



ESCCA NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Editorial

Dear colleagues and friends,

Two weeks and counting! We are excited to finally meet each other face-to-face again after 3 years.

The scientific program reflects *advances in hemato-oncological diseases, new topics in antigen-specific immunology in disease* as well as some *fundamental concepts in clinical flow cytometry*. We've attracted a distinguished and engaging faculty and look forward to listen, learn and discuss with you.

Posters will be on display throughout the Conference, selected best abstracts are presented on Friday 23rd, and the author of the best abstract and poster will be awarded on Saturday 24th.

Don't miss our social gatherings at the end of the day to continue discussions or chat with colleagues and friends. On Wednesday, join us at the Welcome Reception at Belfast City hall. Enjoy the Titanic Museum open to all ESCCA Conference participants on Friday - and don't forget to register for the Conference Dinner, taking place right thereafter! You can still register for the Conference until 15 September.

To download the full programme, [click here](#).

We thank our Sponsors and the City of Belfast – it is their generous support that makes our Conference come alive.

On behalf of the ESCCA Board, the Scientific and Organizing Committee,

Paula Fernandez
ESCCA President



Pre-conference programme

There are still a few places left for the following **pre-conference training courses** on Wednesday morning, 21 September!

Measurable residual disease in MM

Measurable residual disease (MRD) detection during follow-up is one of the aspects currently drawing more attention in multiple myeloma (MM). Growing evidence is being gathered that confirms the clinical relevance of MRD detection, particularly for the most recent high-sensitive methodologies, as they continue to move closer to the routine clinical laboratory. In this course we will review the utility of MRD detection in clinical practice and, deepen our understanding on the Next Generation Flow methodology by gaining first-hand practical experience on data analysis, interpretation and reporting.

Validation and ISO accreditation of FCM assays

This pre-conference course will focus on the new challenges for clinical laboratories in the context of the IVDR requirements with emphasis on assay validation, covering pre-examination, examination and post-examination processes.

AML-MRD

Treatment intensity of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients is based on prognostic risk classification. One of the most important prognostic factors in AML is measurable residual disease (MRD) after intensive chemotherapy and therefore, this is incorporated in clinical practice to allow for selection of appropriate consolidation treatment. Although molecular techniques are available for certain AML entities flow cytometry is currently the most commonly applied test, and is currently applicable for the majority of patients for which there is no molecular MRD assay.

The ELN AML MRD working party recently published the latest technical insights (PMID: 34964040). This forms the starting point of this course. We will then go into further depth, and provide details on the different flow techniques and which facets of the measurements are key for accurate and good quality measurements, such as instrument settings, sample preparation, data analysis and reporting.

There will also be an opportunity to take the **ESCCA European Cytometry Certification Examination** for Cytometry Operators on Wednesday morning. **The application deadline has been extended until 11 September.** For more information and to apply, please visit the [Membership section](#).

Conference programme highlights

The Conference will kick off at 2 pm on Wednesday afternoon 21 September with 2 keynote lectures by Dario Campana (Singapore) on *CAR-T cells and beyond* and Nina Babel (Berlin) on *Monitoring T-cell immunity in COVID-19 – translational studies*.

The day will be concluded by the presentation of the Clinical Cytometry Best Original Paper Award 2021-2022.

The next 2,5 days the programme will continue to offer a varied programme that will no doubt stimulate intellectual discussions!

- *Quiescent immune memory in bone marrow*: Our keynote address this year is delivered by Hyun-Dong Chang (Berlin)
- *Big Technology, Big Data, where and how are we moving?* Andrew Filby (Newcastle) will bring us up to speed! And these are several sessions showcasing and discussing work on big data and on using computational analysis, not least the Saturday session “*Multomics and Artificial intelligence*”.
- Our much asked-for *interactive case presentations* are so popular we have created two sessions, one on Thursday and a second on Saturday, experts Kimberly Gilmore (London), Elaine Sobral da Costa (Rio de Janeiro) and Angèle Kelder (Amsterdam) amongst others, will walk us through some tricky cases...
- Educational tracks to cherry-pick from: Advances in haemato-oncological diseases, Fundamentals in Clinical Flow and Antigen specific immunology in disease
- For those of you who are still relatively new in the field there is a series of sessions you might want to check out: *Flow for Newbies - Intro to basics and pitfalls*; *Lab do's & don'ts*; *On Data Integrity*; *A practical approach to IVDR*; and *Validations in Cytometry*

The scientific program is complemented by presentations from ESCCA's Scientific Industrial Partners and a scientific Corporate Lecture.

At the end of our conference J. Paul Robinson will honour Howard Shapiro in his memorial lecture *No people like flow people*.

Social programme

Welcome Reception on Wednesday, 21 September

Don't miss our social gatherings at the end of the day to continue discussions or chat with colleagues and friends.



On Wednesday, join us at the Welcome Reception at the **Belfast City Hall** in the heart of the city, only 10 minutes' walk away from the ICC. Admire its impressive hall and stairways on your way to the reception hall.

After the Reception explore what Belfast has to offer! The Cathedral Quarter is home to a bustling culture and arts scene, cosy pubs, underground music venues and a host of contemporary restaurants to suit all tastes.

We thank Belfast City Council for their kind generosity for the use of City

Conference Dinner on Friday, 23 September

The Conference Dinner will be held in **Titanic Belfast**, the very place where Titanic was designed, built and launched. The dinner will start with a welcome drink on the top floor with views on the slipway where Titanic was built and from where it was first launched into the water. Then you will enter the dinner hall that will make you reach for your camera's – those who have seen the film, will instantly know why. The dinner will be informal, with food stalls and opportunity to switch tables as you please. After dinner it is time to put on your dancing shoes or star in your own 360 video.

Unique opportunity: Titanic Museum exclusively open to ALL delegates

Thanks to the support of Curiox Biosystem and Slingshot Biosciences, the museum will open their doors exclusively to **ALL** delegates, regardless if they attend the Conference Dinner or not.

You will have all nine interactive galleries of this impressive museum to yourselves. In these galleries you discover the sights, sounds, smells and stories of the ship, as well as the people and city that made her. The journey takes you from boomtown Belfast and the shipyard where the liners were built, to the launch, fit out and maiden voyage, before discovering more about the sinking, aftermath and Titanic's final resting place.

The building itself will also generate a wow-moment – it has the same height as the ship.

Sponsored by:  **CURIQX**  **SLINGSHOT**



[Find out more about the Titanic museum experience](#)

Come and join us in Belfast!

Online registration for the Conference closes on 15 September!

<https://www.escca.eu/escca2022>

EILCP

Have you signed up for our Inter-Laboratory Comparison Programme (EILCP)? It is free for all ESCCA members, and offers interesting haemato-oncology cases for us to analyse and then compare our results with the expert laboratory who contributed the files, and with all other EILCP members (it is anonymous of course!) Cases span all our workload, Diagnosis, AML MRD, ALL MRD, T-ALL MRD, CLL MRD, HCL MRD and high resolution PNH. It is a great scheme for both personal training and to provide evidence of flow data sharing, assisting us in ISO15189 compliance.

Please visit the [ESCCA membership section](#) to download the application form from the EILCP page.

IVDR questions – answers and discussions

We received a question from the Belgian Society of Advanced Cytometry, which is likely to be asked by many of our members; namely, ***what is the definition of a laboratory-developed assay and furthermore, how do we deal with the challenges presented by the new EU CE-IVD regulations?***

These are questions likely to be of interest to most of ESCCA members who work in clinical laboratories, and **our answers and thoughts on these questions can be found on [our website](#).**

Our 2022 main sponsors

Premier sponsors



Join BD and Cytognos at ESCCA!

The acquisition of [Cytognos](#) accelerates the expansion of the BD Biosciences portfolio in blood cancer diagnostics, immune assessment tests and informatics, by addressing the needs of clinicians and care providers to better understand the immune system, immune response and minimal residual disease (MRD). By monitoring for MRD, low levels of cancer cells following treatment can be detected, alerting if the disease is still present or if there is a signal of recurrence. This is a key element of the patient care continuum, helping clinicians in the timely treatment of patients.

[Read the full story!](#)

Come and join us at the BD-sponsored industrial partner presentation:
“Exploring immunodeficiency: current applications and future challenges for flow cytometry”

21st September at 15:00 in Hall 1A

Prof. Catarina Martins

Invited Assistant Professor of Immunology NOVA Medical School (NMS)
Lisbon, Portugal



Beckman Coulter Life Sciences welcomes you to ESCCA 2022 in Belfast. We are excited to meet with you all after three long years apart. During this time, many new innovations have been developed which we would like to share with you during your time in Belfast at ESCCA.

Besides our Clinical flow analyser the DxFLEX, we will show you our new Sample Prep System CellMek SPS and in addition introduce to you our new AQUIOS STEM System. Finally, with our CytoFLEX SRT you can experience how easy cell sorting can be today.

All technologies mentioned here will be accompanied by our ESCCA Industrial Partner Presentation and our "Meet-the-Experts" seminars. See you at our booth.

DxFLEX is not available in all countries. Not available in the US.

CellMek SPS is not available in all countries. Product availability depends on country registration per applicable regulations.

AQUIOS STEM System is not available in all countries. Product availability depends on country registration per applicable regulations.

Platinum sponsors



Sysmex is looking forward to meeting you at the ESCCA 2022

Sysmex is pleased to be attending the ESCCA conference again this year, and we will be presenting our new clinical flow cytometry system. Please also note our Industrial Partner Presentation on Friday, 23.09. at 11:15, '*Discover your automation potential with Sysmex workflow consultancy*' in Hall A1.

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

We are excited to connect with you in person!



METAflow – redefining multidimensional data analysis

Working with multidimensional cytometric data calls for the development of new analytical tools which respect data integrity. METAflow offers an easy-to-use, intuitive interface which reduces training time and makes analysis accessible for all – anywhere, any time. Tailored for both research and clinical applications, METAflow allows any user to explore their data and generate robust results – reducing time to results by up to 80%.

Stop by booth PL2 and attend our ESCCA Industrial Partner Presentation on 21 September to meet Kamila Czechowska who will talk about our innovative tool that will seamlessly walk you through multidimensional data analysis!

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