



ESCCA
European Society
for Clinical Cell Analysis



ESCCA NEWSLETTER

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IVDR revolution: trust the process, raise the awareness

Published in 2017, the In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation (2017/746) was supposed to be fully deployed in May 2022. Due to the pandemic's hit, deadlines were extended. For higher risk devices, such as HIV or hepatitis tests (class D), the new requirements will apply from May 2025. For devices of the risk class C, such as certain influenza tests the date will be extended until May 2026, whereas for lower risk class devices (class B and A sterile), the regulation comes into force in May 2027 (ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6965).

Most of the concerns felt by our members are due to the inclusion of 'in-house devices' (or laboratory-developed tests) in the new regulations. These represent the vast majority of IVD tests adopted in hematology or immunology dedicated laboratories (more than 50% according to a recent survey of the Biomed Alliance, Hemasphere 2022, [10.1097/HS9.0000000000000724](https://doi.org/10.1097/HS9.0000000000000724)). Nowadays, in-house tests have a huge impact in several fields, from monitoring of immunotherapies, measurable residual disease assessment and drug development, and directly affect the clinical management of patients. Nevertheless, due to the relative rarity of diseases and the minor market transferability, in-house tests in these fields will be hardly developed as CE-IVD. For these reasons, the application of certain requirements for devices manufactured and used in the same health institution was delayed until May 2024 or, if an equivalent device will not be available on the market, until May 2028.

ISO standards, in particular ISO15189, represent an ideal backbone to IVDR art. 5.5 applications, but this requires the lab to appoint a dedicated quality team and to put in place a continuous maintenance of knowledge in this field, and importantly, compliance with ISO15189 is not mandatory in all European countries. As ESCCA, we trust that the IVDR regulation will reflect recent scientific and technological progress, promoting continuous innovation and competitiveness, but we feel the responsibility to raise the awareness and guide a process that will change forever our daily routine.



Francesco Buccisano
ESCCA President

Let's bridge the (cytometry) flows in Utrecht!



This year's Conference will take you to charming **Utrecht**, one of the Netherlands' oldest cities.

With its canals, bridges and historic houses, and narrow, cobbled, bicycle-filled roads, it is easy to see why this thriving and historic university city is known as "Little Amsterdam", albeit cozier and without the hordes of tourists. The Oudegracht ('Old Canal') has centuries' old vaulted wharf cellars – unique in the world – which nowadays host a broad variety of lively restaurants and cafés with waterfront terraces.

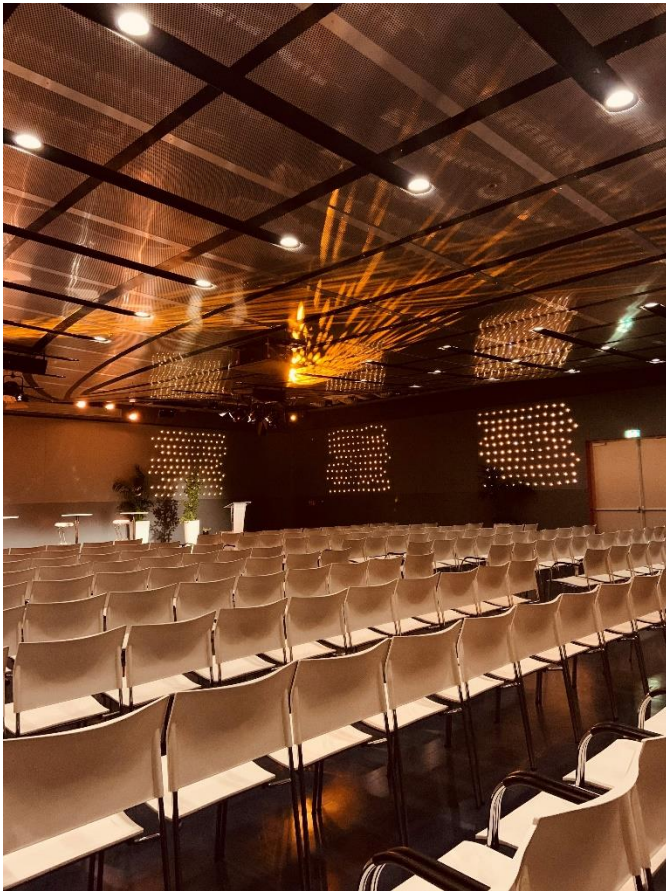


Climbing up the 14th century Dom Tower, Utrecht's icon, will be – literally – the pinnacle of your visit to Utrecht. On your way up, the guide will pause in a number of places to let you catch your breath and tell you more about the history and the construction of Netherlands' tallest church tower. Once you get to the Gallery at 70 meters, you will be rewarded with a spectacular view of the city and the wider area.

Utrecht is very easy to reach by train from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. With trains departing every 10-15 minutes you will arrive at Utrecht Central Station in 30 minutes. From there it is only a few minutes walk to the conference hotels and conference venue, [Jaarbeurs Utrecht - location Supernova](#).

In Supernova we step into the future! Jaarbeurs has created one of the most modern and innovative conference and meeting centres in Europe; a knowledge hub where all revolves around energy and networking. Thousands of LED lights, innovative applications and ultra-modern facilities in the field of image projection, as well as sound effects and furnishing all combine to provide a unique character.





Programme

For a limited number of delegates **5 pre-conference workshops** will be organised on Wednesday morning 27 September:

1. Measurable Residual Disease in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia
2. Tips and tricks for optimizing instruments and experiments
3. A practical guide to monocytosis
4. Measurable Residual Disease in Multiple Myeloma
5. Peripheral blood LPD analysis: an introductory course for the beginner

The **Conference programme** will start at 14:00 that same day. The Scientific Committee is finalising the scheduling of the programme, but we can already reveal that joint sessions with ICCS, EHA and ESID will be part of it. Two Interactive sessions with case presentations, several plenary lectures and best oral presentations will alternate with three tracks of educational sessions on Advances in hemato-oncological diseases, Applications of clinical cytometry and Cutting-edge immunology. It goes without saying that also this year posters will be on display throughout the Conference.

Of course you will have ample time to network during the social events. The **Welcome Reception** on Wednesday will take place in the Exhibition area and offers the perfect opportunity to renew old friendships, build new ones and meet with the exhibitors, while enjoying some local delicacies.

Maybe nothing can beat last year's Titanic Museum, but we think we have found a worthy alternative for the Conference dinner on Friday. The **Dutch Evening** will take place in the Railway Museum, housed in a historic train station where the atmosphere of Dutch railway history is palpable. The historic locomotives, coaches and trains - one of which the oldest original steam locomotive in the Netherlands - make a memorable backdrop for an informal dinner and dance party! We contracted one of the best DJs in the Netherlands. His saxophone solos are the pinnacle of his live DJ shows and have got not only the Dutch dancing, but also the audience during his tours in China, India, England, France, Italy, Germany and Spain.

Some key dates

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 15 May | Abstract submission and registration opens |
| 30 June | Abstract submission deadline |
| 15 August | Early registration fee deadline |

Hotel rooms

Some room blocks have been arranged in a few hotels located next to the Central Station Utrecht and within a 5-10 minute walk from the Conference venue. They offer preferential rates and favourable booking conditions for ESCCA delegates.

*Due to the Film Festival that takes place in Utrecht during the Conference days, we could only arrange a very limited number of rooms which will be released for public sale on 15 June already. You are advised to reserve your room **as early as possible**, 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.*

Financial contributors

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude for the sponsors who have committed themselves to the Conference. Without their support we wouldn't be able to organise this Conference for you! Please also see more on the last page of this Newsletter.

More information

For all details on the programme, abstract submission, registration, hotel accommodation, travel and much more, please visit the website:

<https://escca.eu/escca2023>

ESCCA Certification Exams online!

The ESCCA Education, Certification & Quality Assessment Committee is aware of the technical complexity and constant evolution of cytometry instrumentation and its applications, requiring constant training and education. These issues have been covered traditionally by the Education Activities incorporated in the ESCCA Conferences and, by the ESCCA International and Local Schools on Cytometry.

The final goal of the educational efforts of ESCCA is to help ESCCA members, and especially the young ones, to attain excellence in their work in cytometry, be it in the clinical or in the basic fields. In order to provide our members with a means to certify their knowledge and skill in clinical flow cytometry, the ESCCA Education, Certification & Quality Assessment Committee provides the European Cytometry Certificate.

The ESCCA Examination can now be taken online, at anytime during the year!

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

1. A Baccalaureate and/or Master degree and/or Doctorate from an accredited/approved educational institution in biological/life science, physics, engineering or an appropriately related field;
2. The European Certification for Cytometry Operators;

The European Certificate for Cytometry Operators is available for ESCCA members only. The examination language is English. Candidates will be presented with some 100 multiple choice questions on a wide range of topics and 3 cases. At least 60% of the questions have to be answered correctly.

Candidates who successfully pass the examination will receive a certificate and will be named on a dedicated page of ESCCA website and, when convenient, in the site of ESCCA-affiliated society.

For more information and the application procedure, please consult the website:

<https://www.escca.eu/education/escca-examination>

X. Prague School on Flow Cytometry - Hybrid

The X. Prague School on Flow Cytometry will be a hybrid meeting, which you can either attend in person in the lovely city of Prague, or follow online.

This informal, practical and interactive course on advanced applications in hematology-oncology and immunology features:

- ✓ State of the art Panel designs, Analysis strategies and Interpretation following ESCCA, ICCS, ELN, ERIC and EuroFlow Guidelines
- ✓ Guidelines for CLSI-H62 Validation and ISO 15189 Accreditation
- ✓ Training for ESCCA Certification for Cytometry Operators and Specialists
- ✓ Distinguished International Speakers

Participants are entitled to 1-year free participation in ESCCA Interlaboratory Comparison Program.

For more information, please visit the [Education page](#) of the ESCCA website.

Our 2023 Conference sponsors

We thank all our [Sponsors](#) for their support that makes our Conference come alive. Do visit the Exhibition during the Conference to learn more on

Premier sponsors:



Beckman Coulter Life Science is welcoming you to the ESCCA 2023.

Stop by our booth to explore our innovative solutions like the new CellMek SPS Sample Preparation System for clinical flow cytometry labs.

In these days of staff shortages, supply chain challenges and unpredictable peaks in demand for test results, achieving lab efficiency has never been more important. Learn how to unlock the power of lean to reduce process waste and optimize workflow efficiency.

Whether you want to optimize the processing of your lab developed tests or you are looking for workflow optimized in-vitro diagnostic kits. Beckman Coulter Life Sciences is your partner on the patients journey and offers solutions to the most demanding needs of modern clinical flow cytometry.

Join our scientific program in our *Meet the Expert Sessions* and interact with other likeminded scientists enabling you to share your expertise, knowledge and learn from your peers in the research community. See you in Utrecht!



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