



ESCCA NEWSFLASH

SEPTEMBER 2020

Editorial

Dear ESCCA Member, dear colleagues and friends,

I hope you all had a nice summer – in spite of the Corona measures!

During the past months, the scientific committee of the Conference 2021 has worked hard to compose an interesting and varied programme for you. Read on to find out more.

Back in April, when we postponed the ESCCA Conference to April 2021, we had high hopes that the situation would be under control by then. Unfortunately we cannot be sure of that anymore; the uncertainty and unpredictability of the situation remains. With your safety and health in mind, the ESCCA Board will soon decide if we should postpone once more.... Fortunately we still have an option on the venues in lovely Vilnius for the end of September 2021. After all, in spite of all the excellent and creative virtual solutions, nothing beats a physical meeting where we can truly connect and communicate face-to-face. Many studies confirm what Steve Jobs knew: that people have to be in a room together to really get the ideas *flowing!*

On behalf of the ESCCA board

Paula Fernandez

ESCCA President

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ESCCA had to postpone the Conference to 21-24 April 2021. However, we will continue to closely monitor the situation and if necessary will take further actions. In any case, the Scientific Committee has composed an attractive and innovative scientific programme.



The Conference will kick off with two keynote lectures on Wednesday afternoon 21 April:

- *Spectral FC in the clinical Lab* presented by Cristina Teodosio (Leiden, NL)
- *Machine learning* by Carolien Duetz (Amsterdam, NL)

Besides these and other plenary lectures as well as the much liked interactive case presentations, **four parallel educational tracks** have been scheduled:

1. Hematology-Oncology
2. Immunology
3. Antigen-specific immunity
4. Data analysis

Antigen-specific immunity is a new guest track on the latest developments in this field, closely coordinated with related immunological and clinical topics in the programme. This track has been composed by a dedicated [Immunology Scientific Working Group](#).

Data analysis covers important aspects we need to know about modern data analysis, ranging from general principles of flow data representation/analysis, to data handling and data repositories, and from data preparation to high-dimensional data analysis of large cohorts. We are grateful to the [expert team](#) who put this programme together.

In addition, **six pre-conference training courses, some new**, will be organised on Wednesday morning 21 April. These compact but intensive and interactive courses will allow you to deepen your knowledge in a small group of no more than 20 delegates. Check also the levels of expertise recommended to participate in the courses.

1. B-cell analysis in immunodeficiencies, autoimmunity and infections
2. Measurable residual disease in MM
3. Platelet characterization by flow cytometry
4. Validation and ISO accreditation of MFC assays
5. Functional MFC
6. ESCCABase: An all-purpose project

The same morning ESCCA members will be able to take the official **ESCCA European Cytometry Certification Examination** levels 1 and 2. For more information, please consult the [ESCCA website](#).

Finally, during lunch on Wednesday a **First Timers session** will be organised. This informal gathering is aimed at delegates who are new to ESCCA and/or attend the Conference for the first time, and give them the opportunity to meet and greet the ESCCA Board members and ask questions.

The **Conference Dinner** will be held in the Palace of the Dukes of Lithuania, located in the city centre.



This palace was constructed in the 15th century for the rulers of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the future Kings of Poland. Nowadays it functions as a museum with Gothic, Renaissance and Early Baroque halls showing the varied historical and social functions of this residence.

We will have exclusive access to part of this museum and have dinner in the impressive Great Renaissance Hall.

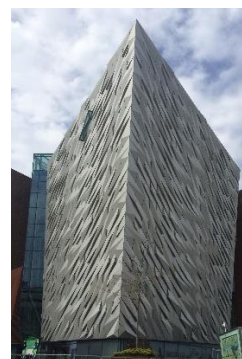
Preceding the Conference dinner you will have the opportunity to go on a **guided tour in the charming city of Vilnius**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site contains one of the largest surviving medieval quarters in Europe. The Old Town, marvellously intact, contains almost 2.000 medieval, gothic, renaissance, and baroque buildings. The 13th century Higher Castle affords a glorious view of the city centre. [Read more here](#).

ESCCA 2022 Conference

ESCCA has already contracted the venue for the 2022 Conference: the International Conference Centre (ICC) in **Belfast, Northern Ireland**.

Save the Date: 21-24 September 2022!

The Conference Dinner venue has also been secured: the [Titanic Museum](#), at the Dock and slipways where the Titanic was built and launched.



You will be surprised how safe and attractive Belfast is. The city is one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in Europe and has been awarded Best Events Destination in 2018 and 2019. You will get a warm welcome from the friendly locals in this easily accessible and compact city where you have everything at walking distance. A trip to the coast with the [Giant's Causeway](#) is an experience not to miss. Or explore the [Game of Thrones filming locations](#)!

7th Prague School on Flow Cytometry 2020

The Prague School on Flow Cytometry 2020 will go VIRTUAL from 26-29 October 2020. For more information and to download the programme, please visit the [Meetings page](#) on the ESCCA website.

ICCS 2020 LIVE

Join ICCS for their 2020 Virtual Meeting on 28-30 September 2020. On-demand materials are available until 31 October. There is no registration fee and only 50 USD for the educational workshops. For more information, please visit <https://www.cytometry.org/2020-Virtual/index.php>.

CCEN – Open educational resources

During the Covid-19 outbreak many meetings have either been cancelled or postponed and the need for educational content is greater than ever. Therefore, ICCS has made some of their Educational Resources available for free access via the CCEN website.

Access via <https://www.cytoed.org/web/index.php> under the E-learning tab and "what's new".

ESCCA 2020-2021 Conference Sponsors

ESCCA would like to express their gratitude for the sponsors who have committed themselves to the Conference in Vilnius.

Premier sponsor



Beckman Coulter Life Sciences Expands High Content Analysis with the Launch of DxFLEX, Europe's First 13-colour Flow Cytometer for the Clinical Laboratory



Beckman Coulter Life Sciences has introduced the DxFLEX, Europe's first CE-IVD, 13-colour clinical flow cytometry system. The DxFLEX uses avalanche photodiode (APD) technology, which creates a highly sensitive semiconductor electronic device able to convert light to electricity. This addresses the limitations of traditional PMT-based flow cytometers.

Beckman Coulter Life Sciences first harnessed the use of fiber optics in their flagship research flow cytometry system, the CytoFLEX. The use of APD technology transforms the way a compact flow cytometry instrument can deliver high content research analysis.

"The DxFLEX flow cytometer opens up the possibilities for large hospitals and commercial laboratories looking to expand their high content analysis work with a compact, easy to use system," said Dr. Mario Kokschi, vice president and general manager of Beckman Coulter Life Sciences Cytometry Business Unit.

The APD technology in the DxFLEX reduces compensation spillover compared to PMT-based cytometers, delivering greater confidence in results, streamlining the lab’s workflow and reducing manual steps. Running compensation on a conventional, photomultiplier tube (PMT) flow cytometer involves significant hands-on time, even when features like auto-compensation setup are available in the software.

“The biggest challenge for user-defined testing, particularly when using 10 or more fluorescent parameters, is the compensation process and the burden it places on lab staff. The time it can take may hold back the overall competitiveness of the lab,” explained Dr. Kokschi. “However, incorrect compensation is one of the main reasons for false results when running multi-colour flow cytometry panels in the clinical lab.”

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