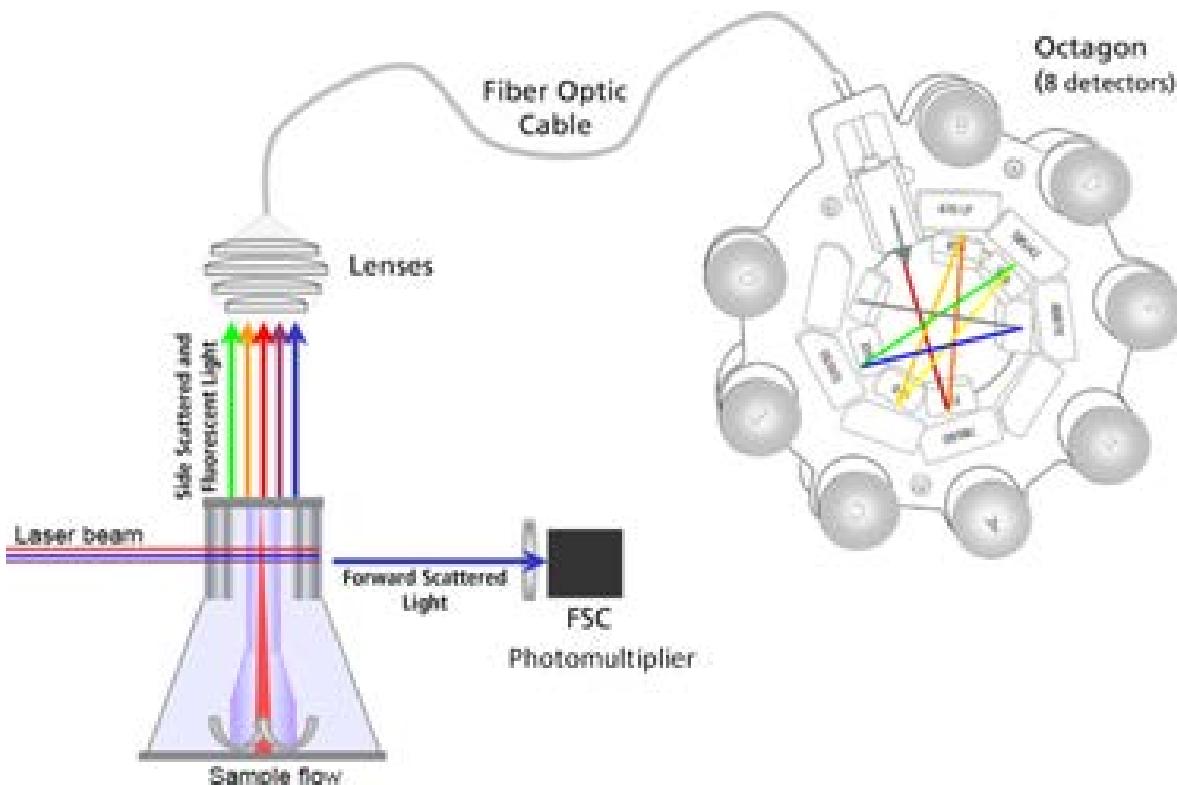
- LASER array of the analyzer LSRFortessa



BD Biosciences

BD Biosciences, modified

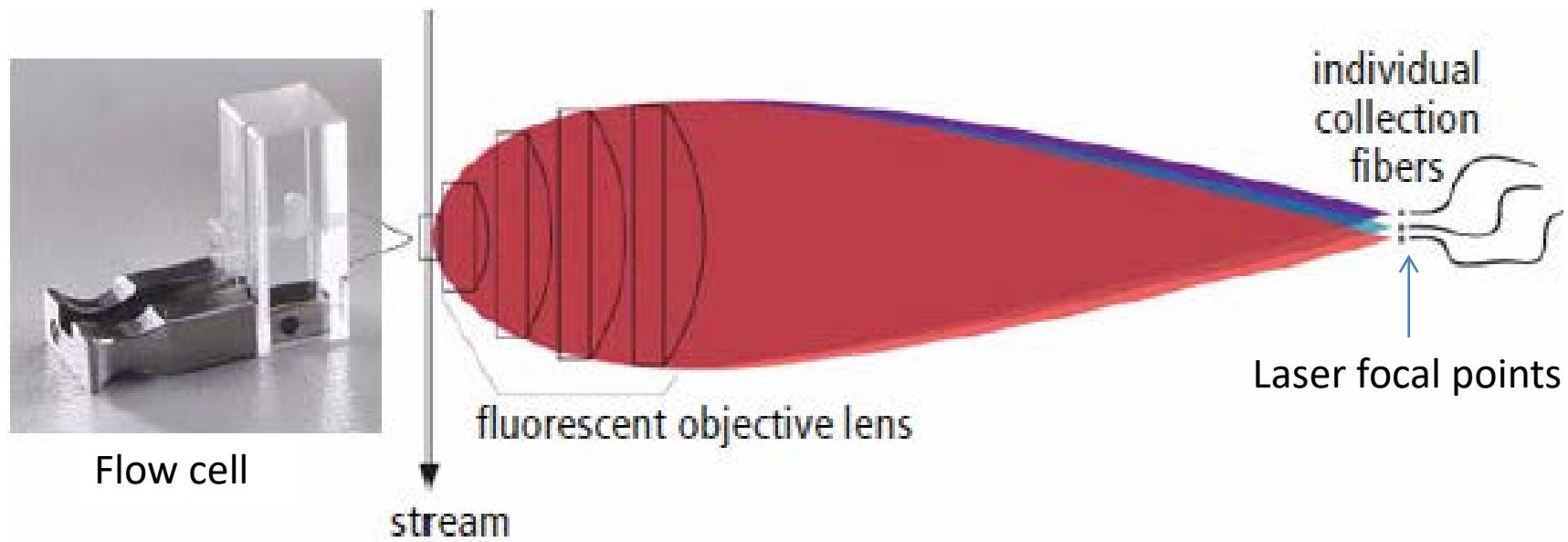
# Optics - Excitation and detection of emitted light



Lenses collect and focus fluorescent light into individual collection fibres which transfer the emitted light to detector arrays.

[https://www.google.de/search?q=LSRFortessa+Flow+cuvette&client=firefox-b&source=lnms&tbo=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiRi-b88enTAhVJlcAKHdqcApsQ\\_AUICigB&biw=1920&bih=1089#imgrc=FNP6rEj3zy9opM](https://www.google.de/search?q=LSRFortessa+Flow+cuvette&client=firefox-b&source=lnms&tbo=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiRi-b88enTAhVJlcAKHdqcApsQ_AUICigB&biw=1920&bih=1089#imgrc=FNP6rEj3zy9opM):

# Optics - Emission

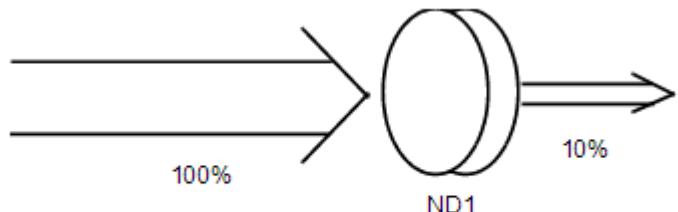


Lenses collect and focus fluorescent light into individual collection fibres which transfer the emitted light to the optic photomultiplier tubes (PMTs).

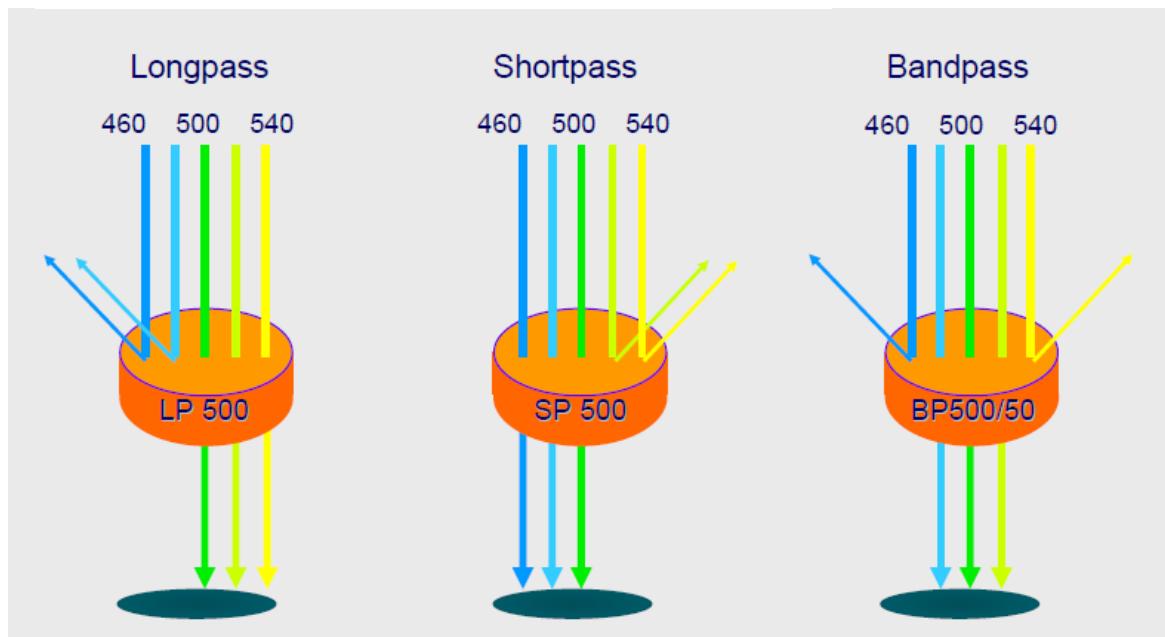
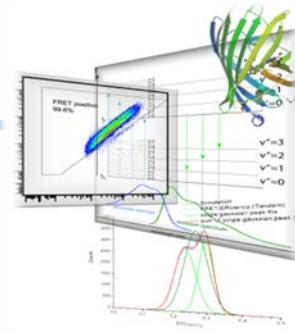
BD Biosciences

# Optics – Filters

Neutral density filter (ND) – in front of FSC detector



10 % of light transmitted  
FSC is a very strong signal!



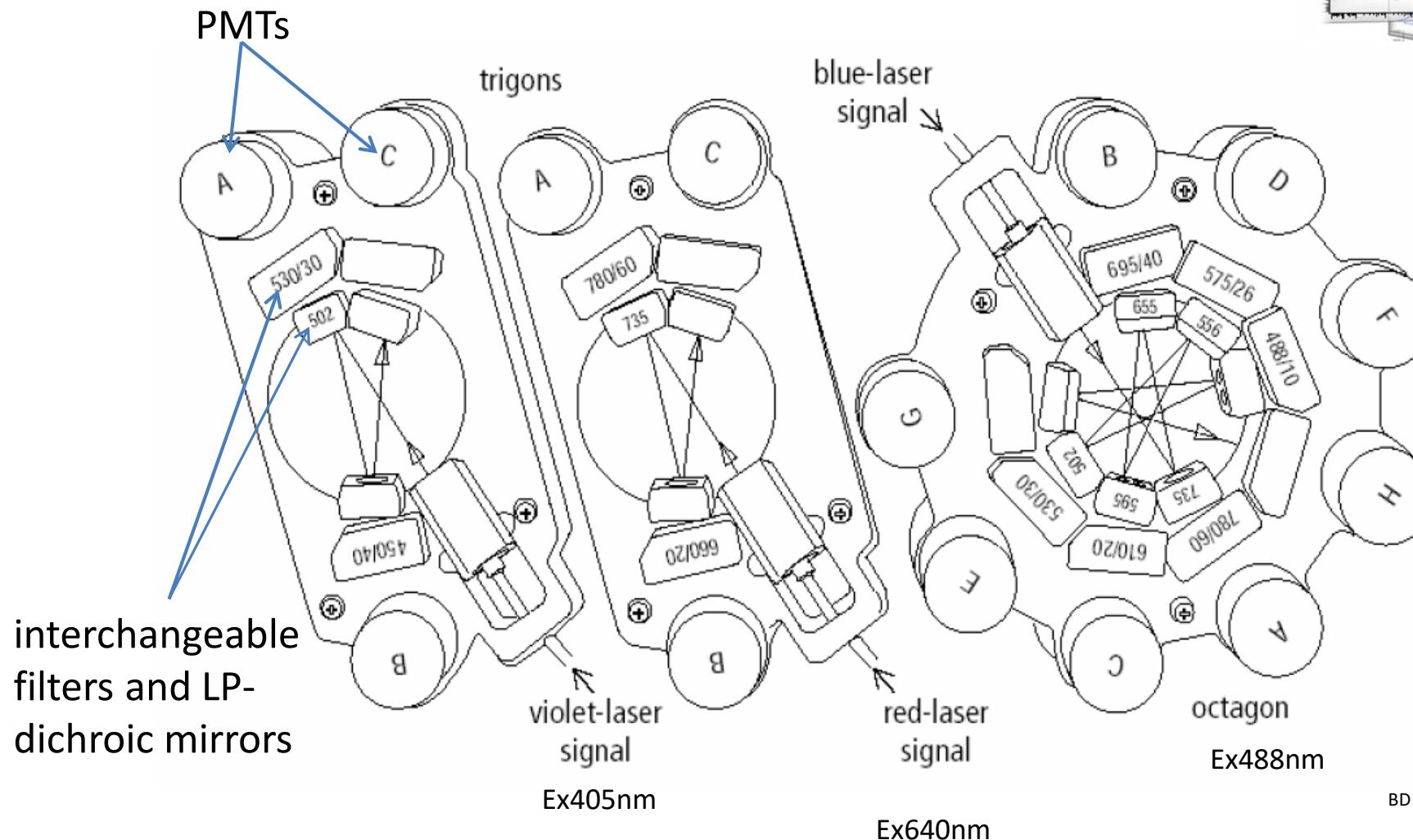
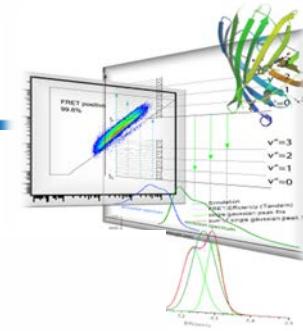
$$\text{BP500/50} = \text{BP500} \pm 25\text{nm}$$

LP and SP filters are normally coated with a reflective surface, so unwanted light is not only blocked, but reflected in a certain angle

→ Dichroic mirror

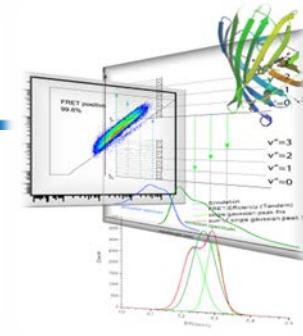
[https://www.bdbiosciences.com/documents/BD\\_FACSAria\\_III\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.bdbiosciences.com/documents/BD_FACSAria_III_User_Guide.pdf)

# Optics – Detector arrays: trigons and octagons



BD Biosciences

# Optics – Trigon technology from BD

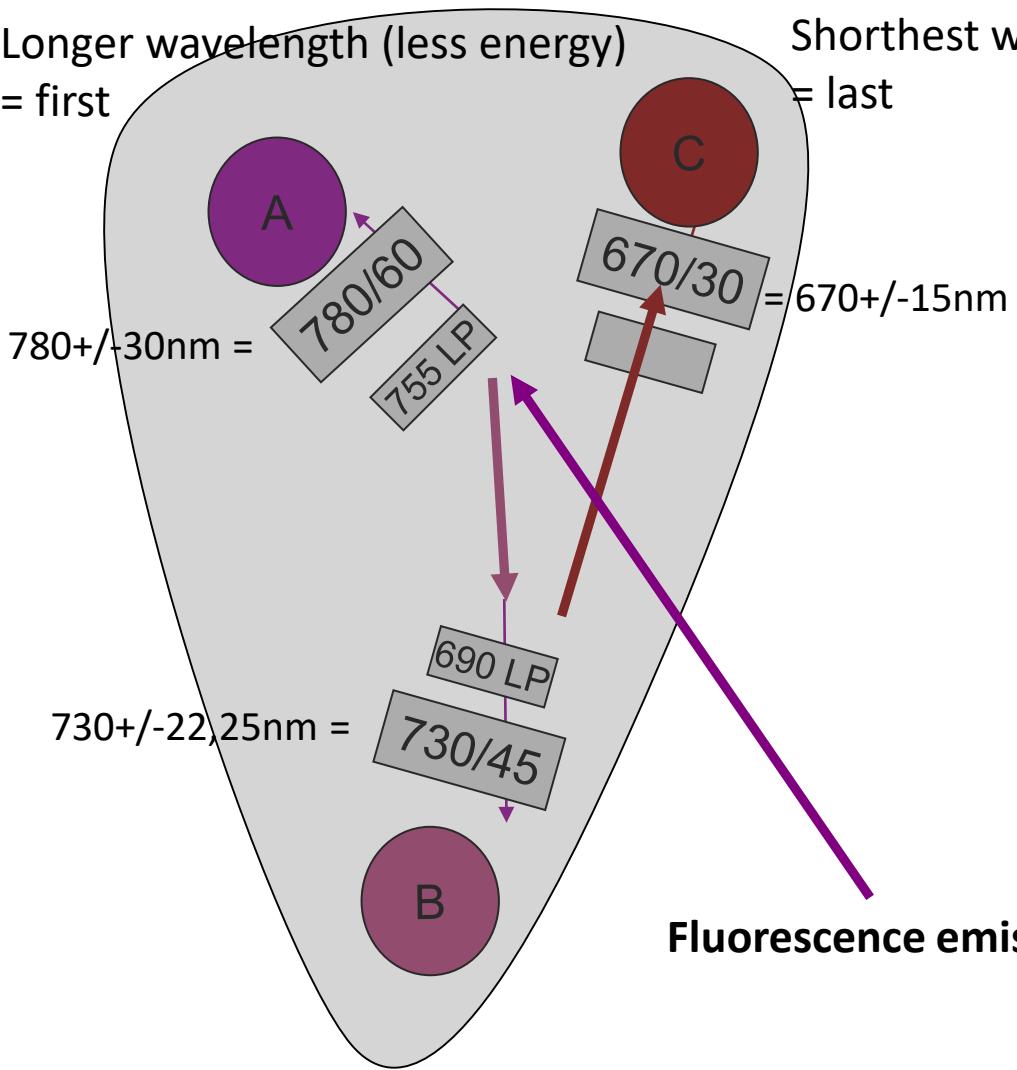


Longer wavelength (less energy)

= first

Shortest wavelength (high energy)

= last

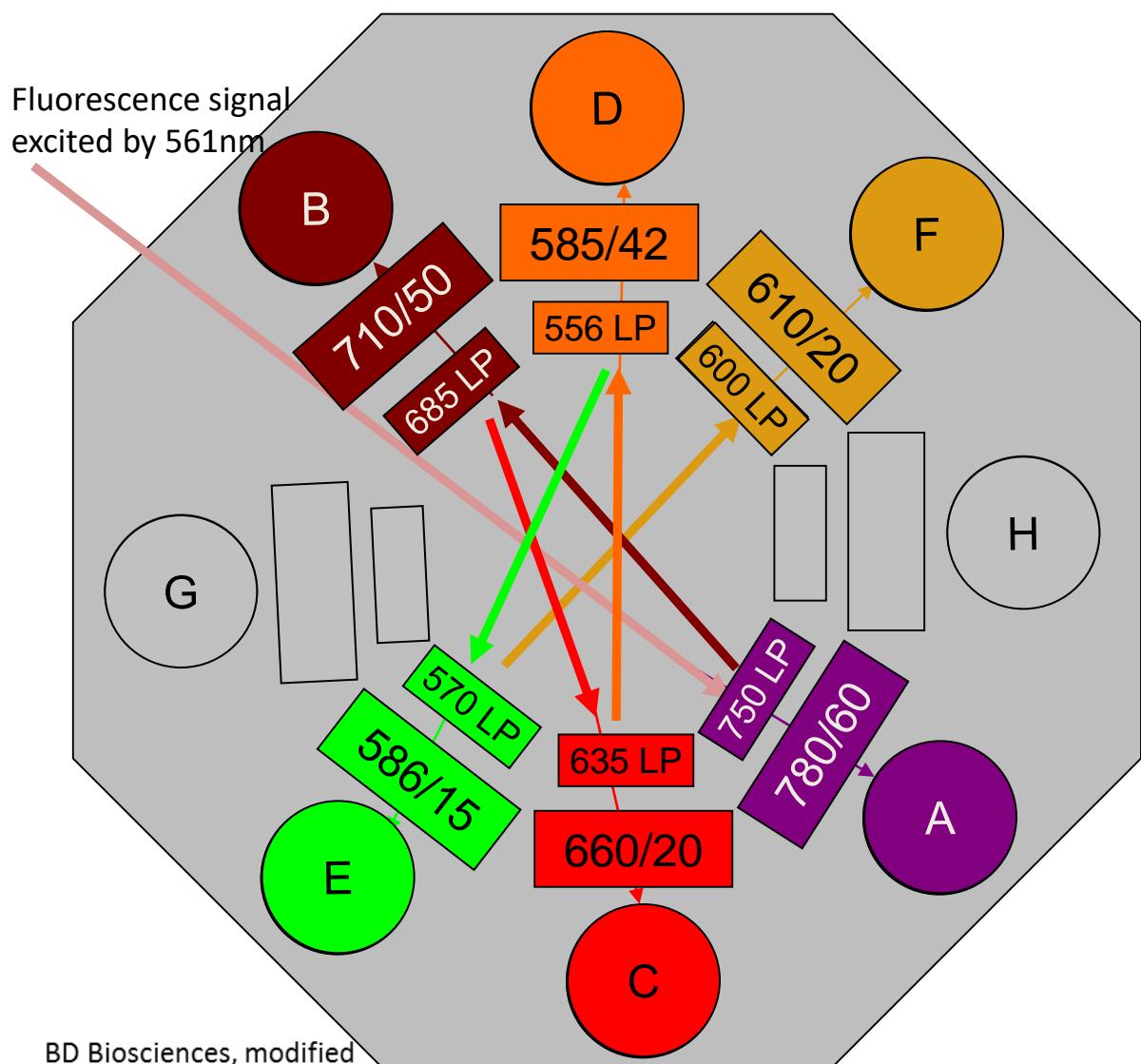
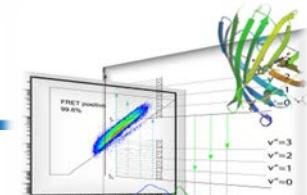


BD Biosciences, modified

| Detector | Dye   |
|----------|---|
| A        | RL640nm 780/60<br>APC-Cy7                                       |
| B        | RL640nm 730/45<br>Alexa 700                                     |
| C        | RL640nm 670/30<br>APC<br>Alexa 647<br>Cy5<br>TO-PRO 3<br>TOTO 3 |

Fluorescence emission of dyes excited by 640nm

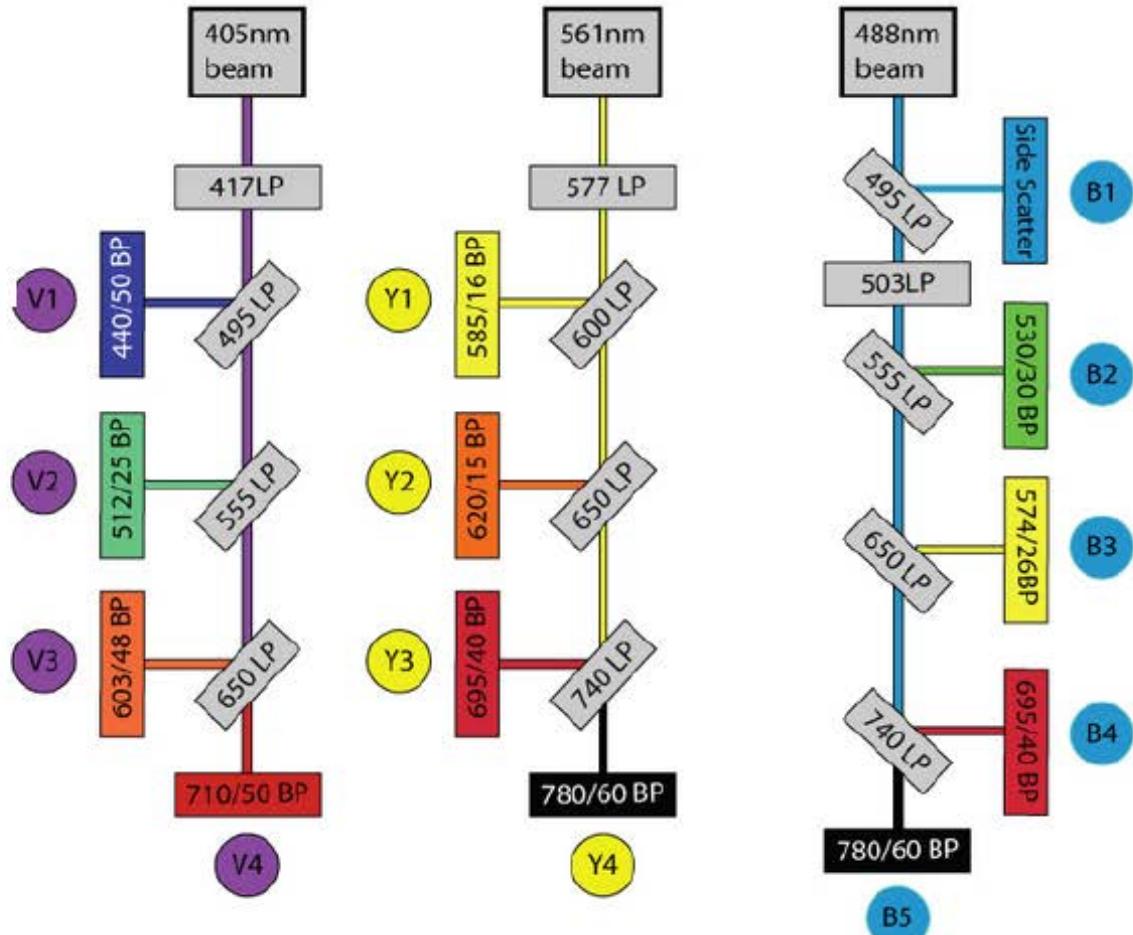
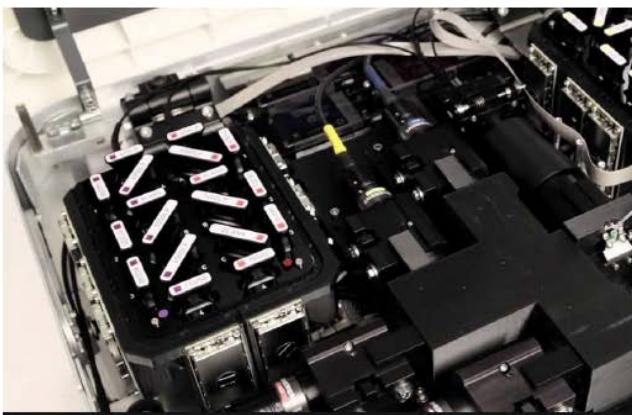
# Optics – Octagon technology from BD



BD Biosciences, modified

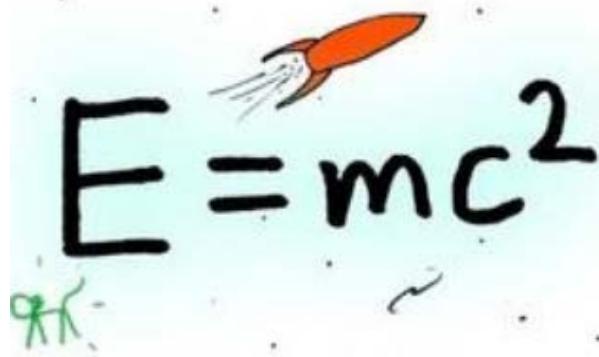
| Detector | Dye   |
|----------|---|
| A        | YG561nm 780/60<br>PE-Cy7<br>PE-AlexaFluor750            |
| B        | YG561nm 710/50<br>AlexaFluor700<br>PE-Cy5.5             |
| C        | YG561nm 660/20<br>PE-Cy5<br>mPlum                       |
| D        | YG561nm 610/20<br>PI<br>mCherry                         |
| E        | YG561nm 586/15<br>PE<br>Cy3<br>DsRed<br>RFP<br>tdTomato |

# Optics – Detector Array from Attune NxT (Thermo Fisher)



Thermo Fisher Scientific

# Optics – Signal detectors



## Photodiodes

- Less sensitive to light signal than the PMTs
- Is used to detect the stronger **FSC** signal
- **No amplification inside the photodiodes**

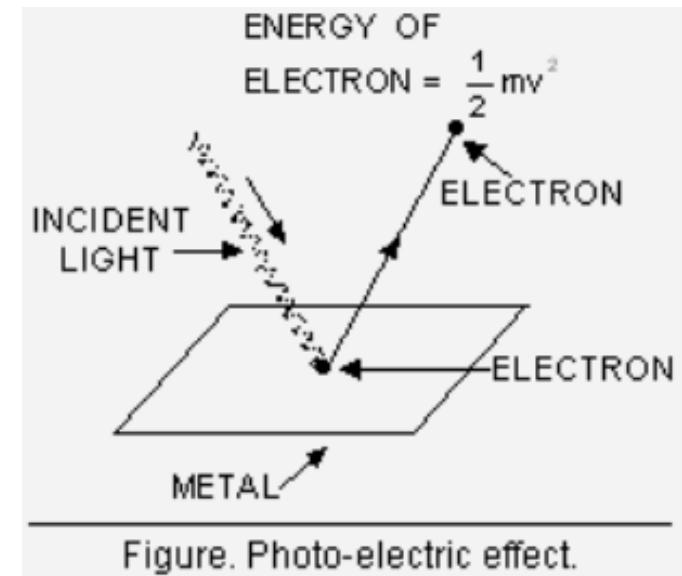


Figure. Photo-electric effect.

## Photomultiplier tubes (PMTs)

- Detection of weaker signals by **Side Scatter** and **all fluorescence channels**
- Signal amplification inside the PMT via Dynodes
- Applying voltage to the PMT is changing sensitivity

[https://www.google.de/search?q=photons+into+electrons&source=lnms&tbo=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj3rPPj7pHUAhWCNxQKHRamBxkQ\\_AUIBigB&biw=992&bih=531#tbm=isch&q=photoelectric+effect+comic&imgrc=1ElZauVyWxcyRM](https://www.google.de/search?q=photons+into+electrons&source=lnms&tbo=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj3rPPj7pHUAhWCNxQKHRamBxkQ_AUIBigB&biw=992&bih=531#tbm=isch&q=photoelectric+effect+comic&imgrc=1ElZauVyWxcyRM)

# Optics - Photomultiplier tube (PMT)

[www.olympusmicro.com](http://www.olympusmicro.com)

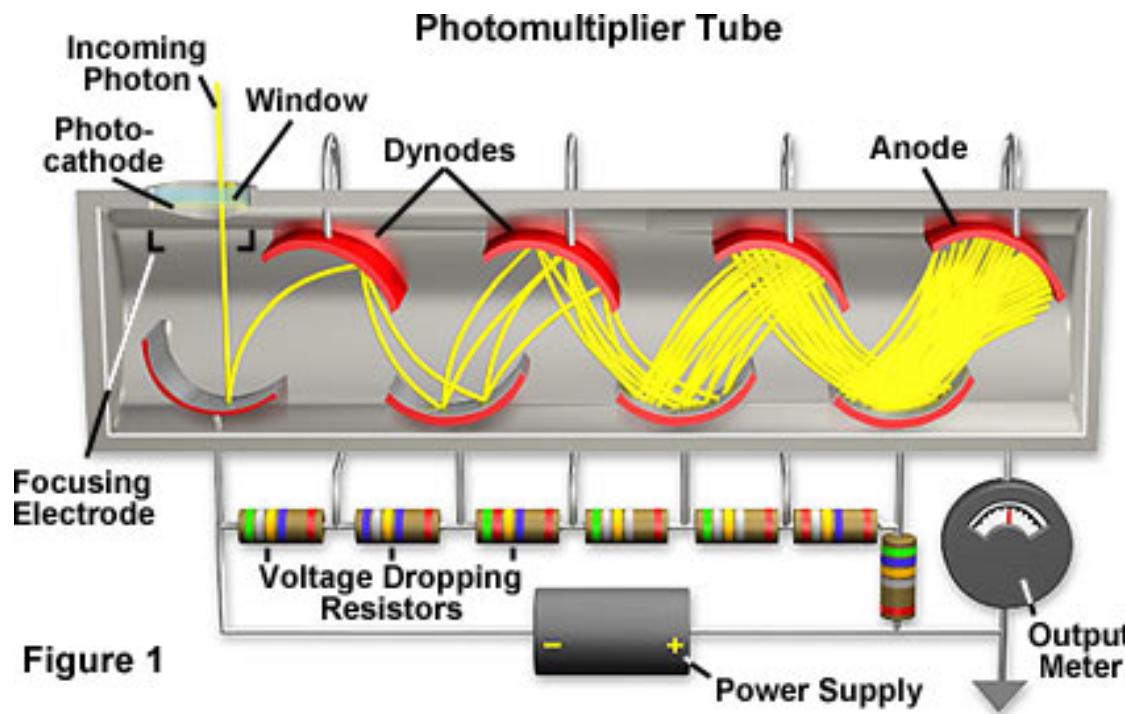
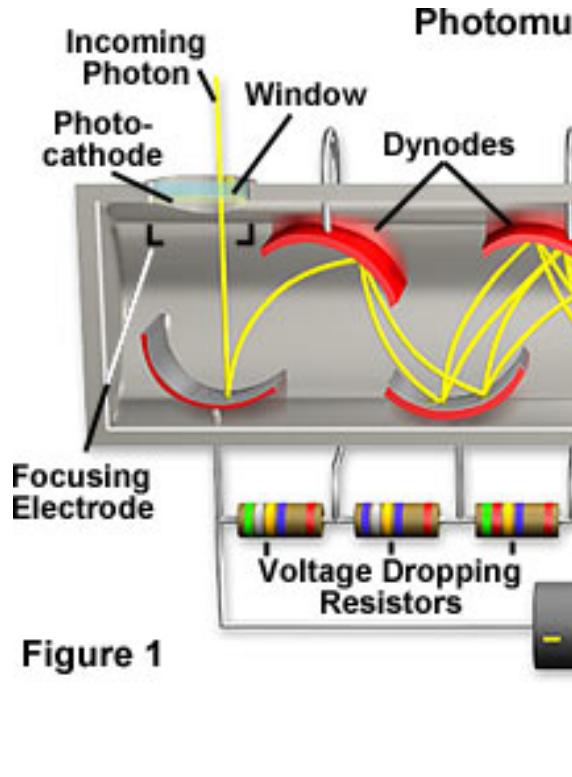


Figure 1

- Amplification: up to  $10^8$  (voltage dependent)
- Supply voltage: up to 1000 V
- PMT provides current output proportional to light intensity
- Bright dyes have an intrinsically high photon to electron conversion rate

# Optics - Photomultiplier tube (PMT)

www.olympusmicro.com



Inspector - Cytometer Settings

Cytometer Settings

Parameters Threshold Ratio Compensation

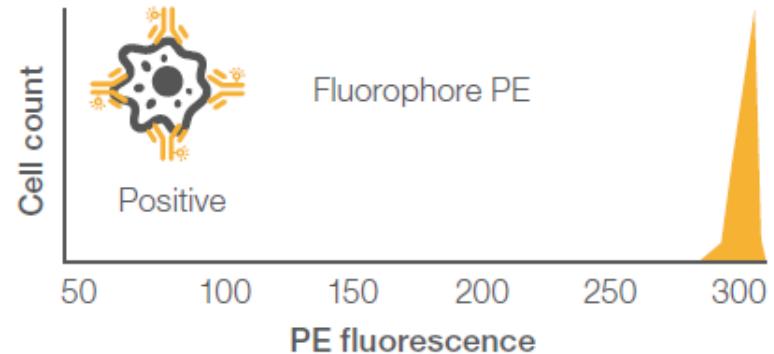
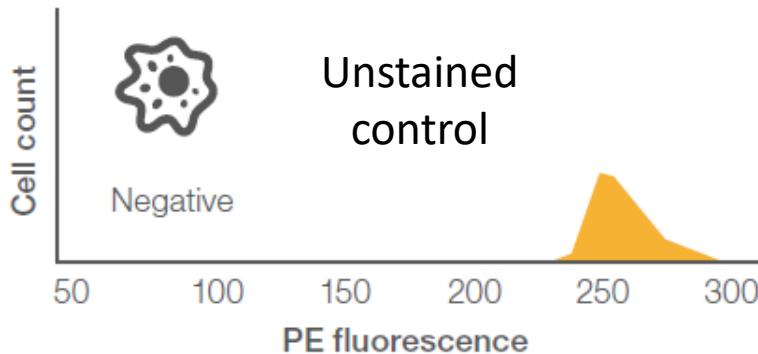
| Parameter      | Voltage | Log                                 | A                                   | H                        | W                                   |
|----------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| FSC            | 429     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SSC            | 224     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| YG561nm 586/15 | 329     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| RL640nm 670/30 | 434     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Add Delete Print

- Amplification: up to  $10^8$  (voltage dependent)
- Supply voltage: up to 1000 V
- PMT provides current output proportional to light intensity
- Bright dyes have an intrinsically high photon to electron conversion rate

# Optics – Examples of PMT settings

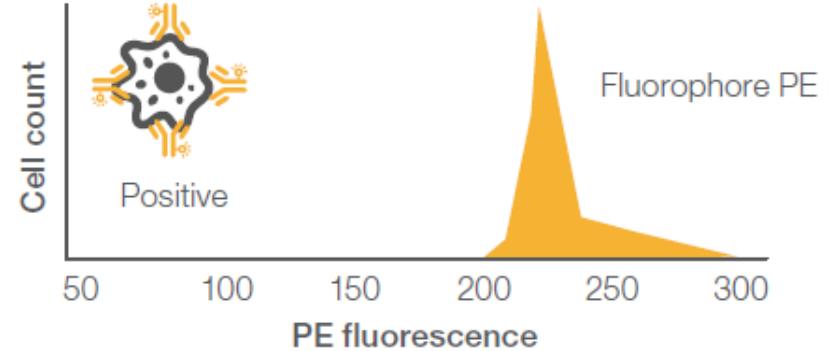
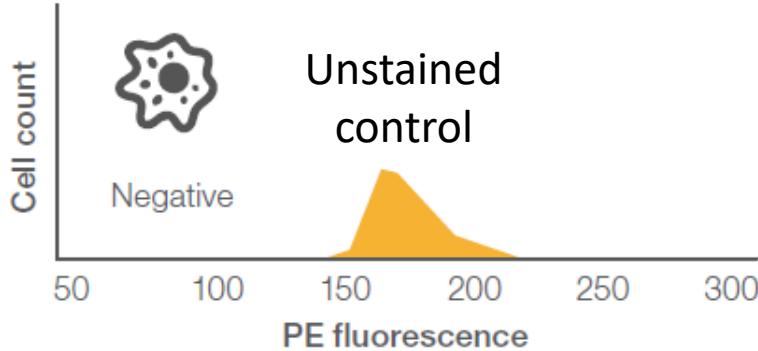
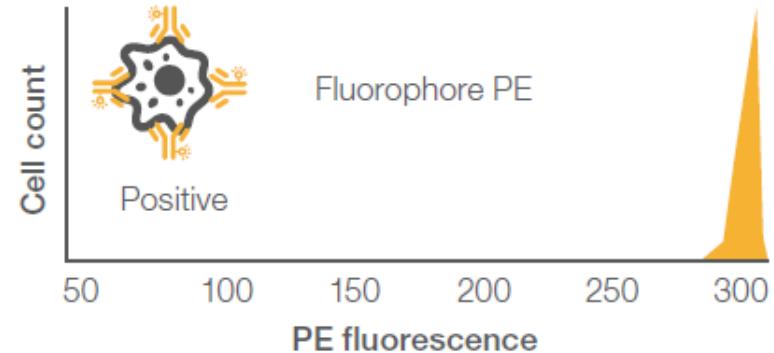
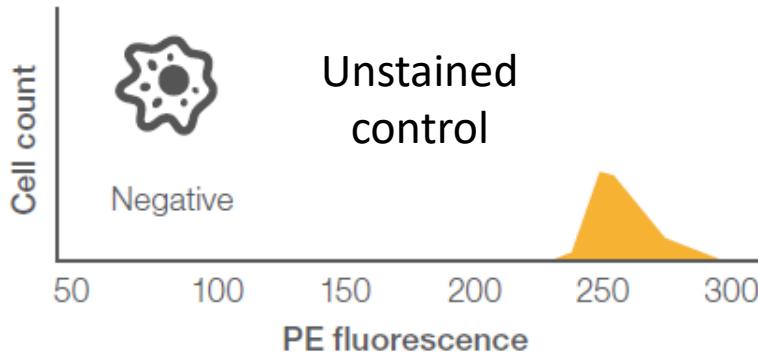
PMT voltage too high: Positive signal off scale



Thermo Fisher Scientific: Flow Cytometer  
Evaluation Guide

# Optics – Examples of PMT settings

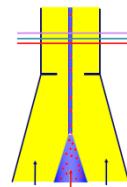
PMT voltage too high: Positive signal off scale



PMT voltage lowered: Positive signal fully resolved

Thermo Fisher Scientific: Flow Cytometer  
Evaluation Guide

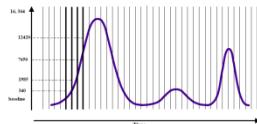
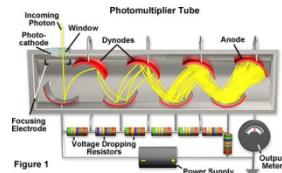
# Electronics



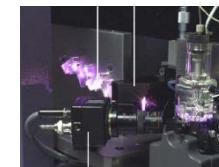
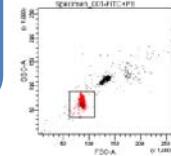
fluidics



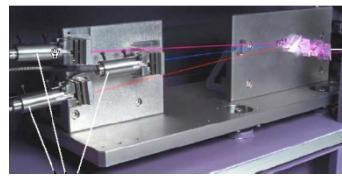
Flow  
Cytometer



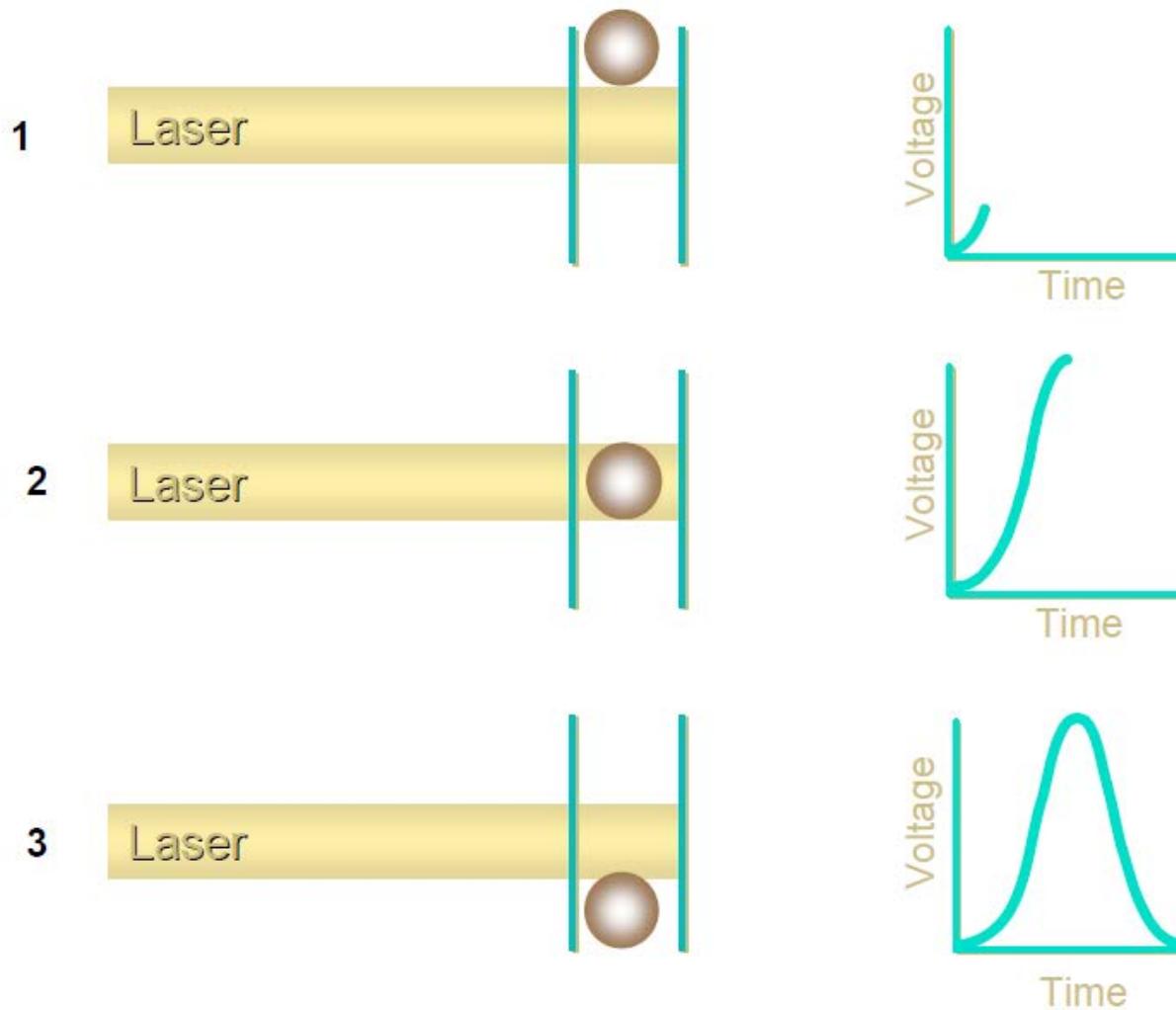
electronics



optics



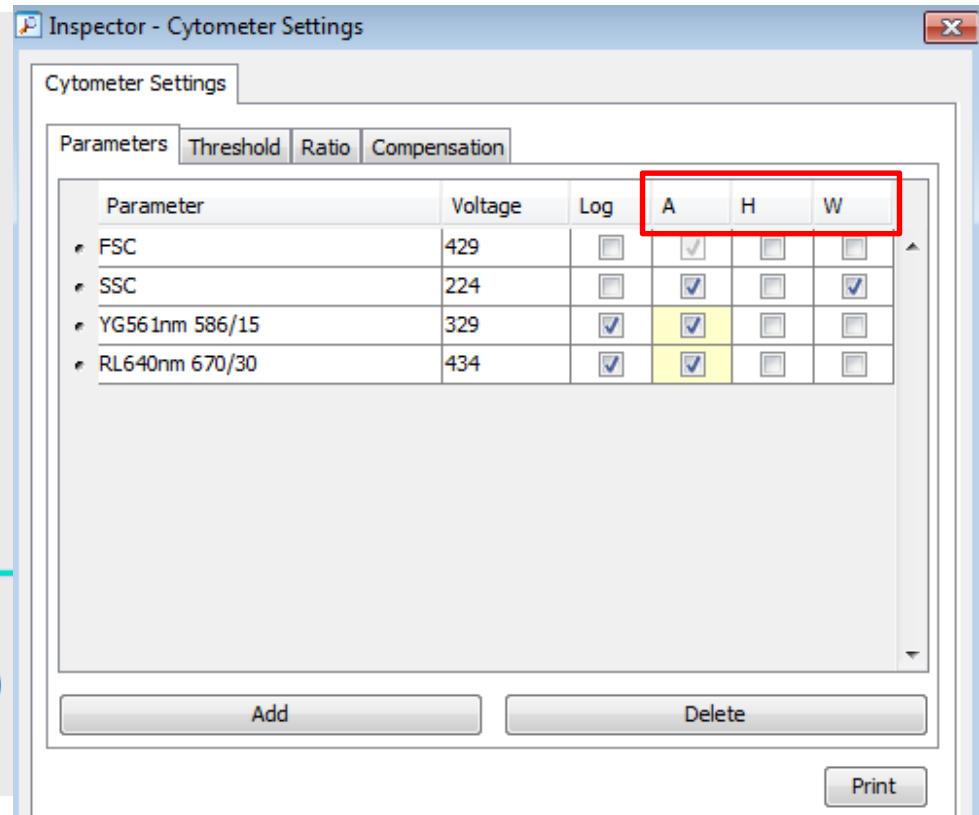
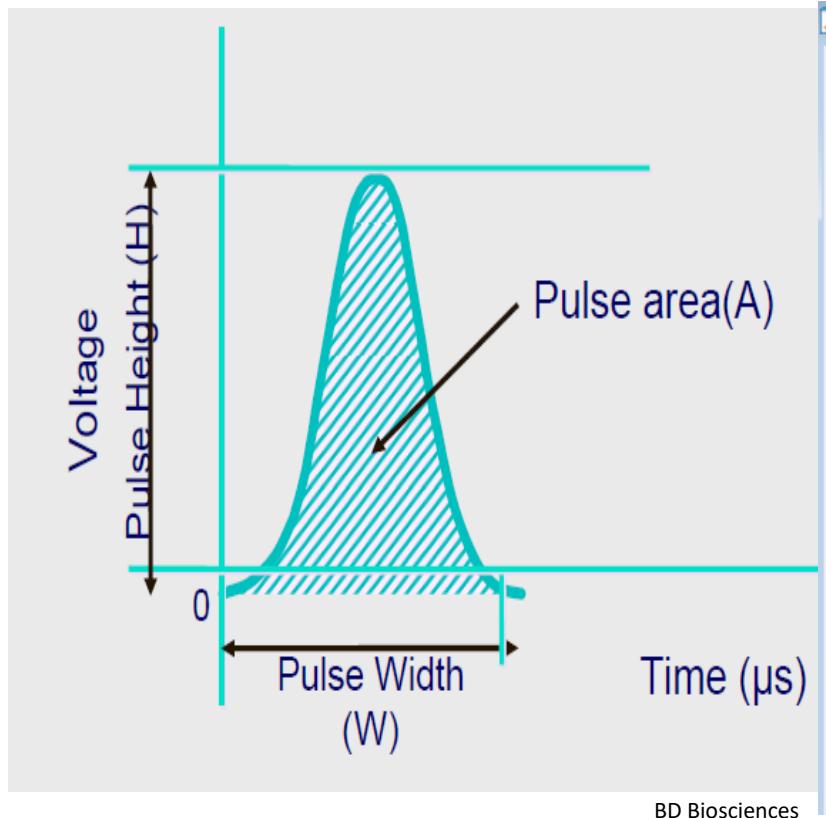
# Electronics – Generation of a signal (voltage pulse)



BD Biosciences

# Electronics – Generation of a signal

-single cells-



Example:  
FSC-H, FSC-W, FSC-A

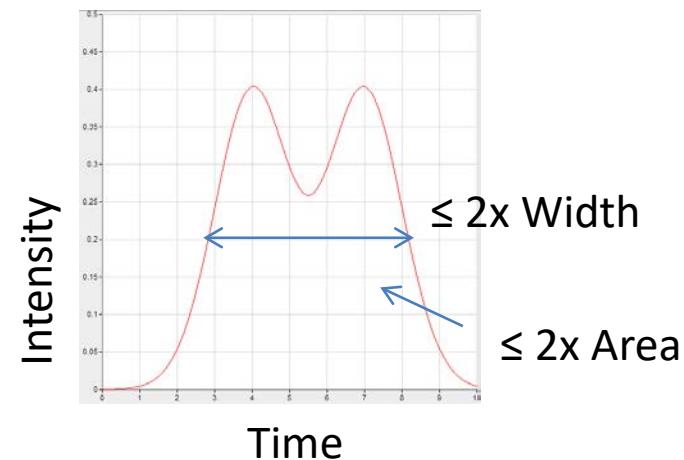
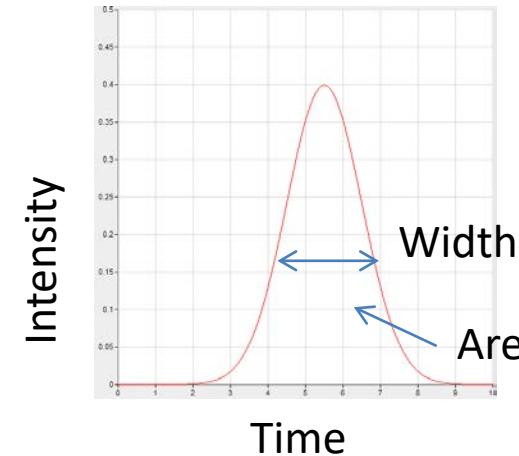
# Electronics – Doublet discrimination

Exclusion of aggregates to avoid false (double-) positive cells

Single cell

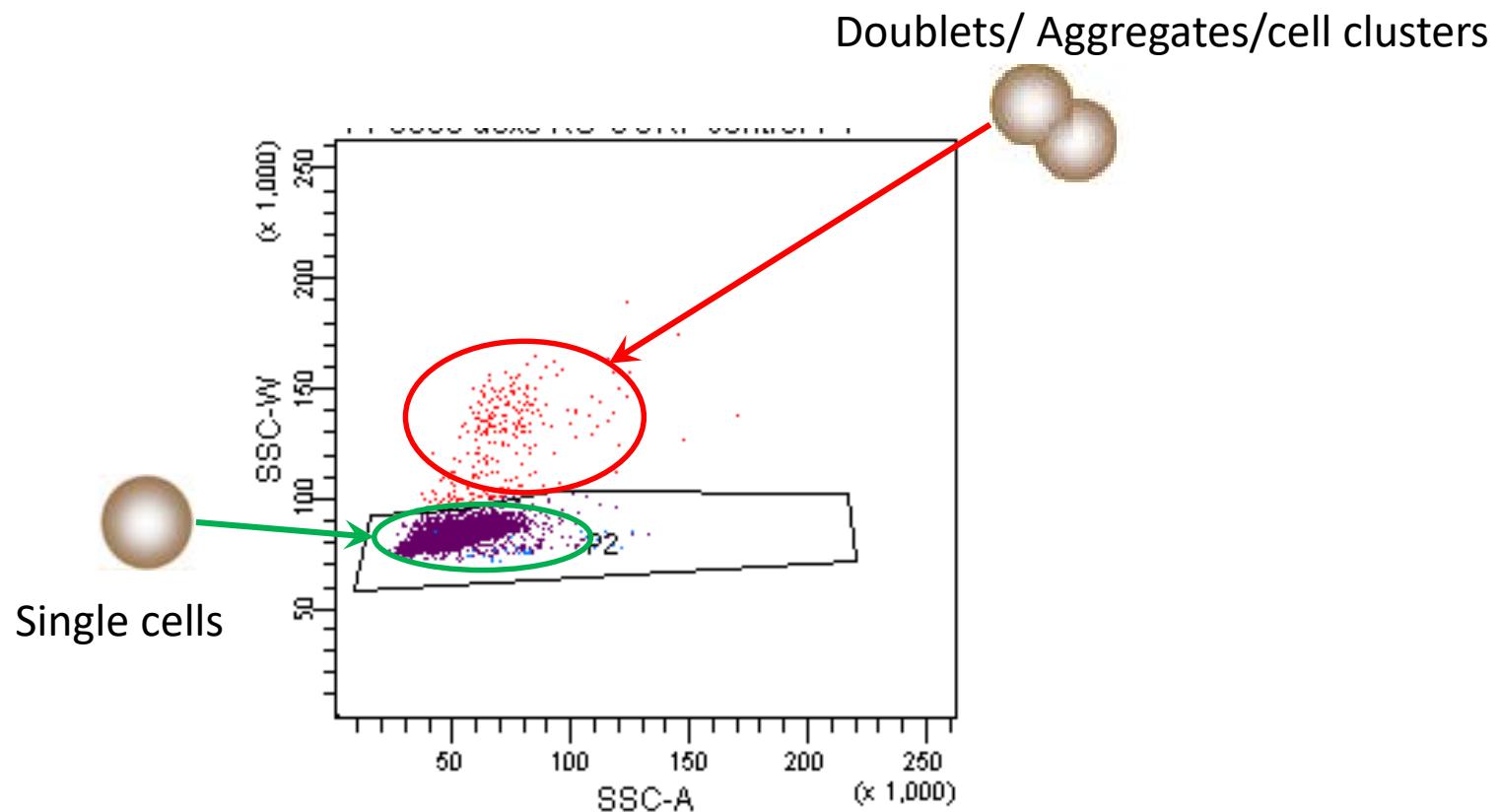


Doublets/Aggregate/cell cluster

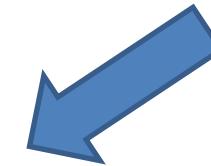
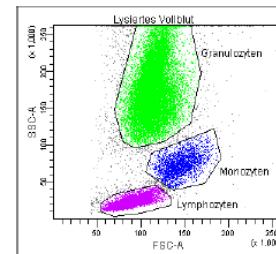
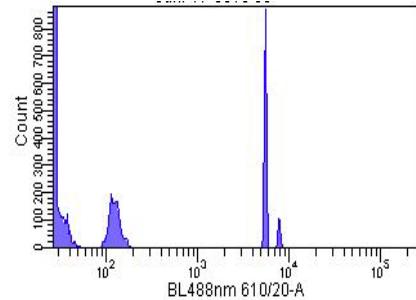
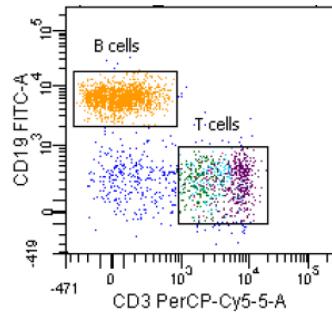
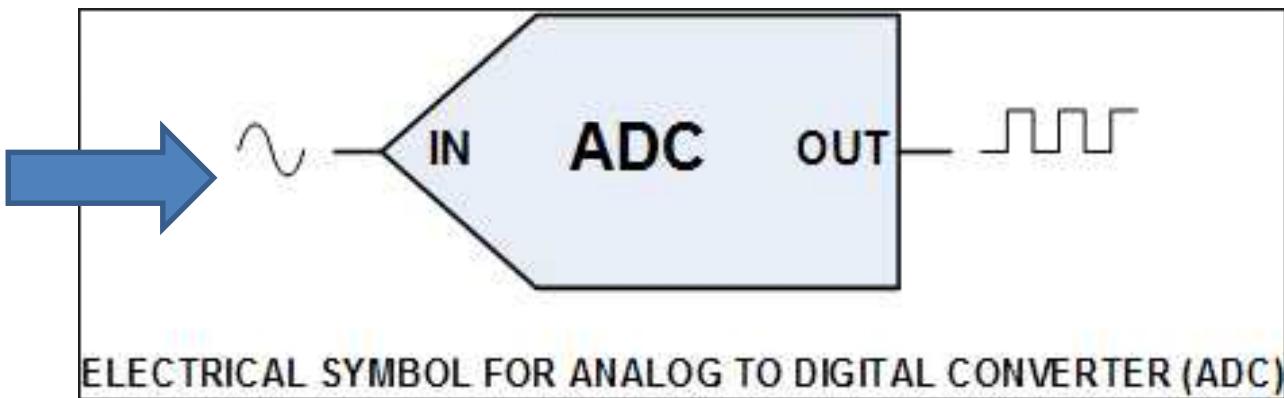
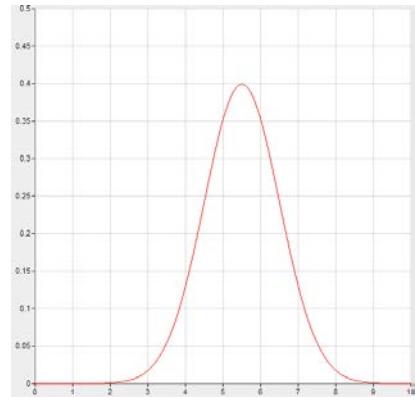


# Electronics – Doublet discrimination

Best with SSC parameter (sensitivity & stability)



## Aquisition board: Analog-to-digital converter(ADC)



<http://regmed.musc.edu>

# Overview

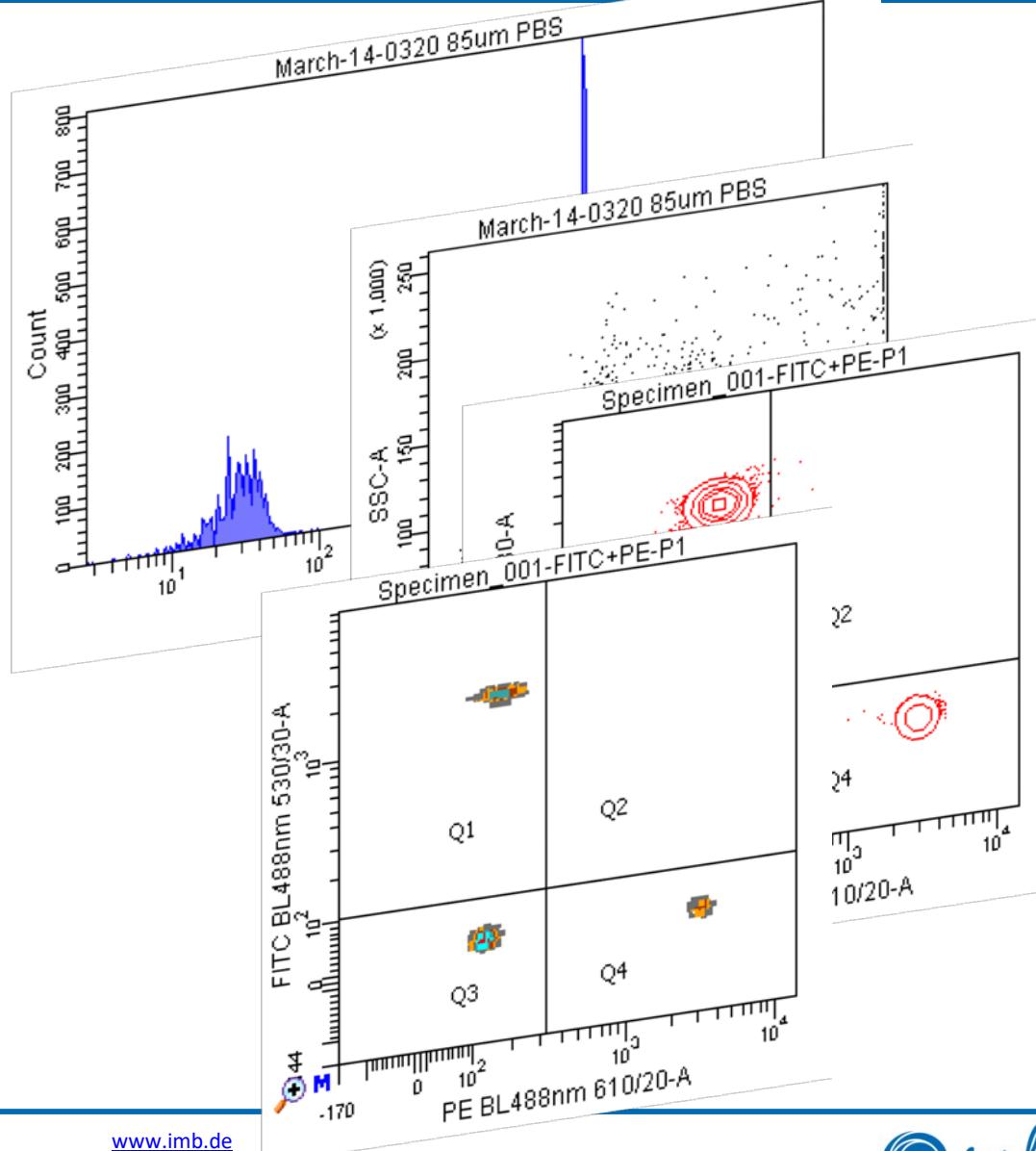
---

- History of Flow Cytometry
- What is Flow Cytometry
- Flow cytometry parameters: FSC, SSC, fluorescence
- Flow Cytometer Components:
  - Fluidics, Optics, Electronics
- Data presentation
- Cell Sorting
- Overview of applications
- Instruments
  - Flow cytometers, cell sorters, special instrumentation

# Data presentation

## Plot types

- Histograms
- Dot plots
- Contour plots
- Density plots



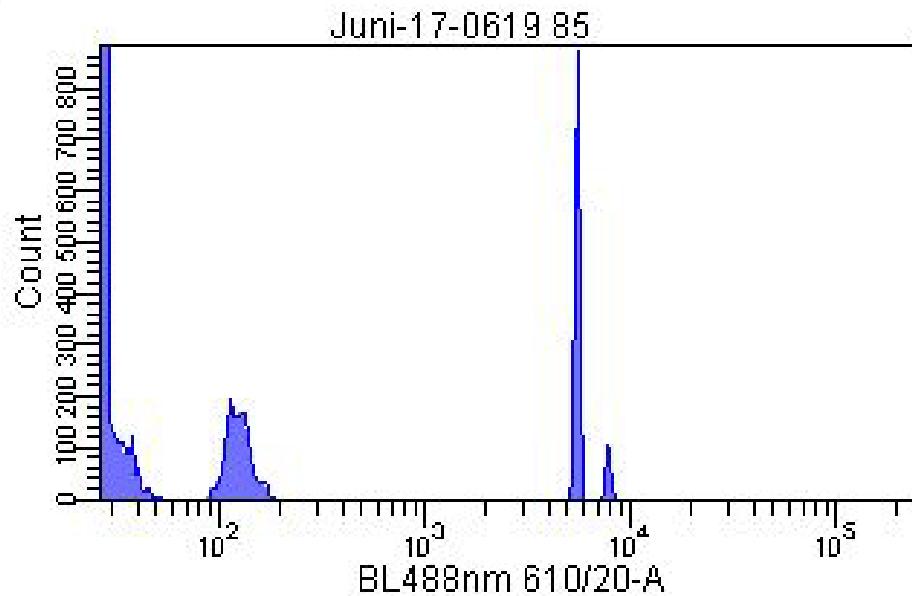
## Data display

- Linear scale
- Logarithmic scale
- Biexponential scale

# Data presentation

## Plot types

- **Histograms**
- Dot plots
- Contour plots
- Density plots



## Data display

- Linear scale
- **Logarithmic scale**
- Biexponential scale

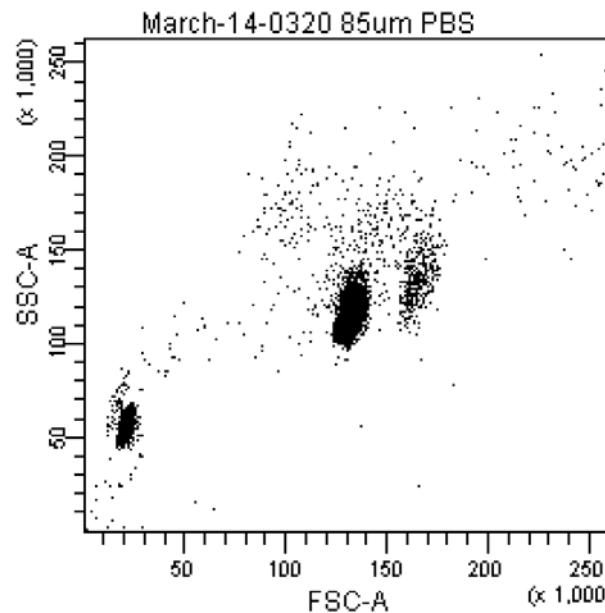
## Histogram

- Binning of data
- Display of one parameter vs. counts per bin

# Data presentation

## Plot types

- Histograms
- **Dot plots**
- Contour plots
- Density plots



## Data display

- **Linear scale**
- Logarithmic scale
- Biexponential scale

## Dot plot

- Display of two parameters
- Each dot represents one cell

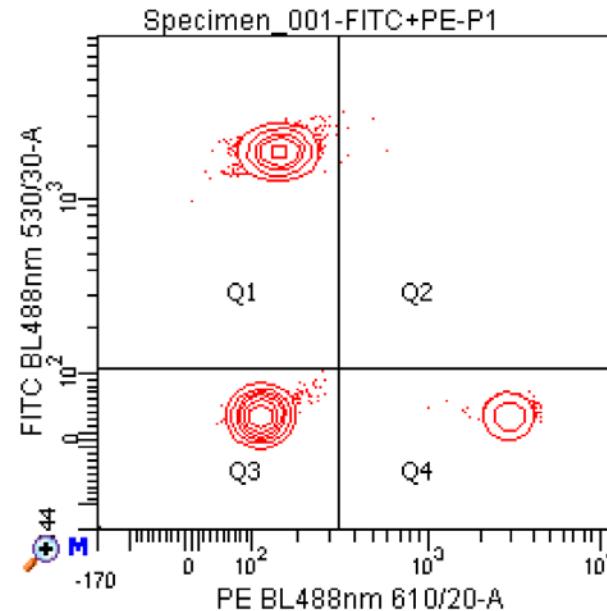
# Data presentation

## Plot types

- Histograms
- Dot plots
- **Contour plots**
- Density plots

## Data display

- Linear scale
- **Logarithmic scale**
- Biexponential scale



## Contour plot

- Display of two parameters
- Contour line connects values of the same particular value (frequency as a third dimension)

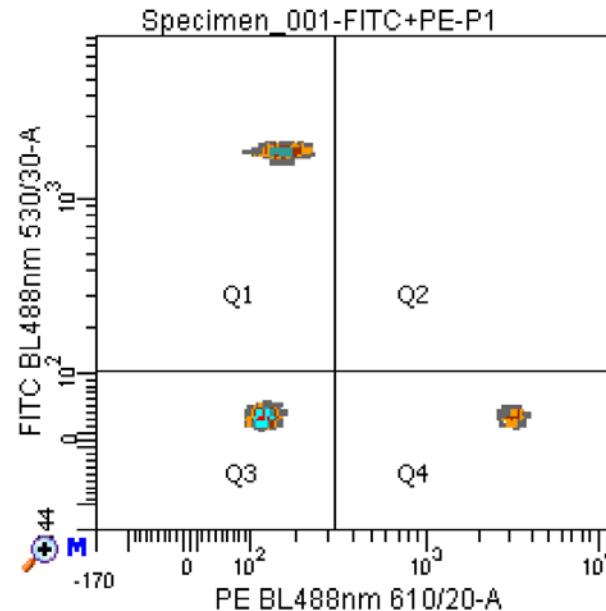
# Data presentation

## Plot types

- Histograms
- Dot plots
- Contour plots
- **Density plots**

## Data display

- Linear scale
- **Logarithmic scale**
- Biexponential scale



## Density plot

- Color coded density  
(A relative number of events in a given region)

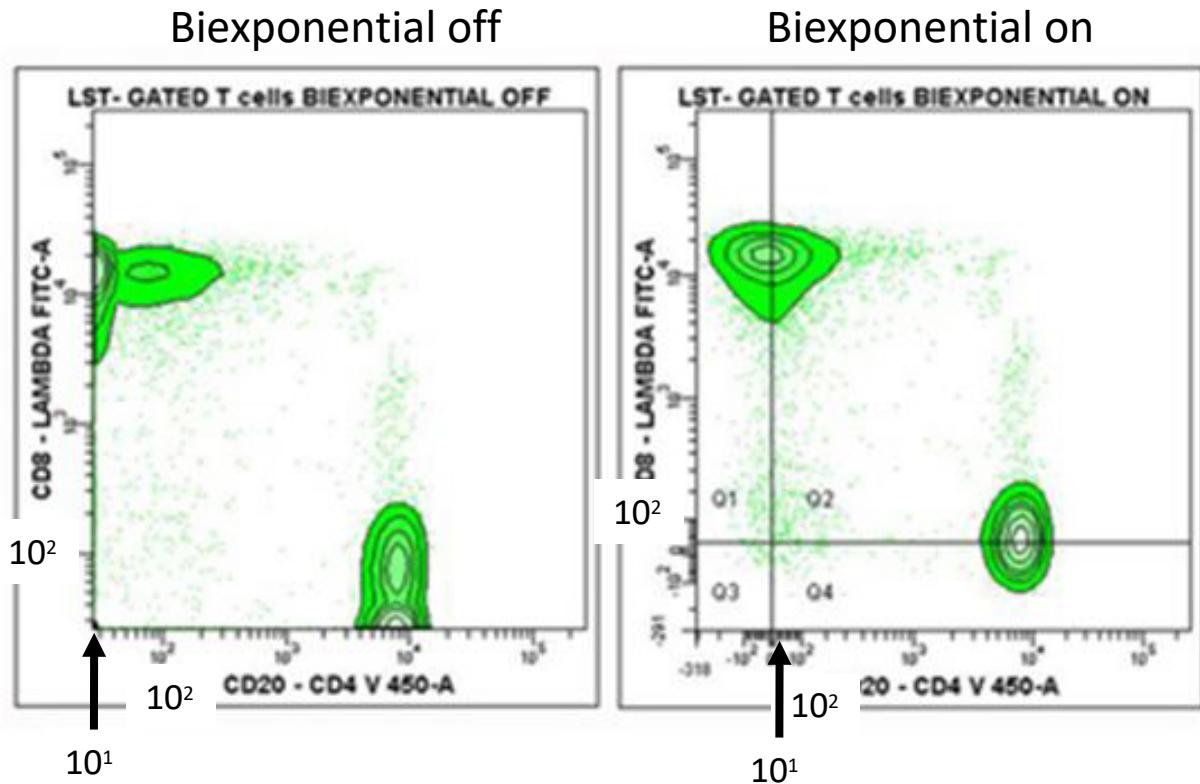
# Data presentation

## Plot types

- Histograms
- Dot plots
- **Contour plots**
- Density plots

## Data display

- Linear scale
- Logarithmic scale
- **Biexponential scale**

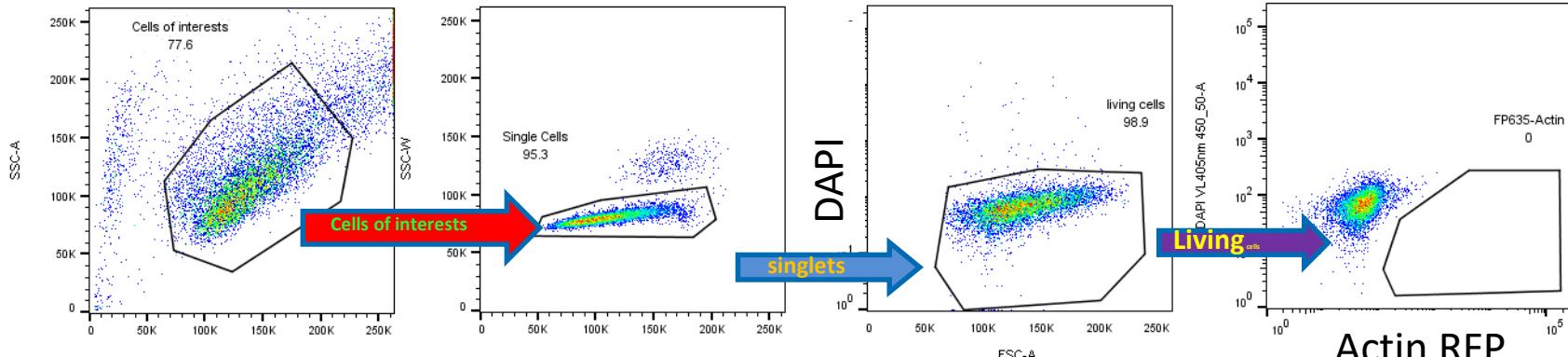


- Biexponential display enables signal resolution in negative range (unstained population)
- May be helpful in case of high fluorescence intensity, e.g. highly expressed marker stained with bright dye

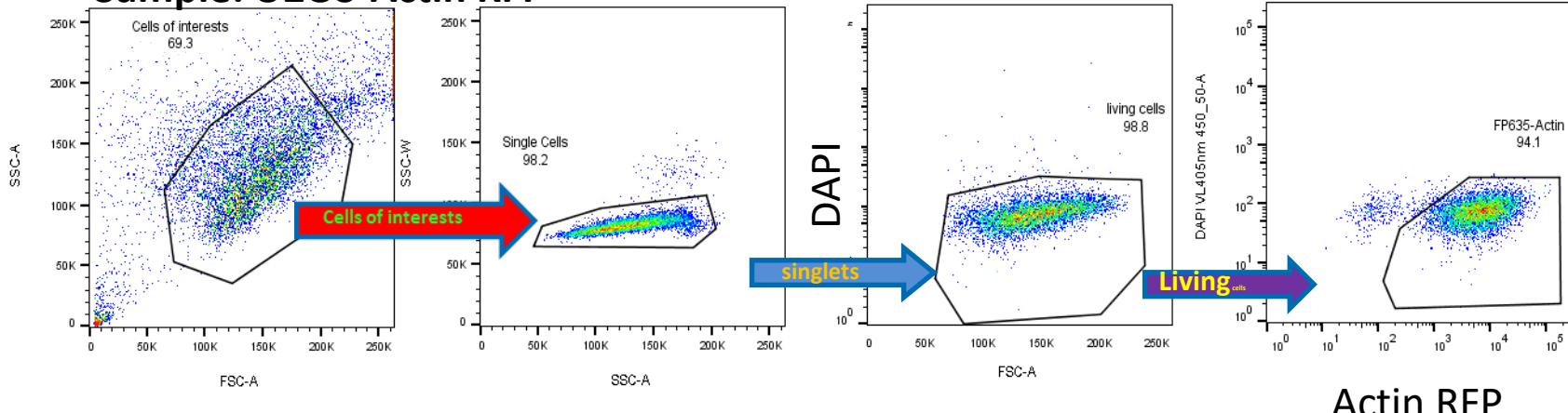
# Data presentation – Gating

Cell line to analyze: U2OS-Actin RFP

U2OS cells, wt

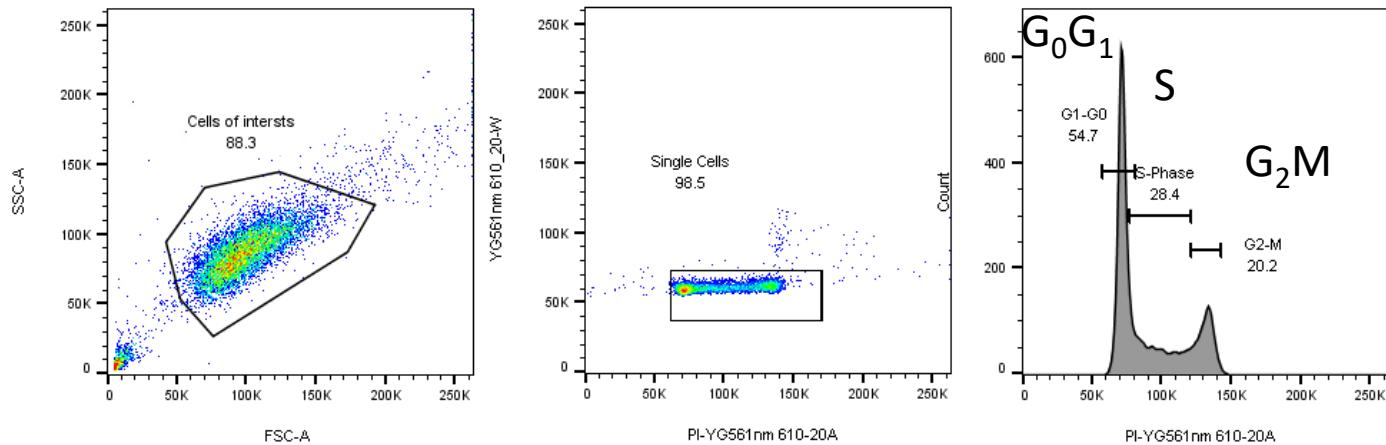


Sample: U2OS-Actin RFP



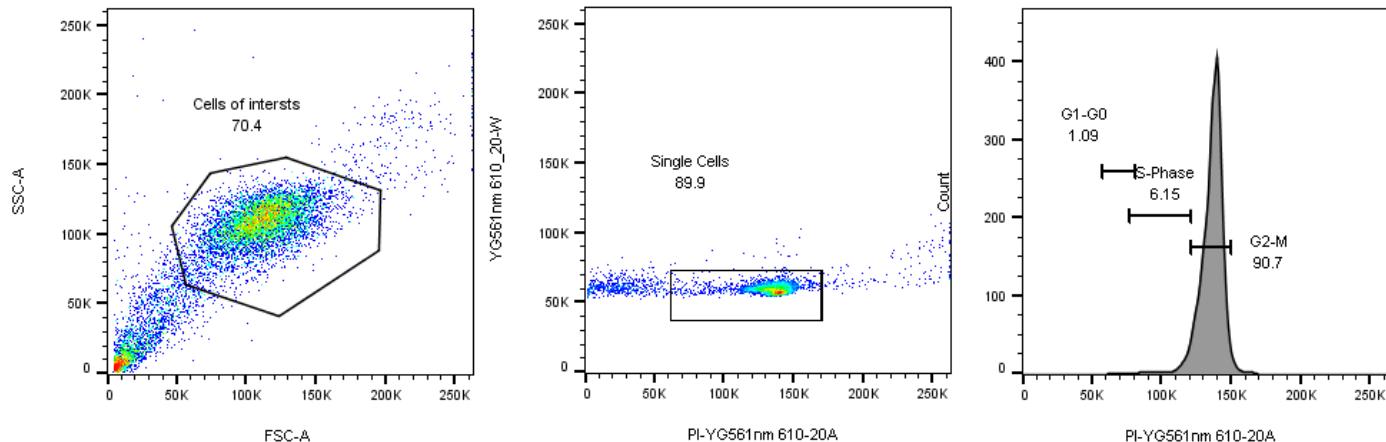
# Data presentation: Gating

Negative control



HeLa cells synchronized with Nocodazole 50ng/mL

Nocodazole  
50ng/mL

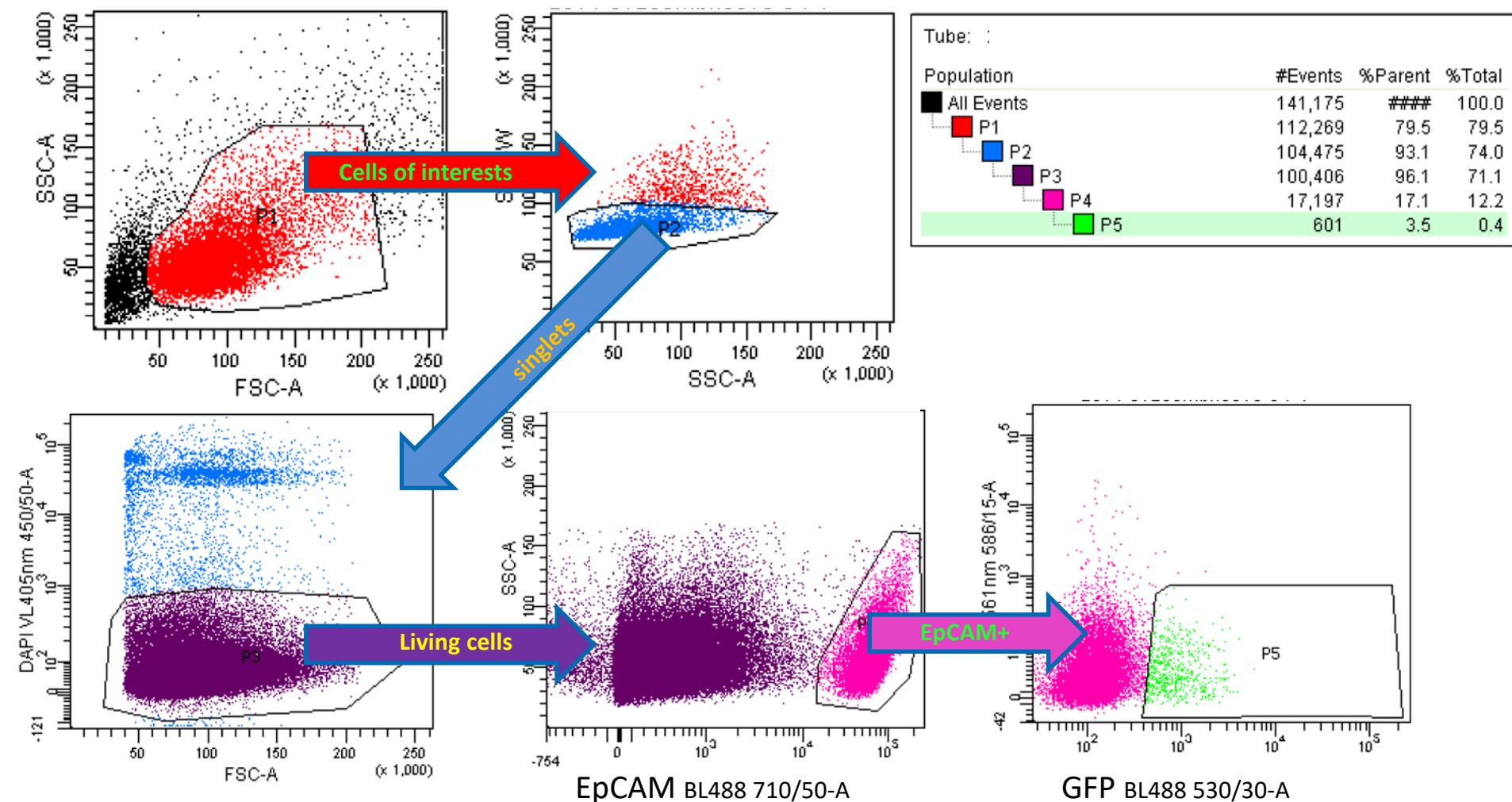


Nocodazole inhibits microtubule polymerization - arrest in G<sub>2</sub>/M phase

# Data presentation – Gating

## Analysis of subpopulations

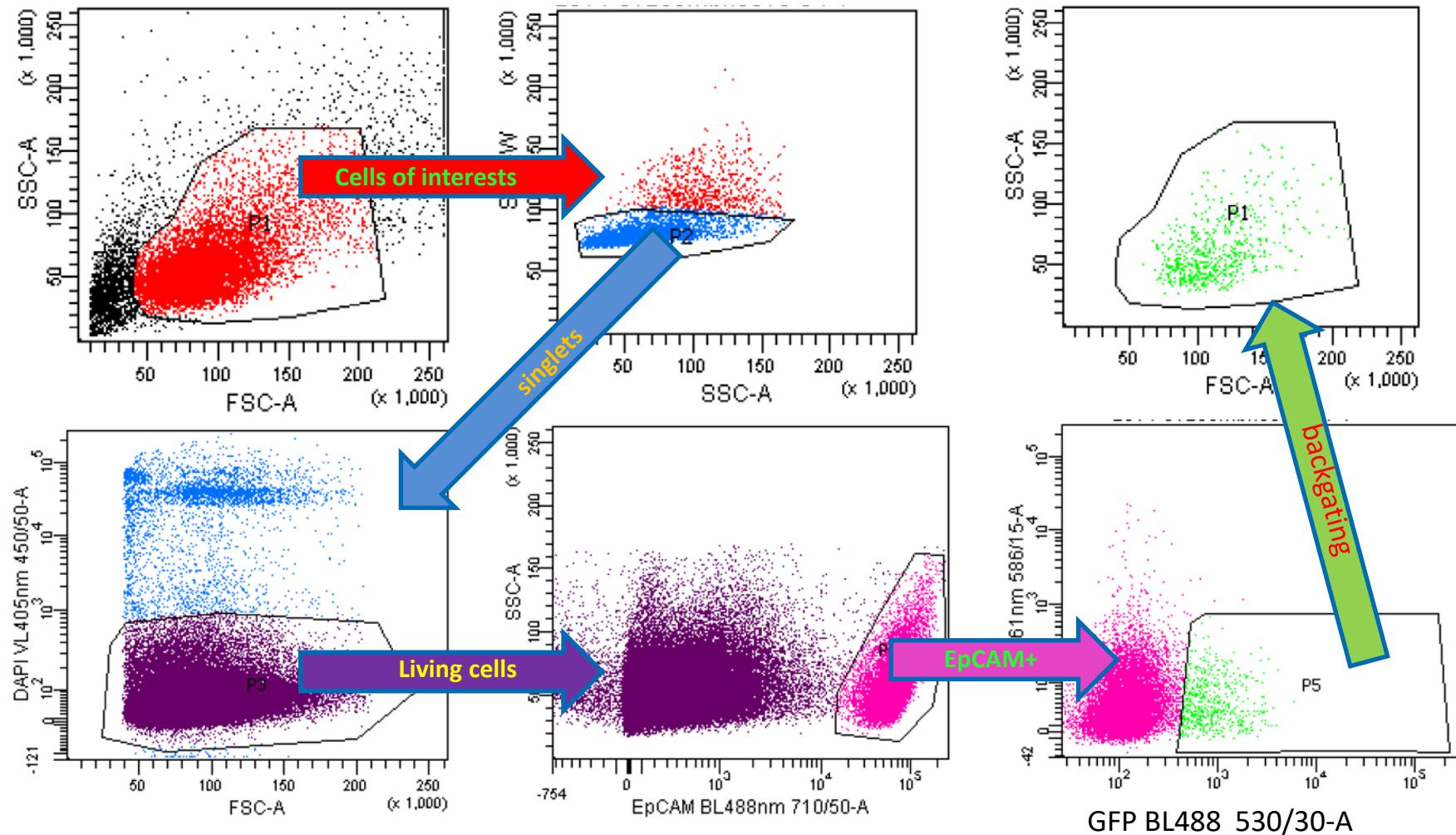
AG Soshnikova – Lira Nigmatullina



# Data presentation: Gating

## Backgating!

AG Soshnikova – Lira Nigmatulli



# Overview

---

- History of Flow Cytometry
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# Terminology

---

## FACS: Fluorescence-activated cell sorting

- Registered trademark of Becton Dickinson

## Flow cytometry or FACS?

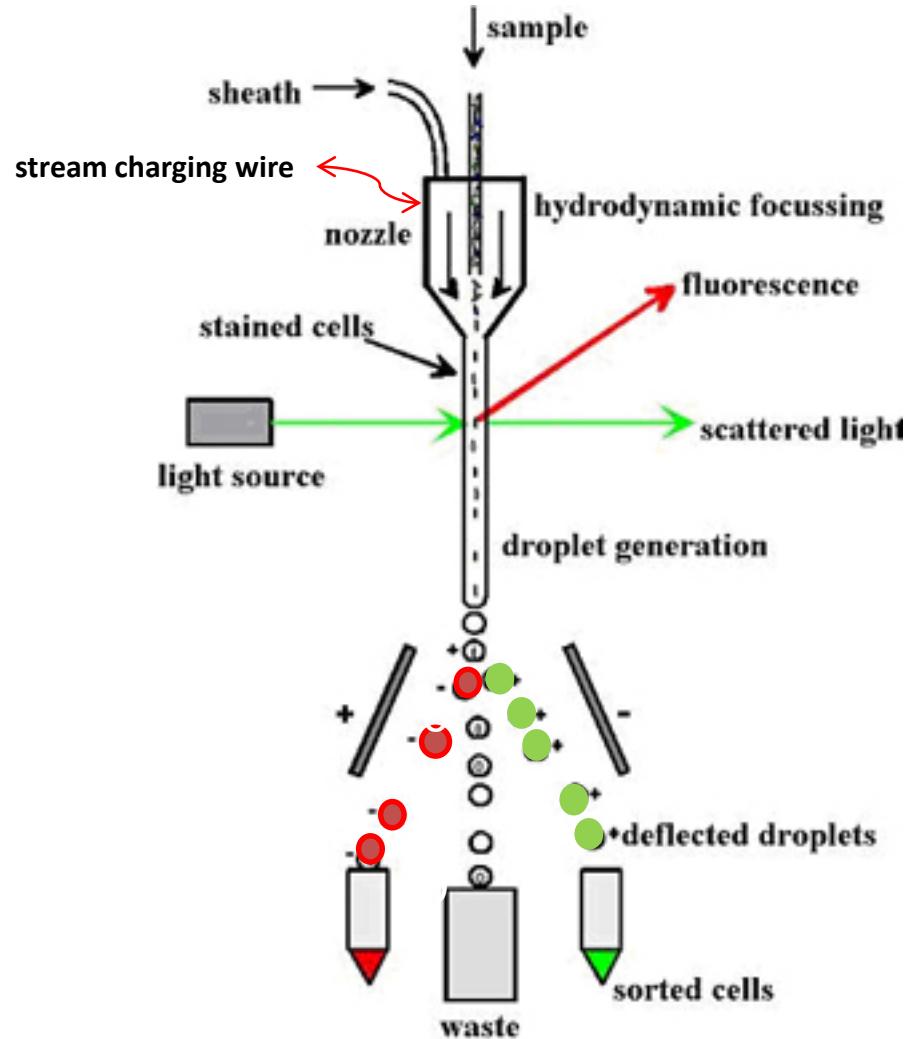
- Analysis principle is similar
- Analysis only versus analysis & cell sorting

## Recommendation for publications or theses

- Use the general terms **flow cytometry** or **cell sorting** in your material & methods section
- Especially don't use the term FACS if you sort on a Beckman Coulter instrument
- Very bad example: "Cells were measured by FACS"

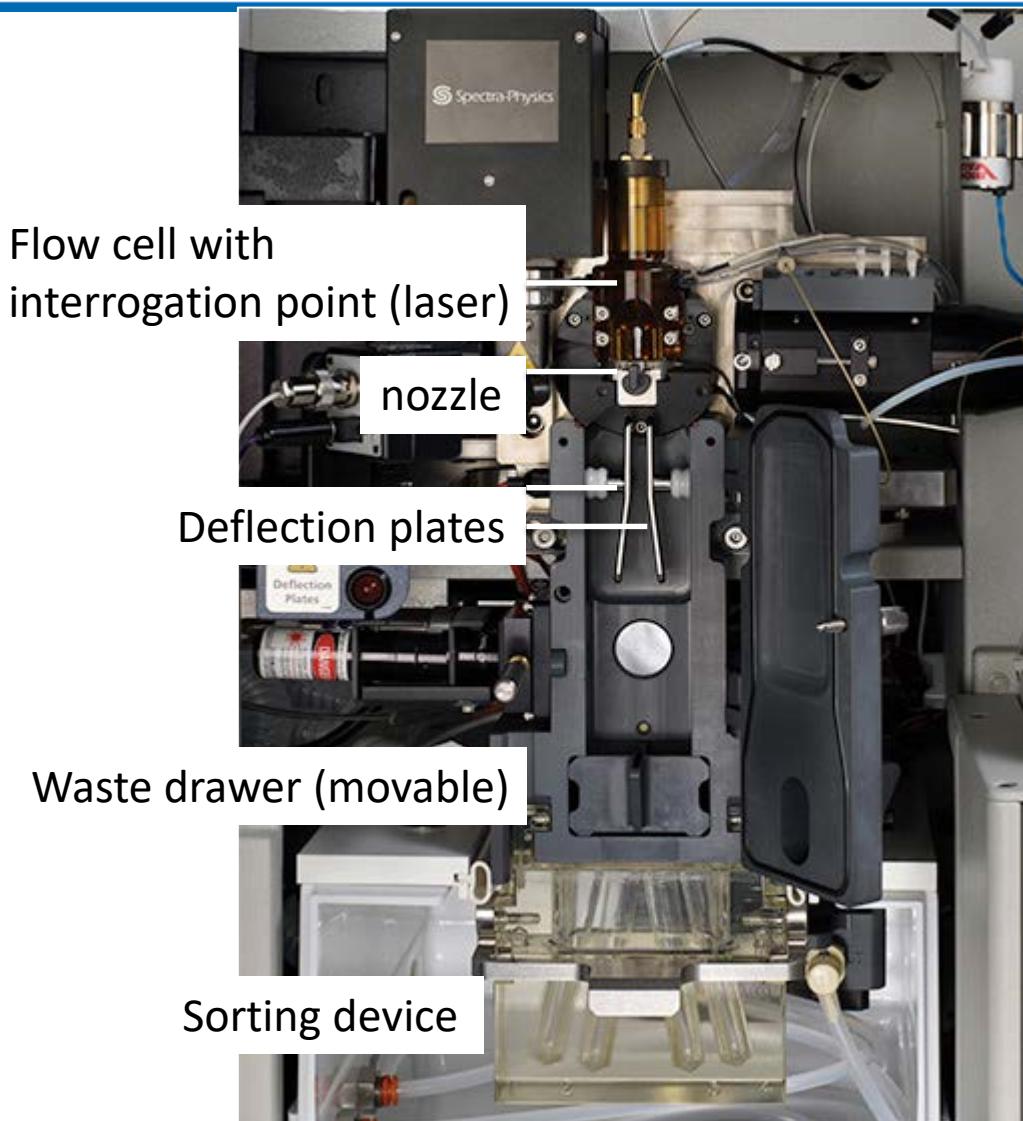
# Cell sorting – the principle

- A vibrating mechanism („transducer“) causes a liquid stream to break into single droplets
- One drop contains one cell (in theory)
- Cells are interrogated before the droplet breaks off
- At the stream break-off point, the droplet is charged, if it contains a cell of interest
- Charged droplets are deflected in an electric field and collected in the respective sorting device



[http://www.appliedcytometry.com/flow\\_cytometry.php](http://www.appliedcytometry.com/flow_cytometry.php)

# Cell sorting – the principle

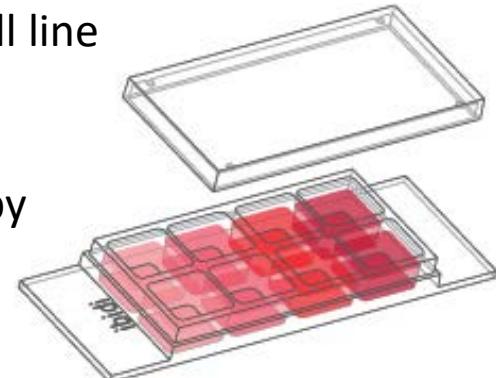


# Possible collection devices for cell sorting

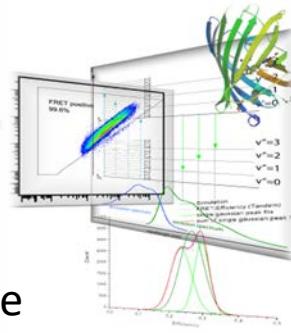


## Sorting of (sub)populations into

- **Eppendorf tubes** to isolate e.g. RNA, for RNA sequencing or qPCR
- **Microtiter plates 96w, 384w** e.g. in order to create a stable cell line or to do single cell sorting for sequencing
- **Microscopy slides** to analyze certain populations by microscopy
- **Ibidi chamber** for live cell imaging



# Large Particle Sorter/BioSorter



## Union Biometrica BioSorter

Particles from 20-1500 $\mu\text{m}$ , like *C.elegans*, Zebra fish embryos, *Drosophila* larvae

2 excitation lasers: 488nm, 561nm



### Sorting parameters:

- Axial length /Size (time of flight-TOF)
- Optical density (extinction)
- 3 fluorescence channels to detect, e.g. GFP, YFP or DsRed

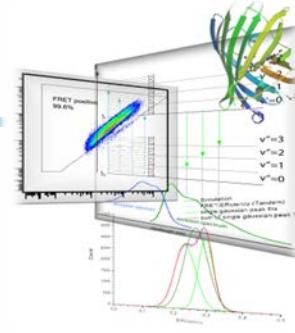
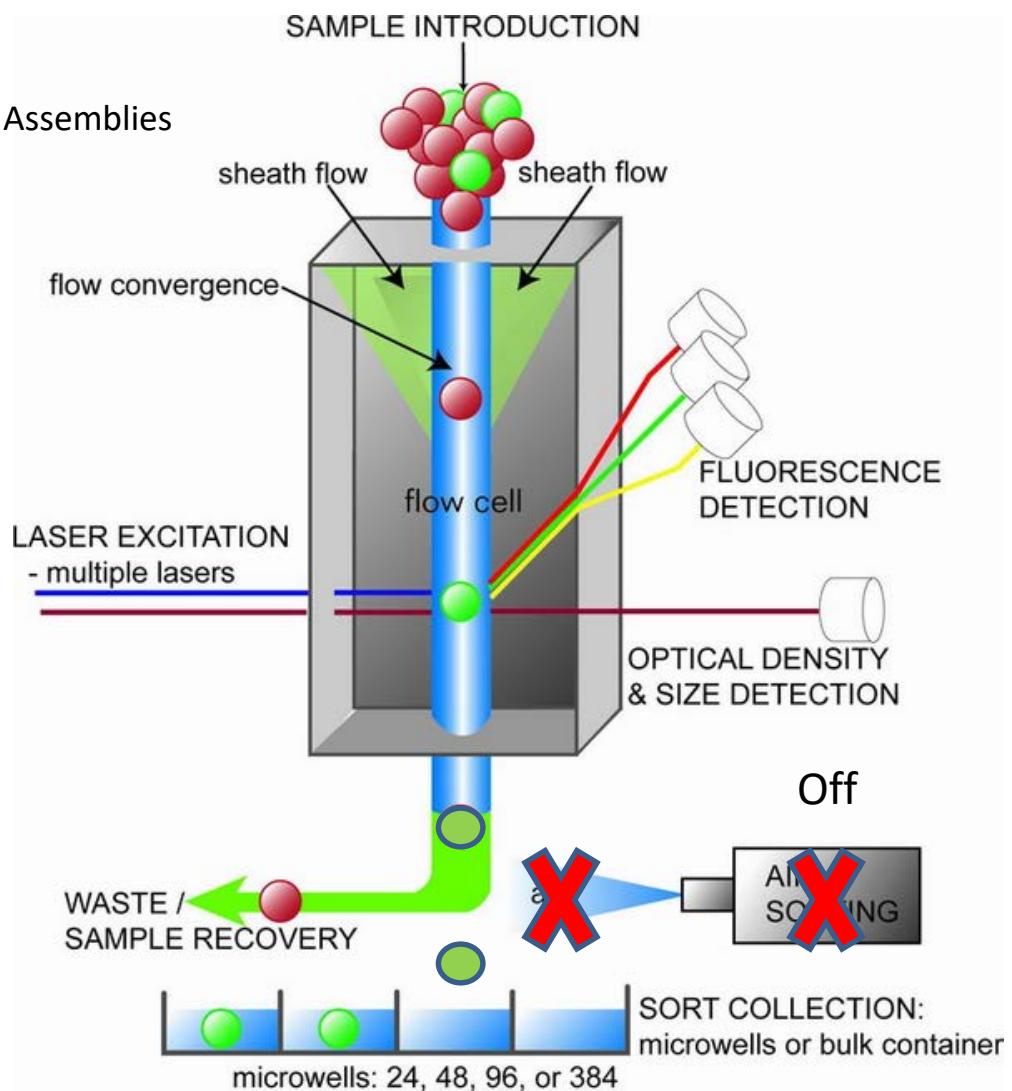
### Applications:

Small multi cellular animals/ large cells/ small plant models/ beads and particles or encapsulation

# Large Particle Sorter: Air sorting

## FOCA

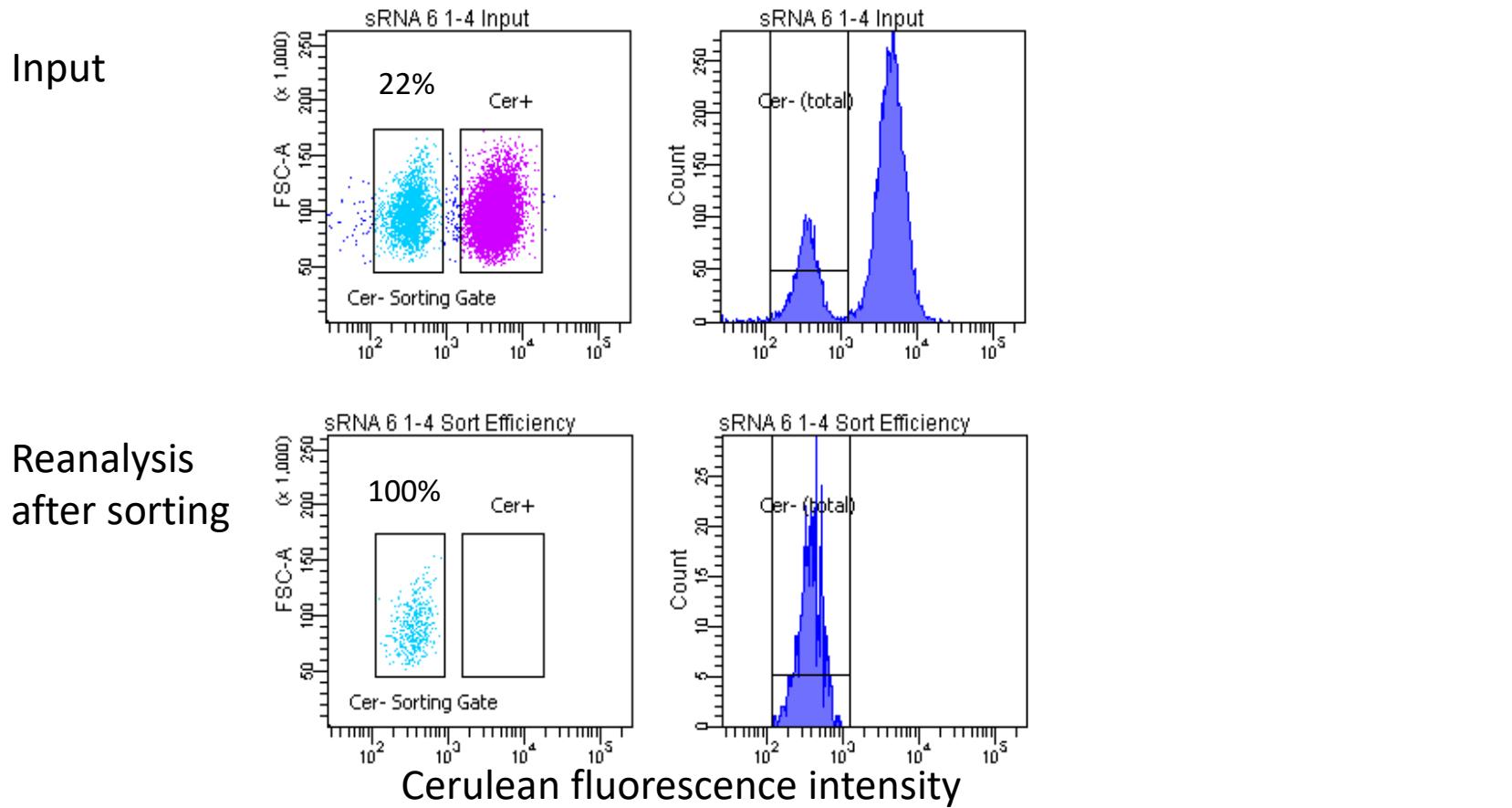
Fluidics and Optics Core Assemblies



<http://www.unionbio.com>

# Sort example: Creating a knockout cell line

- Targeted knockout using CRISPR/Cas9 with fluorescent H2B reporter (H2B Cerulean)
  - Guide RNA against gene of interest and H2B-Cerulean
  - If the Cerulean fluorescence is gone, the gene of interest should also be knocked out



# Overview

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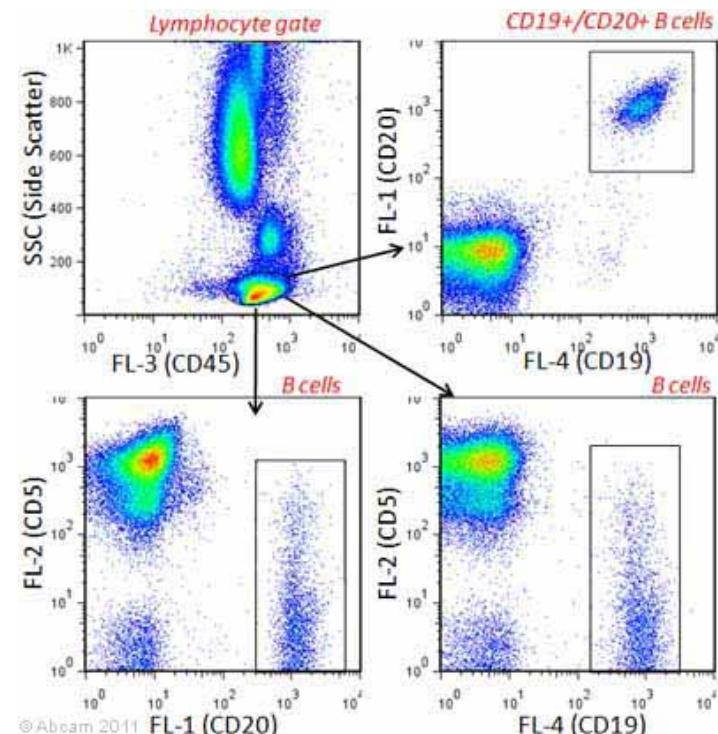
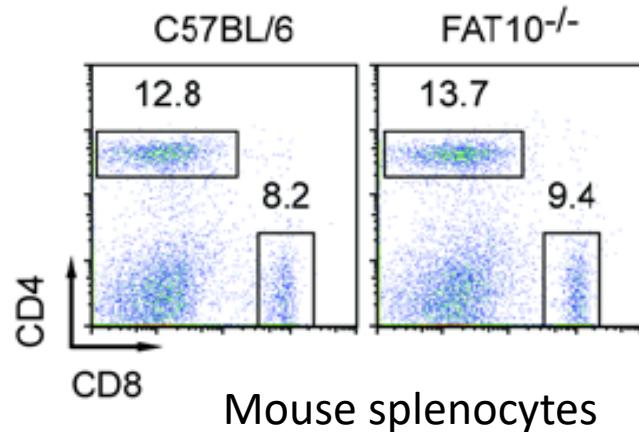
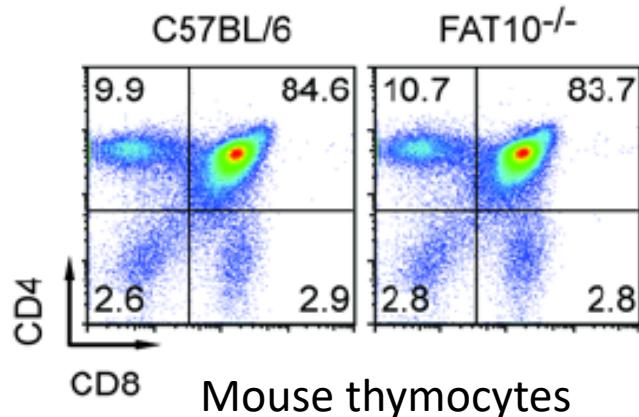
- History of Flow Cytometry
- What is Flow Cytometry
- Flow cytometry parameters: FSC, SSC, fluorescence
- Flow Cytometer Components:
  - Fluidics, Optics, Electronics
- Data presentation
- Cell Sorting
- **Overview of applications**
- Instruments
  - Flow cytometers, cell sorters, special instrumentation

# Phenotyping

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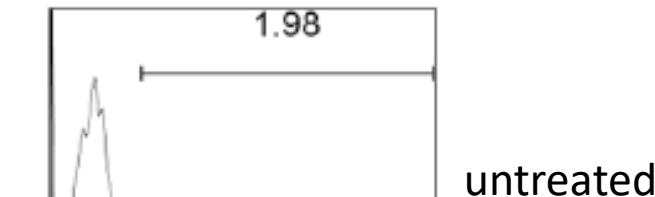
- Lineage-& Subsetmarker
  - Analysis of the expression of proteins on the cell surface or inside a cell
- Cytokines & Chemokines and their Receptors
  - Detection of various cytokines or chemokines in different cell types
  - Detection of their receptors on the cell surface
- The expression pattern defines:
  - a certain cell type
  - the differentiation state
  - the grade of activation
  - a certain cell line and allows
  - monitoring of differentiation and progression

# Phenotyping: Lineage marker



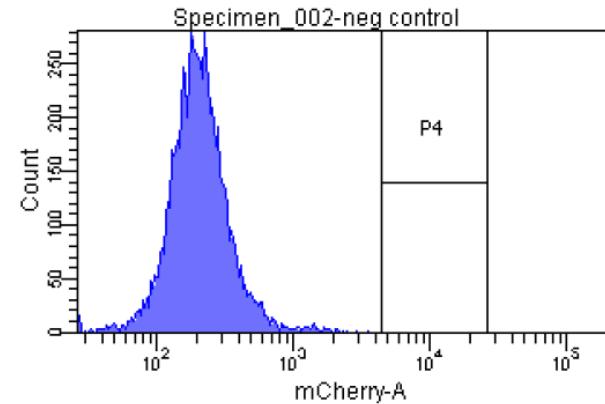
# Analysis of transfection efficiency

Electroporation of MoDCs

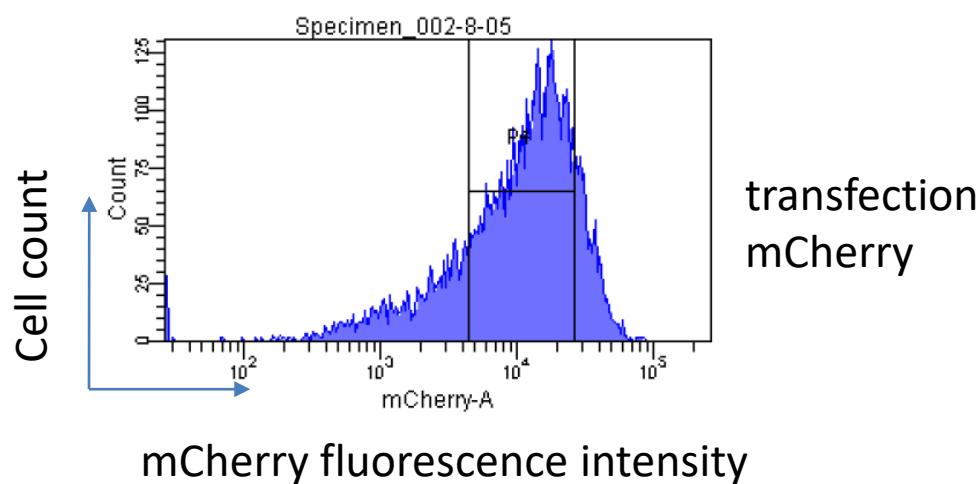


untreated

HeLa transfection with a mCherry fusion construct

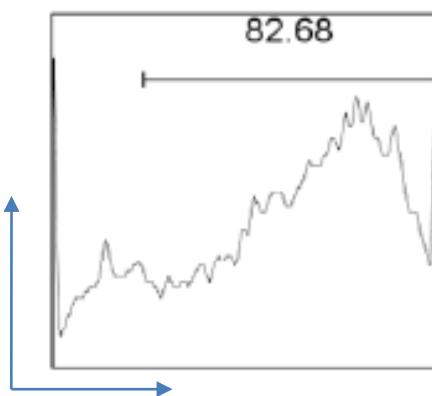


untreated



transfection  
mCherry

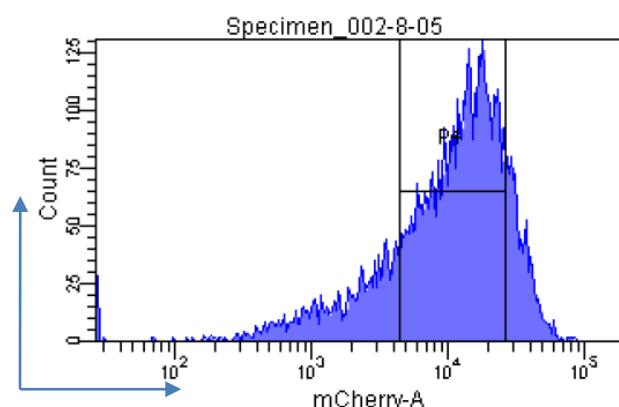
Cell count



transfection  
pEGFPN1

GFP fluorescence intensity

Cell count

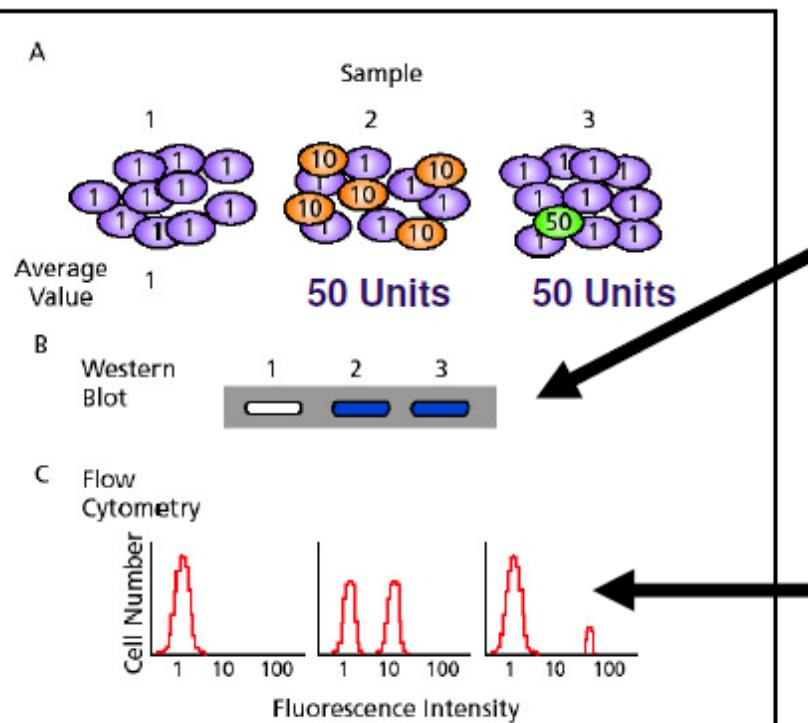


mCherry fluorescence intensity

# Phospho-Protein Profiling

- Distinguish and analyze phospho-protein signaling in single cells
  - Nonphosphorylation “specific” antibodies
    - Detect the total protein: unphosphorylated + phosphorylated isoforms
    - Antigen: recombinant protein fragments
  - Phospho-specific antibodies
    - Detect defined phosphoepitopes of the phosphorylated isoform
    - Antigen: Synthetic 4-10mer phospho-peptides

<http://www.bdbiosciences.com/research/phosflow/>



## Western Blot

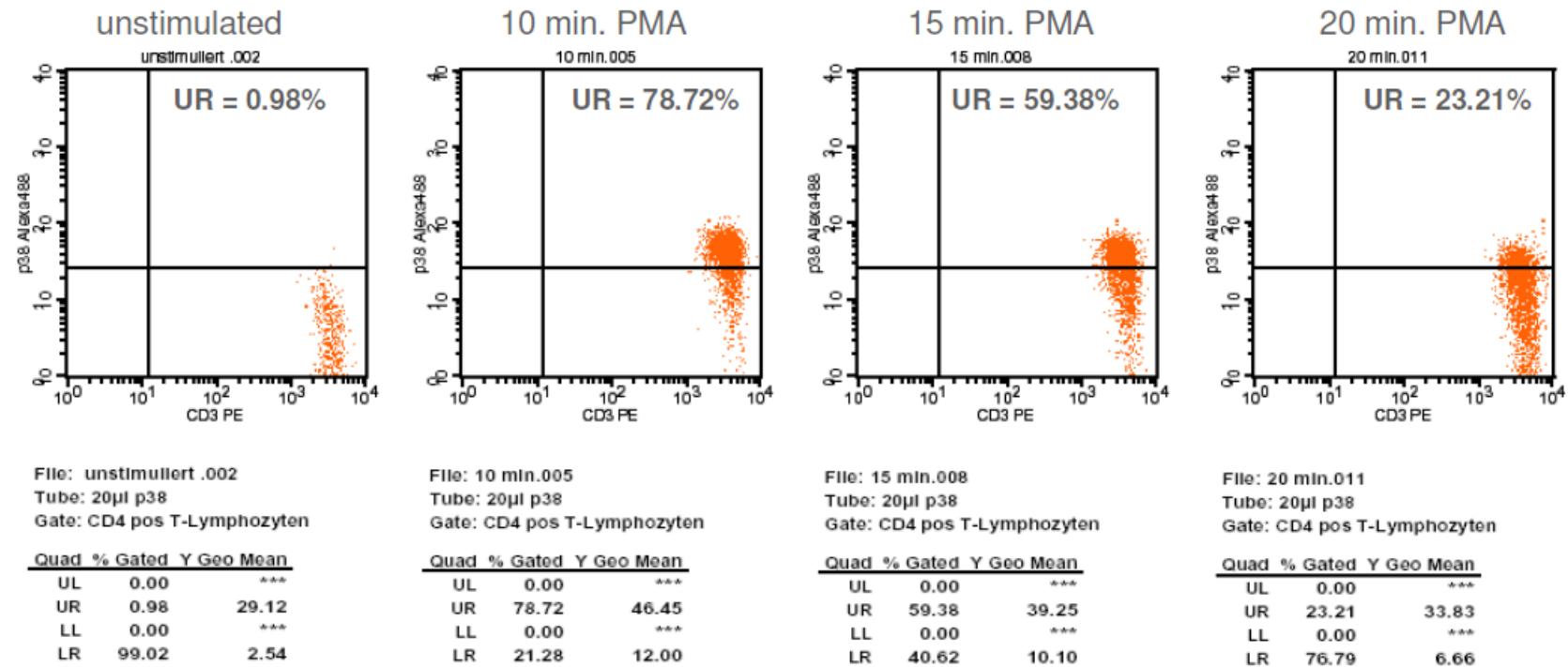
- No opportunity to view variability
- Requires sorting of subsets to gain access to intracellular antigens
- Requires larger numbers of cells  $10^6$

## Flow Cytometry

- Differentiation possible
- Subset Typing via surface markers possible
- Possibility to observe heterogeneity in the population
- Requires fewer cells  $10^3-10^4$

# Phospho-Protein Profiling

## Kinetics of MAPK p38 on CD4+ T cells out of a mixture of cells



BD Biosciences PhosFlow Tutorial

# Cell activation: Calcium flux

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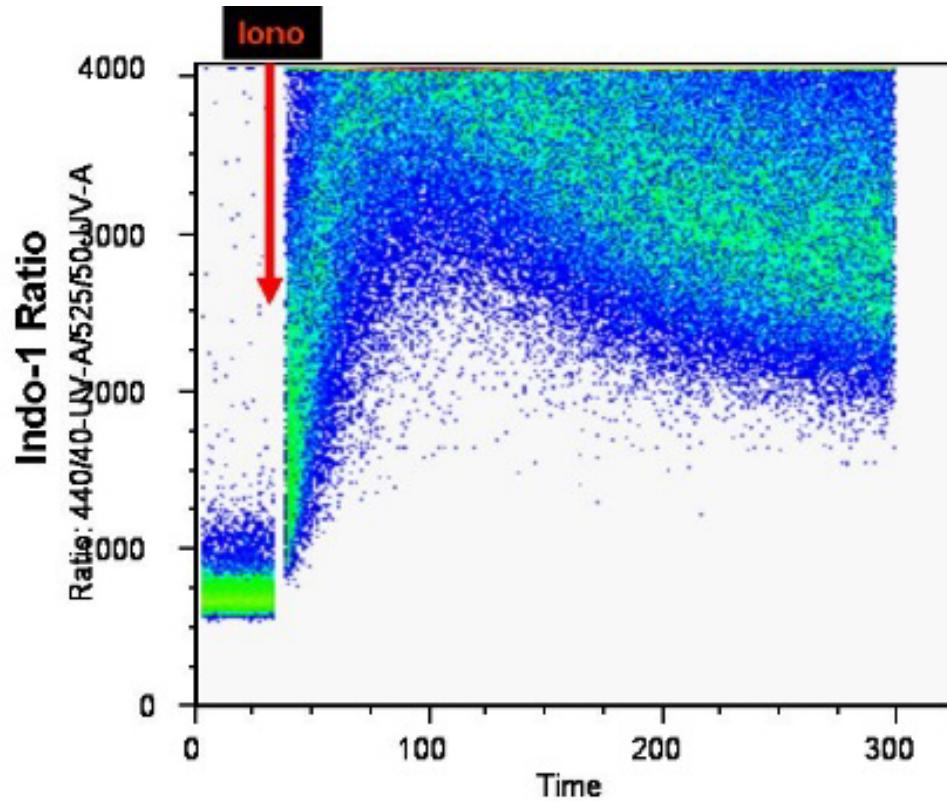
- Calcium is a second messenger after cell stimulation
  - After receptor-ligand interaction
  - In response to hormones or drugs
  - During cell injury

Multiparameter staining with parallel analysis of intercellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and cell surface markers

- **Indo-1**
  - Emission maximum after  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding changes from 475nm to 400 nm
  - Excitation maximum at 346 nm (UV laser required!)
- **Fluo-4**
  - Emission maximum at 506 nm. Increases intensity after  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding > 100 fold
  - Excitation maximum at 494 nm
- **FuraRed**
  - Excitation maximum at 657 nm without  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , intensity is reduced after binding
  - Excitation maximum at 472 nm

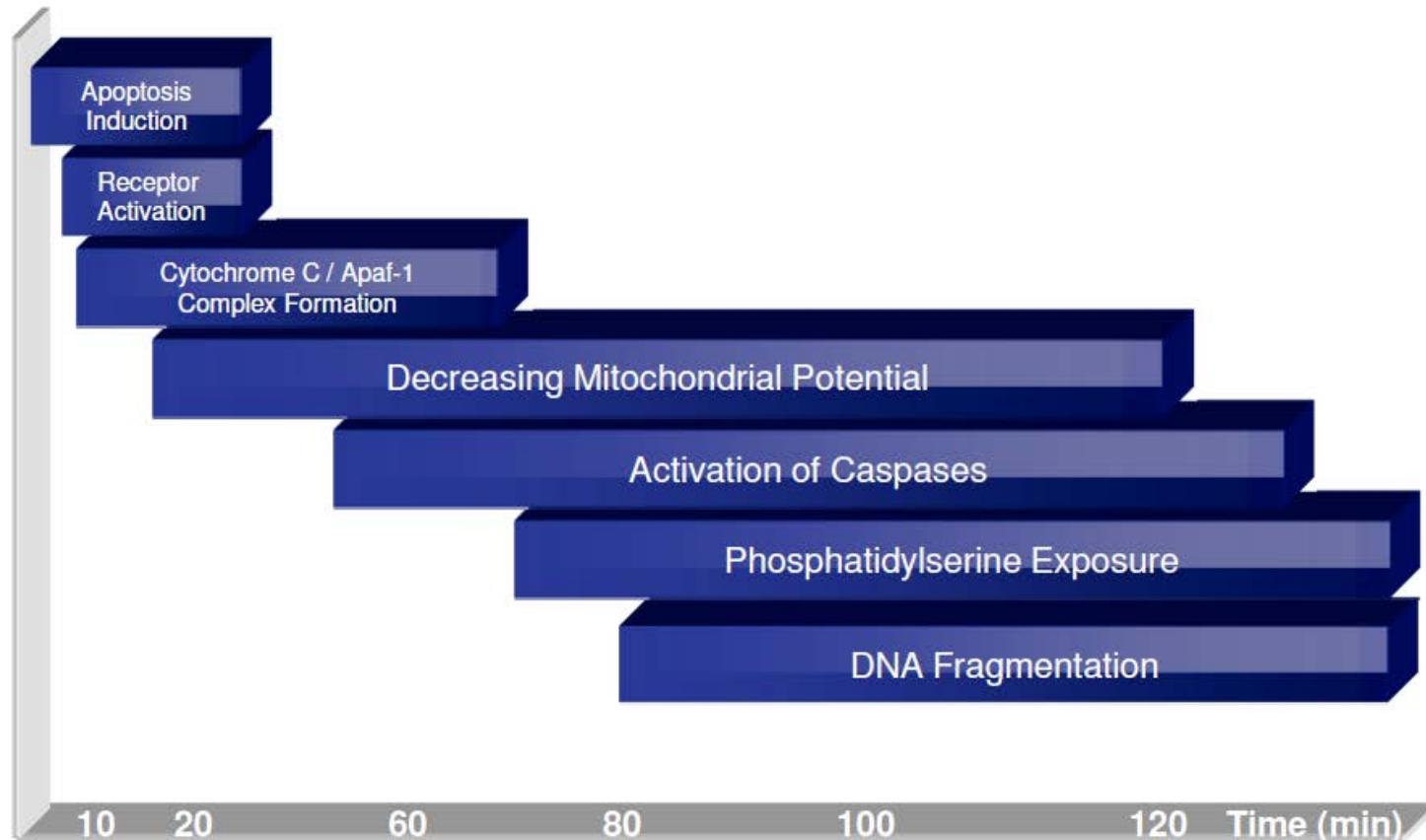
# Cell activation: Calcium flux

- Stimulation of Jurkat T cells, monitoring of cell activation over time



<http://www.icms.qmul.ac.uk/flowcytometry/uses/functionalanalysis/diagrams/Indo1RatioLegend.jpg>

# Analysis of apoptosis: Time scale



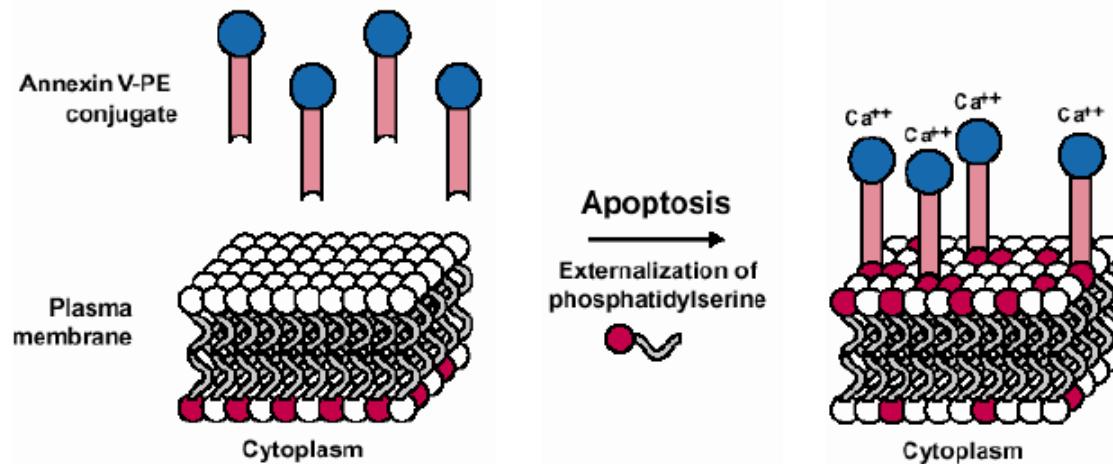
Applications in flow cytometry:  
Tim Schenkel  
BD Biosciences Training Center Heidelberg

# Analysis of apoptosis: Possible parameters

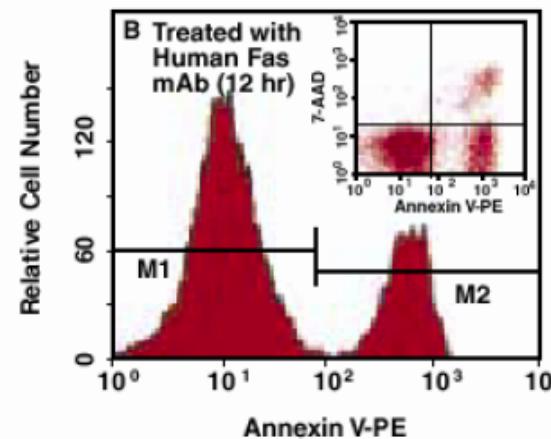
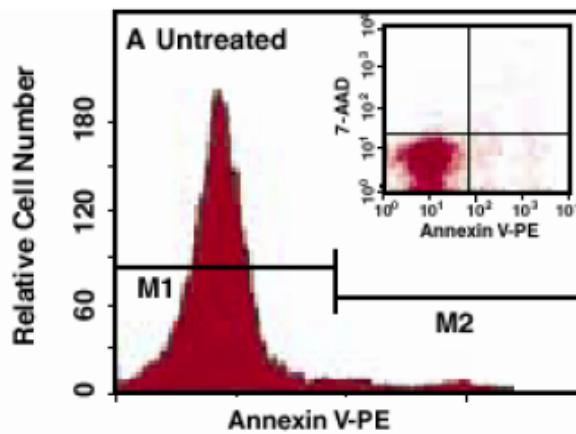
| Change   | Assays                       |
|--|------------------------------|
| Translocation of phosphatidylserine from the inner to the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane | Annexin V                    |
| Changes of mitochondria membrane potential   | BD MitoScreen test           |
| Activations of casapses  | e.g. activation of caspase-3 |
| DNA fragmentation  | APO BrdU Kit (TUNEL)         |

Applications in flow cytometry:  
Tim Schenkel  
BD Biosciences Training Center Heidelberg

# Analysis of apoptosis: Annexin V staining



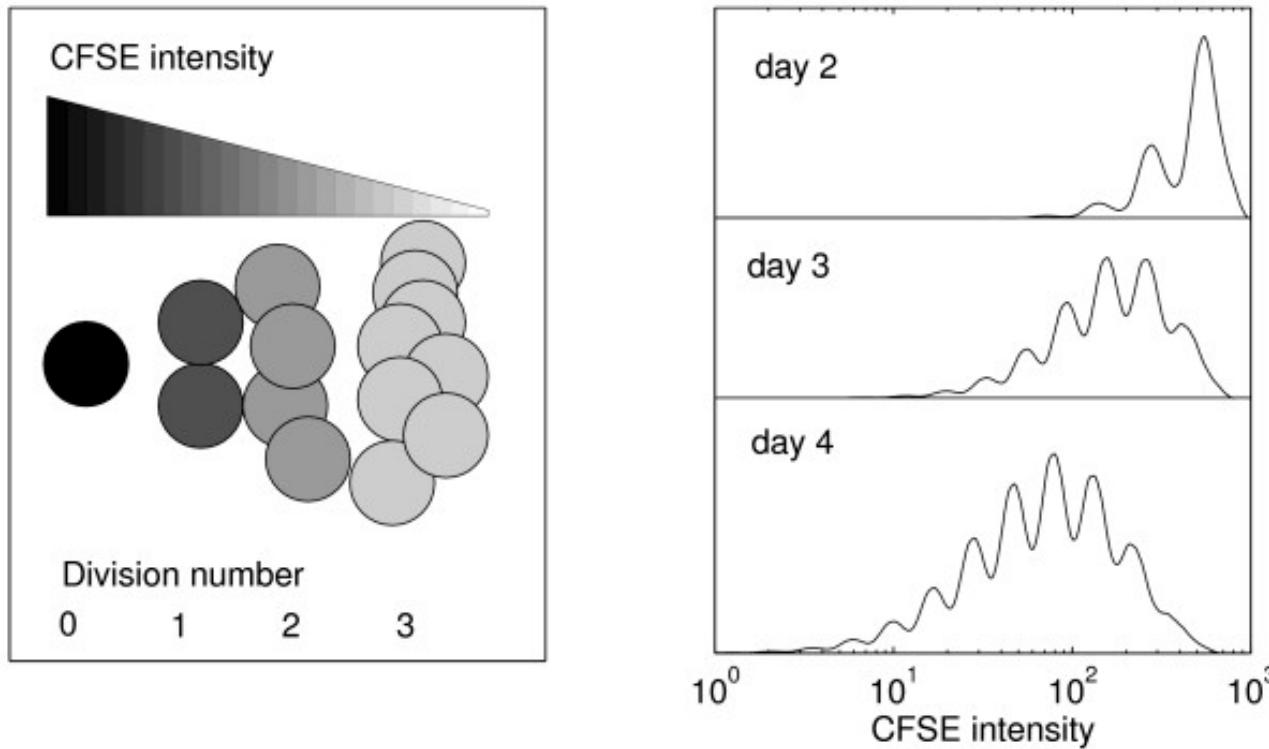
- Calcium essential!
- Assay does not work in PBS!



Applications in flow cytometry:  
Tim Schenkel  
BD Biosciences Training Center Heidelberg

# Cell proliferation: CFSE staining

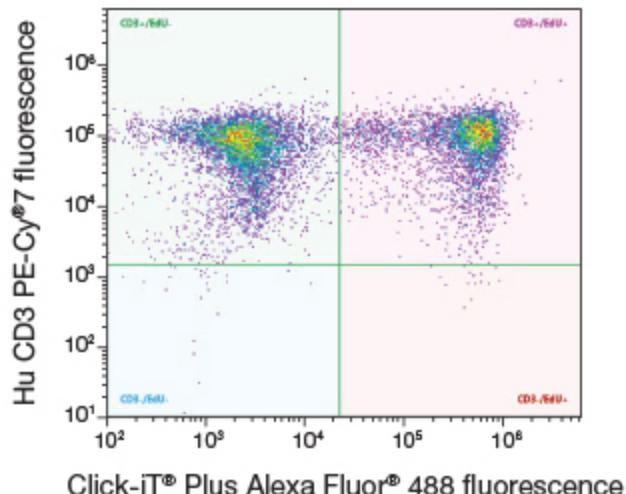
- Carboxyfluorescein Succinimidylester
  - Covalent binding to intracellular free amine residues (lysine)
  - Equal distribution in daughter cells upon cell division
  - Enables monitoring of distinct generations of proliferating cells



Luzyanina et al. *Theoretical Biology and Medical Modelling* 2007 4:26

# Cell proliferation: Thymidine analogues

- DNA-synthesis-based cell proliferation
  - BrdU = thymidine analogue 5-Brom-2'-deoxyuridine
  - Incorporated into newly synthesized DNA
  - Subsequent detection with a BrdU-specific antibody upon DNA denaturation
- EdU, Click iT Technology
- Click iT technology for fluorescence labeling does not require harsh fixation protocols (faster)



Click-iT Plus Alexa Fluor 488  
Kit Manual, ThermoScientific

# Overview

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- Overview of applications
- **Instruments**
  - Flow cytometers, cell sorters, special instrumentation

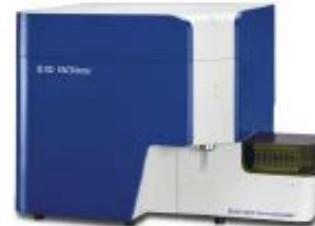
# Research flow cytometers from Becton-Dickinson



BD FACSCalibur™  
4 colors



BD FACSCanto II™  
8 colors



BD FACSVerse™  
8 colors  
6 colors at IMB



BD Accuri™ C6  
4 colors



BD FACSymphony  
Up to 50 colors



BD LSRFortessa™  
> 8 colors  
18 colors at IMB



BD LSRFortessa™ X-20  
< 20 colors

[www.bdbiosciences.com](http://www.bdbiosciences.com)

# Research flow cytometers from Beckman Coulter



**CytoFLEX**  
Now up to 21 colors



**Gallios**  
Up to 12 colors

[www.beckman.com](http://www.beckman.com)

# Flow cytometers from other companies



MACSQuant

[www.miltenyibiotec.com](http://www.miltenyibiotec.com)



CyFlow Cube

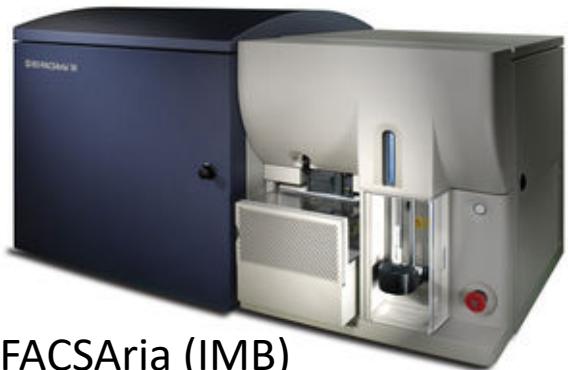
[www.sysmex.com](http://www.sysmex.com)



Attune NxT

[www.thermofisher.com](http://www.thermofisher.com)

# Cell sorters from Becton-Dickinson



FACSAria (IMB)



Influx



FACSAriaFusion



FACSMelody



[www.bdbiosciences.com](http://www.bdbiosciences.com)

# Cell sorters from Beckman Coulter

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MoFlo Astrios

[www.beckman.com](http://www.beckman.com)



MoFlo

# Cell sorters from other companies



MACSQuant Tyto  
[www.miltenyibiotec.com](http://www.miltenyibiotec.com)

S3e Cell Sorter  
[www.bio-rad.com](http://www.bio-rad.com)



BioSorter (Large Particle Sorter) IMB  
[www.unionbio.com](http://www.unionbio.com)

Sony SH800Z  
[www.sony.net](http://www.sony.net)



# Special instrumentation: Mass cytometer (CyTOF)

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- Mass cytometry combines time-of-flight mass spectrometry with Maxpar metal-labeling technology
- Cellular targets are labeled with metal-tagged antibodies and detected and quantified by time-of-flight mass spectrometry
- The high purity and choice of metal isotopes provide minimal background noise from signal overlap or endogenous cellular components



[www.fluidigm.com](http://www.fluidigm.com)

# Mass cytometry

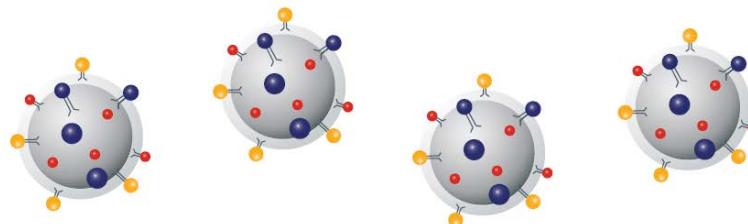


|                       |                       |                          |                            |                        |                         |                        |                        |                         |                           |                          |                          |                          |                        |                         |                          |                      |                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1<br>H<br>Hydrogen    |                       |                          |                            |                        |                         |                        |                        |                         |                           |                          |                          |                          |                        |                         |                          |                      | 2<br>He<br>Helium   |
| 3<br>Li<br>Lithium    | 4<br>Be<br>Beryllium  |                          |                            |                        |                         |                        |                        |                         |                           |                          |                          |                          |                        |                         |                          |                      |                     |
| 11<br>Na<br>Sodium    | 12<br>Mg<br>Magnesium |                          |                            |                        |                         |                        |                        |                         |                           |                          |                          |                          |                        |                         |                          |                      |                     |
| 19<br>K<br>Potassium  | 20<br>Ca<br>Calcium   | 21<br>Sc<br>Scandium     | 22<br>Ti<br>Titanium       | 23<br>V<br>Vanadium    | 24<br>Cr<br>Chromium    | 25<br>Mn<br>Manganese  | 26<br>Fe<br>Iron       | 27<br>Co<br>Cobalt      | 28<br>Ni<br>Nickel        | 29<br>Cu<br>Copper       | 30<br>Zn<br>Zinc         | 31<br>Ga<br>Gallium      | 32<br>Ge<br>Germanium  | 33<br>As<br>Arsenic     | 34<br>Se<br>Selenium     | 35<br>Br<br>Bromine  | 36<br>Kr<br>Krypton |
| 37<br>Rb<br>Rubidium  | 38<br>Sr<br>Strontium | 39<br>Y<br>Yttrium       | 40<br>Zr<br>Zirconium      | 41<br>Nb<br>Niobium    | 42<br>Mo<br>Molybdenum  | 43<br>Tc<br>Technetium | 44<br>Ru<br>Ruthenium  | 45<br>Rh<br>Rhodium     | 46<br>Pd<br>Palladium     | 47<br>Ag<br>Silver       | 48<br>Cd<br>Cadmium      | 49<br>In<br>Indium       | 50<br>Sn<br>Antimony   | 51<br>Te<br>Tellurium   | 52<br>I<br>Iodine        | 53<br>Xe<br>Xenon    |                     |
| 55<br>Cs<br>Cäsium    | 56<br>Ba<br>Barium    |                          | 72<br>Hf<br>Hafnium        | 73<br>Ta<br>Tantalum   | 74<br>W<br>Tungsten     | 75<br>Re<br>Rhenium    | 76<br>Os<br>Osmium     | 77<br>Ir<br>Iridium     | 78<br>Pt<br>Platinum      | 79<br>Au<br>Gold         | 80<br>Hg<br>Mercury      | 81<br>Tl<br>Thallium     | 82<br>Pb<br>Lead       | 83<br>Bi<br>Bismuth     | 84<br>Po<br>Polonium     | 85<br>At<br>Astatine | 86<br>Rn<br>Radon   |
| 87<br>Fr<br>Francium  | 88<br>Ra<br>Radium    |                          | 104<br>Rf<br>Rutherfordium | 105<br>Db<br>Dubnium   | 106<br>Sg<br>Seaborgium | 107<br>Bh<br>Borhium   | 108<br>Hs<br>Hassium   | 109<br>Mt<br>Meitnerium | 110<br>Ds<br>Darmstadtium | 111<br>Rg<br>Roentgenium | 112<br>Cn<br>Copernicium |                          | 114<br>Fl<br>Flerovium |                         | 116<br>Lv<br>Livermorium |                      |                     |
| 57<br>La<br>Lanthanum | 58<br>Ce<br>Cerium    | 59<br>Pr<br>Praseodymium | 60<br>Nd<br>Neodymium      | 61<br>Pm<br>Promethium | 62<br>Sm<br>Samarium    | 63<br>Eu<br>Europium   | 64<br>Gd<br>Gadolinium | 65<br>Tb<br>Terbium     | 66<br>Dy<br>Dysprosium    | 67<br>Ho<br>Holmium      | 68<br>Er<br>Erbium       | 69<br>Tm<br>Thulium      | 70<br>Yb<br>Ytterbium  | 71<br>Lu<br>Lutetium    |                          |                      |                     |
| 89<br>Ac<br>Actinium  | 90<br>Th<br>Thorium   | 91<br>Pa<br>Protactinium | 92<br>U<br>Uranium         | 93<br>Np<br>Neptunium  | 94<br>Pu<br>Plutonium   | 95<br>Am<br>Americium  | 96<br>Cm<br>Curium     | 97<br>Bk<br>Berkelium   | 98<br>Cf<br>Californium   | 99<br>Es<br>Einsteinium  | 100<br>Fm<br>Fermium     | 101<br>Md<br>Mendelevium | 102<br>No<br>Nobelium  | 103<br>Lr<br>Lawrencium |                          |                      |                     |

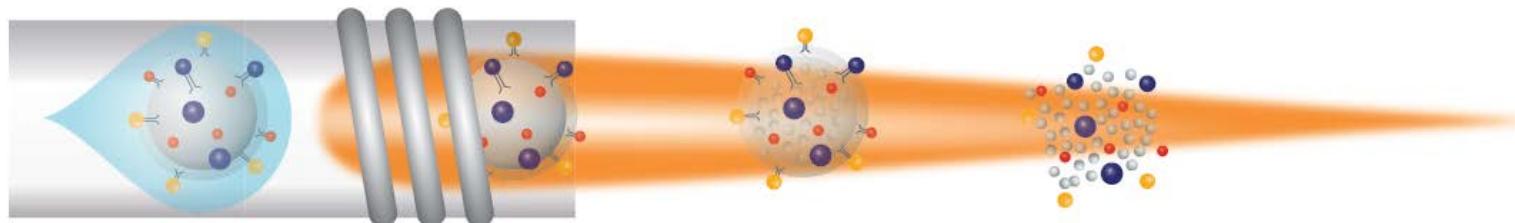


[www.fluidigm.com](http://www.fluidigm.com)

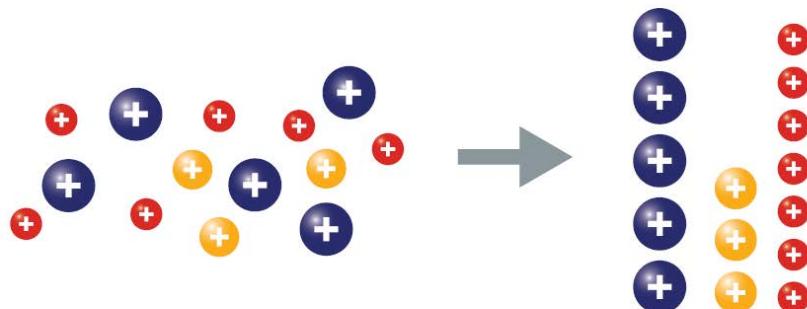
# Mass cytometry



Inside the instrument, cells are individually atomized to release metal ions. Ions derived from each stained cell are maintained in discrete clouds



Metal ions of interest are resolved by mass in the time of flight (TOF) chamber



[www.fluidigm.com](http://www.fluidigm.com)

# Mass cytometry

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## Major advantage

- In multicolor flow cytometry, overlapping emission spectra call for mathematical algorithms that need to be applied (“compensation”). Compensation may lead to a decrease in signal resolution, so it may be more difficult to identify rare cell populations

## Disadvantage

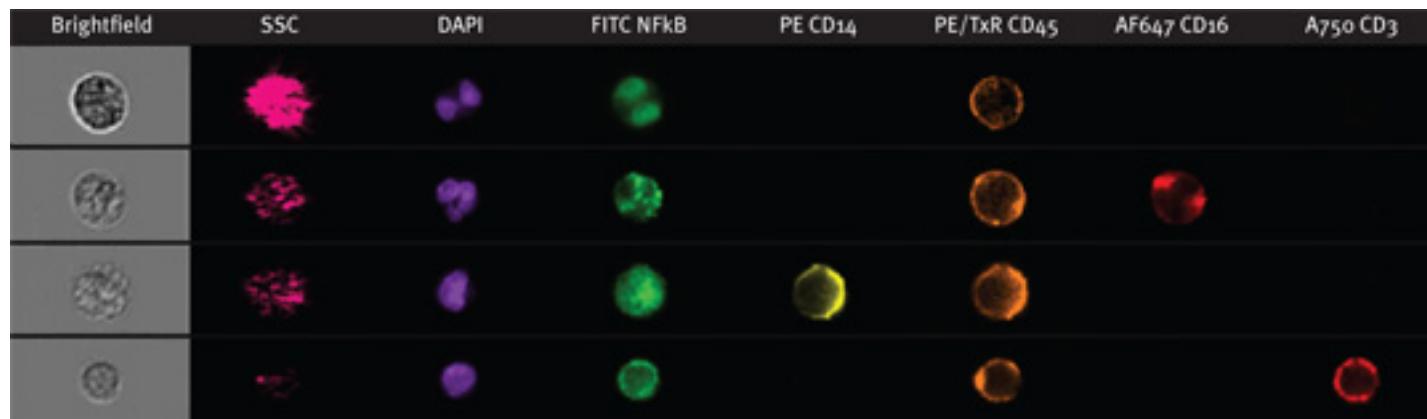
- Low data acquisition rate: around 500 cells per second versus several thousand in flow cytometry
- Current chemical methods limits cytometer use to around 40 parameters per cell
- CyTOF is expensive (> 1 Mio EUR) and requires one dedicated operator and special lab conditions



[www.fluidigm.com](http://www.fluidigm.com)

# Imaging Flow Cytometry: ImageStream

These instruments produce multiple high-resolution images of every cell directly in flow, including brightfield and darkfield (SSC), and up to 10 fluorescent markers



MERCK

# Imaging Flow Cytometry: ImageStream (Merck)

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## Advantage

- Information about signal distribution within the cell (spatial distribution) and about cell morphology of a high number of cells

## Disadvantage

- Low data acquisition rate (5000 evts/sec)
- Only up to 10 colors
- Huge data amount per measurement
- Image quality

Next step in Imaging Flow Cytometry:  
Image based sorting is already in development



# Flow Cytometry: Take home message

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- Parameters measured in standard flow cytometers are **relative size (forward scatter)**, **granularity/complexity (side scatter)** and several **fluorescence parameters** (from 1 up to 50 colors simultaneously)
- In the flow cell, cells are aligned in a liquid stream by **hydrodynamic focussing** and then pass one by one through the laser beam
- Flow cytometry results are produced at high speed: Analysis of several thousands of cells per second with statistical output
- Option to isolate cell populations of interest on cell sorters