

**ESCCA**  
European Society  
for Clinical Cell Analysis



## ESCCA NEWSLETTER

July 2023

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### **New classifications of Hematological Malignancies: hype, hope or Babylonian confusion?**

Classification systems of hemato-oncological diseases have always represented an attempt to create a common language among physicians to exchange information about patients' risk, treatment efficacy and innovative treatment programs. This was true for the French-American-British classification of acute leukemias in the late 70ies of the last century, or the Revised European American Lymphoma (REAL) classification in the 90ies: both publications paved the way for the first global approach to the diagnosis and cure of hematological malignancies. Then the era of "personalized medicine" begun: not unexpectedly, at that point the European Association of Pathologists, the Society of Hematopathology, and a clinical advisory committee composed of pathologists, hematologists, oncologists, and geneticists, working under the auspices of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), produced the first edition of the WHO classification. For the first time, every disease was classified starting from a thorough genetic assessment trying to identify homogeneous clinical-biological entities, possibly suitable for a unique targeted therapy (e.g. 5q- syndrome, among others). This virtuous process abruptly stopped in 2022, when two competing classifications systems for hematolymphoid neoplasms, the 5<sup>th</sup> WHO Classification of Hematolymphoid Tumors, produced by the new IARC group, and the international consensus classification (ICC), were promoted. Even if has been calculated that the two classifications have an 86% of similarity, some crucial differences still persist. As for as leukemias, patients with 15% bone marrow blasts are defined as "acute leukemias" for the ICC whereas are still defined "high-risk myelodysplastic syndromes" for the 5<sup>th</sup> WHO. Beside agreeing in recognizing the two clinical situations as a continuous disease (probably deserving the same treatment approach), we cannot avoid considering the troublesome situation for the pathologist in providing a double definition of the same disease. Furthermore, how clinicians will manage the communication of the diagnosis to patients? And how will they prescribe drugs licensed for acute myeloid leukemia (those with 10-20% bone marrow blasts) to a new category of patients that were not even included in the pivotal clinical trials for acute leukemia? In the next years, ESCCA, as an academic society, will strongly support any possible effort to produce a reunited consensus classification to avoid heterogeneous diagnostic and clinical approach to hematological patients.



Francesco Buccisano  
ESCCA President



The **full programme** including the speakers and lecture titles can be found on the [programme page](#).

There are still places left for the **Pre-conference workshops** on Wednesday morning, but don't wait too long as these tend to sell out quite rapidly!

The Conference will open on Wednesday afternoon with a Keynote lecture by Petra Reinke (Berlin) and an ESCCA-ICCS joint session on Standardization in Clinical Flow Cytometry. The following days a varied programme offers two more joint sessions (with EHA and ESID), interactive case presentations, three educational streams and two plenary sessions with oral abstract presentations.

***Did you miss the abstract submission deadline? You can still submit a late abstract for poster presentation! Deadline is 15 July 23:59:59 CEST.***

The on-time abstracts are being reviewed. The notifications of acceptance for these abstracts will be sent before or on 18 July. The late poster abstract authors may be notified a bit later. Note that all presenters need to have registered and paid before the early fee deadline of 15 August.

You might also be interested in a **pre-conference Corporate Satellite workshop on reinvigorating the PNH testing discussion** (pre-registration required). More information on the [Sponsor Lectures page](#). There, you will also find information of the Industrial Partner Presentations and Corporate lecture.

As for the social events, don't forget to **pre-register for the Dutch Evening** in order to avoid disappointment! Often there are only a few places left on-site.

This year we'll go to the Railway Museum, housed in the historic Maliebaan Station dating back from 1874, where we will dine and dance amidst historic locomotives, coaches and trains - one of which the oldest original steam locomotive in the Netherlands.



Enjoy an informal Streetfood dinner and one of the best DJs in the Netherlands!

DJ Charleon's saxophone solos are the pinnacle of his DJ live show and have got not only the Dutch audience dancing, but he's shared his music and performances globally for tours in China, India, England, France, Italy, Germany, and Spain.



The museum closes at 23:00 hrs., but you will have the opportunity to be dropped off close to the historic city centre of Utrecht. Its intact medieval buildings, the canals with centuries' old wharf cellars – unique in the world – and the tallest church tower in the Netherlands are not to miss. This part of town is packed with restaurants, bars and outdoor terraces along the Old Canal to cater everyone's taste.

***Last but not least: In case you haven't reserved your hotel room in Utrecht yet, urgent action is required!***

Due to the Film Festival that takes place in Utrecht in the same week, the small room blocks we were able to secure will soon be sold out, if not already. We strongly recommend you to reserve your room **immediately**, whether this is via the ESCCA website or via any other booking channels.

For the hotels on the [ESCCA website](#) no pre-payment is required, and reservations can be cancelled free of charge until 2-7 days prior to arrival.

### Key dates

15 July	Deadline late poster abstracts
15 August	Deadline early registration fee
22 September	Deadline regular registration fee
27-30 September	ESCCA 2023 Utrecht

<https://escca.eu/escca2023>

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### ESCCA Certification Exams news

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ESCCA congratulates the first two candidates to have successfully passed the **online** Examination for the European certificate for cytometry operators:

- Lorraine Cavanagh (HSE, Limerick, Ireland)
- Francesco De Leonardis ( University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy)

The *on-site* examinations during the Conference and ESCCA Schools have been fully replaced by the online versions. The exam can now be taken anytime during the year from the comfort of your home or office.

There are two levels of certification:

#### **A. The European Certificate for Cytometry Operators**

This first level of certification may be attained after evaluation of the candidate's knowledge about basic flow cytometry. Applicants should demonstrate a minimum of three years of experience in flow cytometry.

#### **B. The European Certificate for Cytometry Specialists - hemato-oncology**

This level may be achieved after evaluation of the candidate's skills and knowledge about clinical flow cytometry - hemato-oncology. Applicants should have :

- 1) a Bacalaureate and/or Master degree and/or Doctorate from an accredited/approved educational institution in biological/life science, physics, engineering or an appropriately related field; and
- 2) the European Certification for Cytometry Operators.

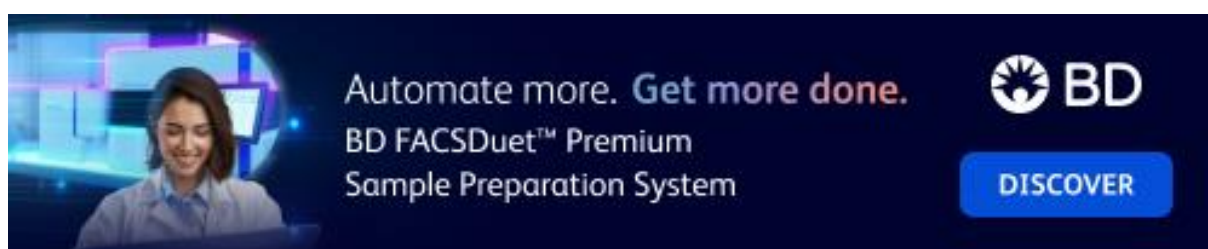
For more information, the application conditions and to download the ESCCA Certification Guidelines, please visit the [Education section](#).

## Our 2023 Conference sponsors

We thank all our [Sponsors](#) for their support that makes our Conference come alive. Do visit the Exhibition in Utrecht! More information on the sponsor lectures, please visit the [Sponsor Lectures page](#)

Main sponsors (in alphabetical order)

Premier sponsors



Join BD at ESCCA!

Join BD Biosciences at ESCCA 2023, featuring our team and the latest innovation in automated flow cytometry sample preparation technology.

Come and discover how you can simplify and streamline your flow cytometry workflow with the power of our fully automated BD FACSDuet™ Premium Sample Preparation System. This innovative flow cytometry sample preparation system is specially designed to fuel consistency, maximize lab resources and minimize errors to drive standardization as part of a complete walkaway workflow solution.

[Watch the keynote!](#)

**Come and join us at the BD-sponsored industrial partner presentation:**

**Wednesday 27 September at 15:00 hrs.**

More details coming up soon!



<https://www.beckman.com/>

We are excited about meeting you in Utrecht this year!

Our booth will showcase innovative solutions, such as the new CellMek SPS Sample Preparation System, designed to enhance clinical flow cytometry labs' performance.

In today's times of staff shortages, supply chain challenges, and unpredictable demand for test results, lab efficiency is the need of the hour. You can learn how to unlock the power of lean, reduce process waste, and optimize workflow efficiency by visiting our booth.

Beckman Coulter Life Sciences is your trusted partner on the patient's journey, offering solutions to the most demanding needs of modern clinical flow cytometry. Whether you want to optimize your lab-developed tests processing or are searching for workflow-optimized in-vitro diagnostic kits, we have you covered.

Join our scientific program in our Meet the Expert Sessions and interact with other like-minded scientists to share your expertise and knowledge, and learn from your peers in the flow community.

We look forward to seeing you in Utrecht!

### Platinum sponsors



Cytek Biosciences is a leading cell analysis solutions company advancing the next generation of flow cytometers delivering high-resolution, high-content, and high-sensitivity cell analysis. Cytek's novel approach harnesses the power of information within the entire spectrum of fluorescent signals to achieve a higher level of multiplexing with precision and sensitivity using our cFluor® conjugated antibodies. Included in our family of flow cytometers is the Cytek® Northern Lights™ - CLC with an automated tube loader. Visit our booth at ESCCA 2023 and check out our symposium on September 28th at 3 PM! For more information about our products and solutions, please visit <https://cytekbio.com/>.





More information in the next Newsletter.



### **Sysmex is looking forward to meeting you at the ESCCA 2023 in Utrecht**

Sysmex is pleased to be attending the ESCCA conference again this year.

Join us at our booth PL2 and discover our clinical flow cytometry system live and in colour, find out about the latest application developments - or simply connect with our specialists in person.

In our Industrial Partner Presentation (Wednesday 27.09. 16:00-16:30) we will show results of an evaluation using our XF-1600 to analyse measurable residual disease (MRD).

For more than 50 years, Sysmex has been helping clinical laboratories improve their productivity and diagnostic quality by adding innovative testing and automation in areas such as haematology, haemostasis and urinalysis. Now, we are excited to apply our expertise in workflow consultancy, automation and data integration to help flow cytometry laboratories find solutions to simplify and standardise their work.

For more information, please visit [www.sysmex-europe.com/clinical-flow](http://www.sysmex-europe.com/clinical-flow)

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**Follow ESCCA!**



[Join ESCCA as a member](#)

The next Newsletter is scheduled for early September. Check you spam folder if you haven't received it by 15 September. You can also always download the Newsletter from the ESCCA website's [News page](#).