



# Analytical Method Validation:

## Perspectives from the AAPS Flow Cytometry Action Programming Committee

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*Founder and Chair*

Flow Cytometry Action Program Committee, AAPS

**European Bioanalysis Forum**  
Barcelona, Spain  
**November 20-22, 2013**

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# Presentation Overview

Introduction to AAPS Flow Cytometry Action Programming Committee



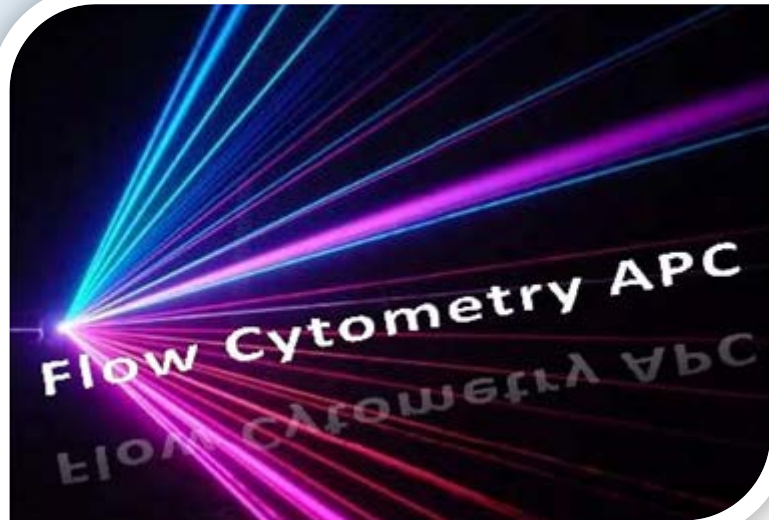
Flow Cytometry Method Validation Perspective from AAPS Flow Cytometry Action Programming Committee



The Path Towards Flow-Specific Guidelines

# Flow Cytometry APC

*AAPS, Bio-Tec Section, Ligand Binding Assay Bioanalytical Focus Group,  
Flow Cytometry Action Program Committee*



## **Mission Statement**

*To promote discussion regarding the proper application of flow cytometry in drug development with an emphasis on establishing best practices regarding assay and instrument validation.*

### **Steering Committee Past and Present**

- **Virginia Litwin**
- **Cherie Green**
- **John Ferbas**
- **Peter O'Brien**
- Lynette Brown
- Sophie Corneau
- Kathy Howell
- Nicholas Jones
- Murli Krishna
- Zhyian (Eric) Lianz
- Thomas McCloskey
- Denise O'Hara
- Manjula Reddy
- John Sloan
- Jennifer Stewart
- Wendy White
- Christopher Wiwi
- Dianna Wu
- Timothy Wyant
- Yuanxin Xu
- Maxime Moulard

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# Programming at AAPS

Hot Topics Session, Annual Meeting 2006

Roundtable Session, NBC Meeting, 2007

Presentation, Fit-for-Purpose Symposium, Annual Meeting 2011

Symposium Session –Intracellular Signaling by Flow Cytometry, Annual Meeting 2012

Symposium Session –Receptor Occupancy Flow Cytometry, AAPS NBC 2013

Roundtable Session–Validation for Regulatory Environments AAPS NBC 2014

# Programming at CYTO 2013

## ***ISAC CYTO 2013 Innovation, Discovery, Translation San Diego, CA May 19-22, 2013***

Workshop: Navigating the Labyrinth of Regulated Flow Cytometry in Drug Development

Workshop: Design and application of receptor occupancy assays used to measure pharmacodynamic response to treatment with biologic

<http://www.isac-net.org/>

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# Presentations at the FDA

## ***Public Workshop - Clinical Flow Cytometry in Hematologic Malignancies, February 25-26, 2013***

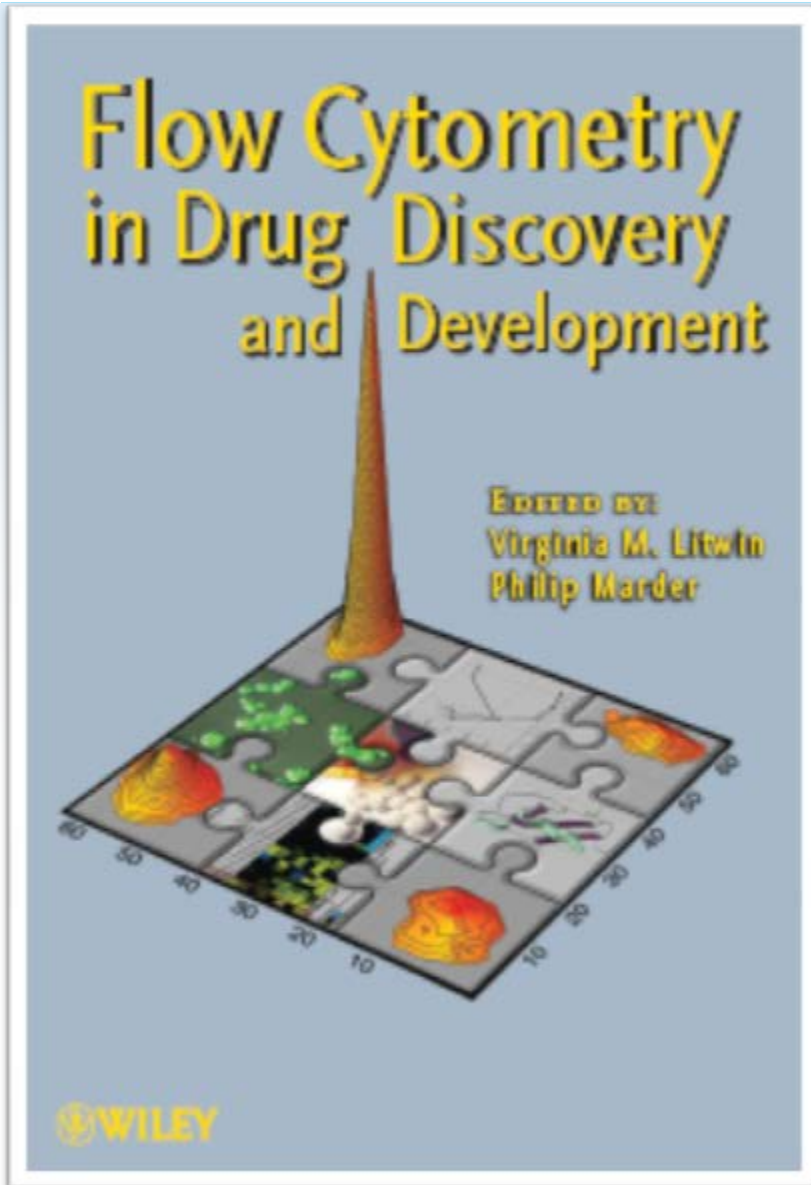
### **The Role of Biomarkers in Clinical Trials and The Fit-for-Purpose Method Validation Approach**

*Virginia Litwin, Covance and Cherie Green, Amgen*

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/NewsEvents/WorkshopsConferences/ucm334772.htm>



# Publications



Litwin, V., and Andahazy, J.  
A Translational Medicine Approach to Monitoring  
the Immune System during Clinical Trials

O'Hara, D.M., and Theobald, V.  
Immunogenicity Testing Using Flow Cytometry

Xu, Y., and Richards, S.M.  
Pharmacokinetics by Flow Cytometry -  
Recommendations for Development and Validation  
of Flow Cytometric Method for Pharmacokinetic  
Studies

Hill, C., Wu, D., Ferbas, J., Litwin, V., and Reddy, M.  
Regulatory Compliance and Method Validation

Ferbas, J., and Schroeder, M.  
Instrument Validation for Regulated Studies

# Publications



## Special Issue: Flow Cytometry-base Biomarkers in Translational Medicine and Drug Development

Litwin, V., and O'Gorman, MRG.  
Flow Cytometry-based Biomarkers in Translational Medicine and Drug Development.  
JIM, 363:101-102, 2011.

Green, C., Brown, L., Stewart, J., Litwin, V., and McClosky, T.  
Recommendations for the Validation of Flow Cytometric Testing During Drug Development: I Instruments.  
JIM, 363:104-119, 2011.

O'Hara, D., Xu, Y. Lianz, E., Reddy, M., Wu, D., and Litwin, V.  
**Recommendations for the Validation of Flow Cytometric Testing During Drug Development: II Assays.**  
JIM, 363:120-134, 2011.



# Webinars



The image shows a screenshot of the AAPS website. At the top, there is a banner with the AAPS 25th anniversary logo and the tagline "DEVELOPING SCIENCE. IMPACTING HEALTH." Below the banner is a navigation menu with the following items: About AAPS, Membership & Volunteers, Meetings & Professional Development, Publications, Scientific Center, News, and Business with AAPS. Below the navigation menu is a green bar with the text "Meetings & Professional Development". Below this bar, there are two webinar listings:

**Introduction to Flow Cytometry**  
November 7, 2011; 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM EST

**Flow Cytometry Validation for Drug Development: Instruments and Methods**  
December 5, 1022; 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM EST

[http://www.aaps.org/Meetings\\_and\\_Professional\\_Development/eLearning\\_Repository](http://www.aaps.org/Meetings_and_Professional_Development/eLearning_Repository)

# Presentation Overview

Introduction to AAPS Flow Cytometry APC

Flow Cytometry Method Validation Perspective from AAPS Flow Cytometry APC

The Path Towards Flow-Specific Guidelines



# Fit-for-Purpose Approach in Flow Cytometry



## Research paper

Recommendations for the validation of flow cytometric testing during drug development: I instrumentation

*Cherie L. Green<sup>a,\*</sup>, Lynette Brown<sup>b</sup>, Jennifer J. Stewart<sup>b</sup>, Yuanxin Xu<sup>c</sup>, Virginia Litwin<sup>d</sup>, Thomas W. McCloskey<sup>e</sup>*

Recommendations for the validation of flow cytometric testing during drug development: II assays

*Denise M. O'Hara<sup>a</sup>, Yuanxin Xu<sup>b</sup>, Zhiyan Liang<sup>c</sup>, Manjula P. Reddy<sup>d</sup>, Dianna Y. Wu<sup>e</sup>, Virginia Litwin<sup>f,\*</sup>*

JIM, 363:104-119, 2011

JIM, 363:120-134, 2011

The Role of Biomarkers in Clinical Trials and The Fit-for-Purpose Method Validation Approach, V. Litwin and C. Green  
<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/NewsEvents/WorkshopsConferences/ucm334772.htm>

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# Fit-for-Purpose Method Validation

## WHO

Lee, et al. Pharm. Res.  
22:499, 2005

AAPS, Bio-Tec Section, Ligand  
Binding Assay Bioanalytical  
Focus

## WHY

Usage of biomarker data  
was impeded by a lack of  
understanding on how to  
interpret the data

Application of existing  
validation paradigms to were  
not appropriate to biomarker  
research

Can't apply one set of rules  
to all technologies

# Fit-For-Purpose Method Validation



## Fit

Biomarker data must be reliable and accurate data

## Purpose

Decision making during drug development

## Fit-for-Purpose

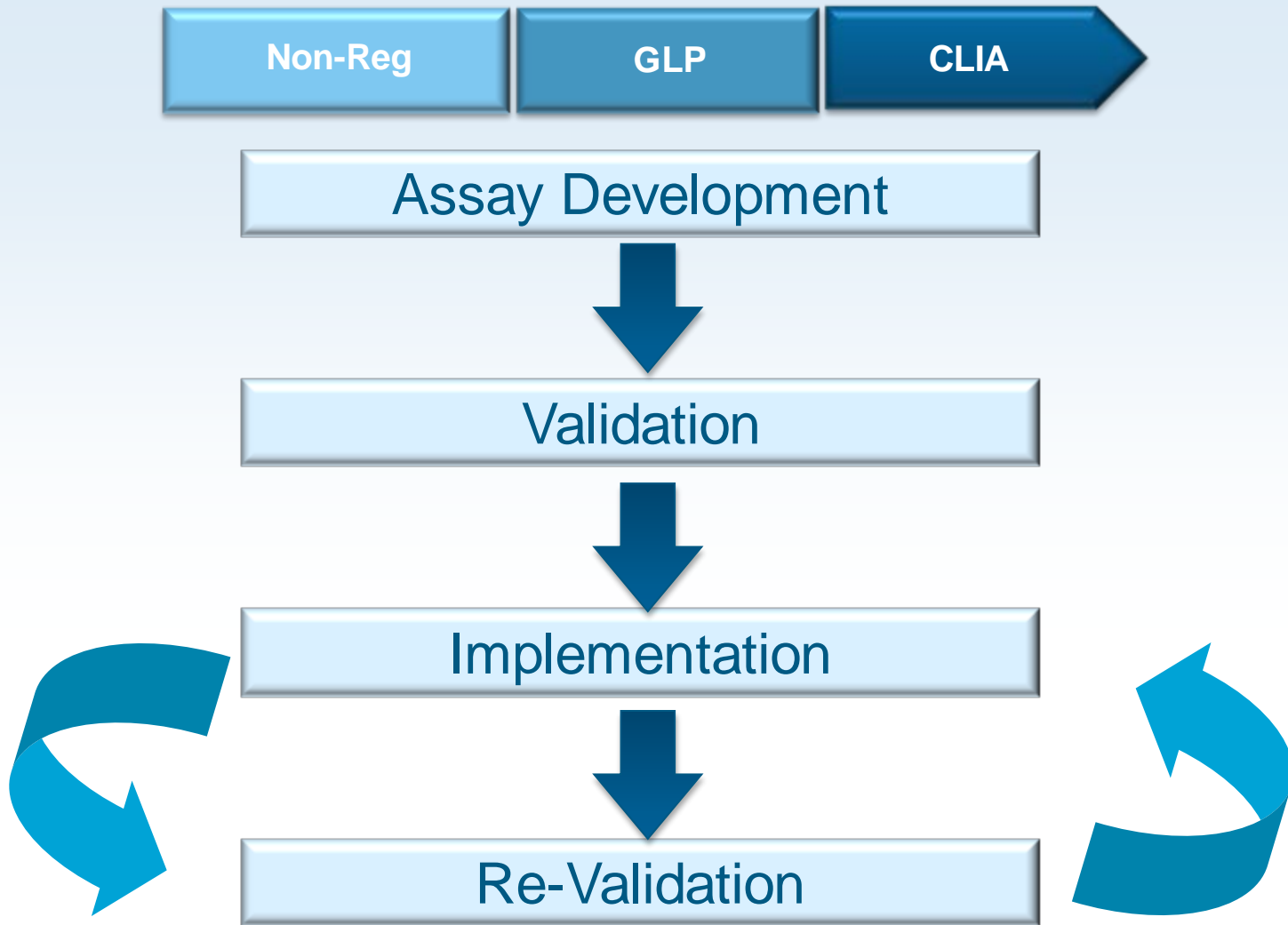
Analytical validation requirements are specific to the stage of drug development

Consideration to the **intended use** of the biomarker data

Consideration to the regulatory requirements associated with that use

Practical, iterative approach

# Iterative Approach



# Fit-for-Purpose Approach in Flow Cytometry

## Why

Flow cytometric methods can be more challenging to validate than other technologies

## Analytical Issues

- Cellular measurands
- **Lack of cellular reference material**
- Highly complex reagents
  - mAb, fluorescent tags, tandem dyes
- Highly complex instrumentation

# Validation Considerations Flow Cytometry

## Methodology

- Flow Cytometry

## Sample Type

- Whole blood, bone marrow, other
- Isolated cells, PBMC, tissue, cell lines

## Data Type

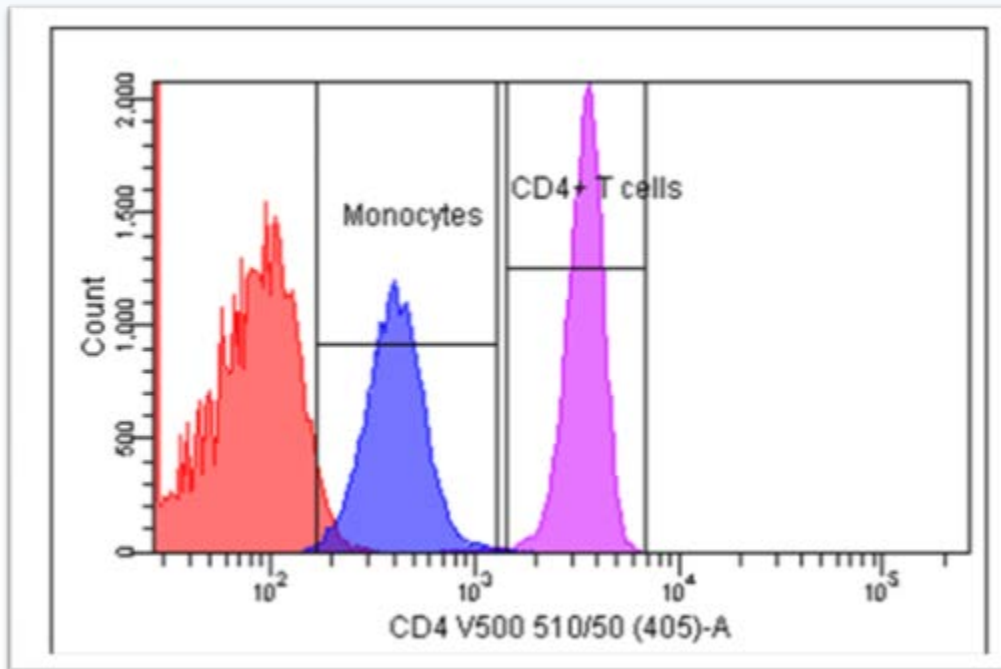
- Bioanalytical Category
- Assay format/readout



# Bioanalytical Category

## Quasi-Quantitative

- Quasi--Possess certain attributes
- Results are numeric and expressed in terms of a characteristic of the test sample
- No reference standard



# Readout/Assay Complexity

## Surface phenotyping

- Simple/complex
- Quantitative antigen expression

## Intracellular

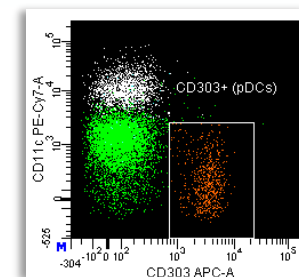
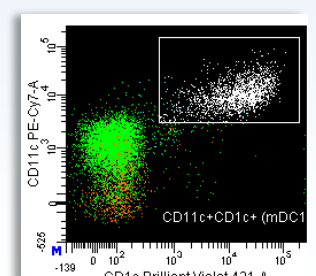
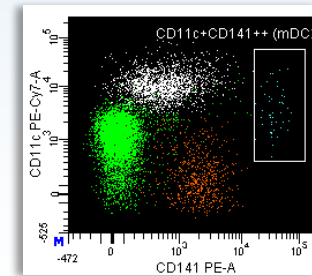
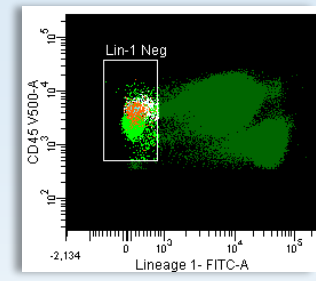
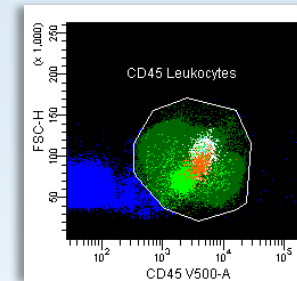
- Cytokines
- Nuclear proteins
- Phosphorylated antigen detection

## Neutralizing or Anti-drug Antibody

## Receptor Occupancy

## Nucleic acid detection

- Cell cycle
- Apoptosis



# Validation Stringency & Regulatory Requirements

Non-regulated, GLP, CLIA, GMP

Establish the intended use of the data

- Exploratory biomarker
- PD biomarker
- Safety
- Enrollment biomarker
- Companion Diagnostic



# Validation Parameters

## Achievable in Flow Cytometry Validations?

### Always

- **Specificity**
- Precision/Robustness
- Sensitivity
  - Limit of Detection
  - Limit of Quantitation
- Stability
- Reference Intervals

### Sometimes

- Linearity
- Standard Calibrators

### No

- **Accuracy**
- Selectivity
- Range of Quantification
- Incurred Sample Reanalysis
- Interference (Matrix, Drug)
- Normal Signal Distribution
- Prozone Effect

# Flow Biomarker Assay

## B cell Panel-4 Configuration

	FL1	FL2	FL3	FL4	FL5	FL6	FL7	FL8
	BV421	V500	FITC	PE	PerCP-Cy5.5	PE-Cy7	APC	APC-H7
Gating Control	CD19	CD3/CD14/ CD56			CD20			CD45
EXP1	CD19	CD3/CD14/ CD56	IgD	CD27	CD20		CD69	CD45
EXP2	CD19	CD3/CD14/ CD56	CD138	CD24	CD20	CD38		CD45
EXP3	CD19	CD3/CD14/ CD56	IgD	CD27	CD20		CD10	CD45

# Flow Biomarker Assay

Reportable Results	
Population	Phenotype
CD19 B cells	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19+
CD20 B cells	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD20+
Activated B cells	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19+, CD20+, CD69+
Naïve B cells	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19+, CD20+, CD27-
Memory B cells	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19+, CD20+, CD27+
Short-lived plasma cells	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19dim, CD20-, CD27bright
Breg	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19+, CD24bright, CD38bright
Plasma cells	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19dim, CD20-, CD138+
Plasmacytoid	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD20+, CD138+
Transitional	CD45bright, SSClow, CD3-, CD14-, CD56-, CD19+, IgD+, CD10+, CD27-

# Specificity

## Assay Development

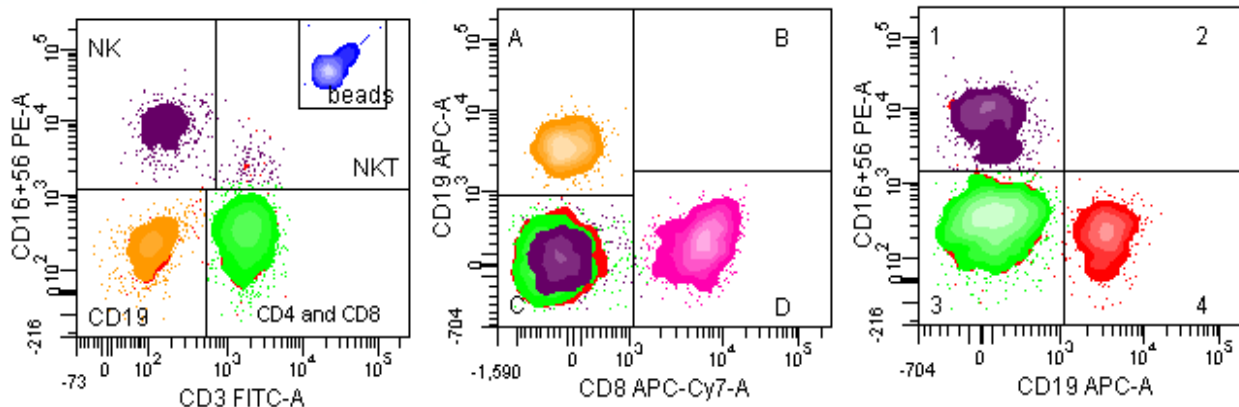
- Fluorochrome selection
  - Most abundant antigens in dimmer fluorochromes
  - Antigens-of-interest in brighter fluorochromes
  - Population auto-fluorescence and spectral overlap from all fluorochromes must also be considered
- Clone evaluation
- Reagent titration
- Matrix- cell lines, whole blood, PBMC
- Lysis, fixation, permeablization buffer selection
- Acquisition and analysis templates/gating strategy



# Specificity

## Assay Development

- CD Marker Selection
  - CD markers used to define the cellular population or antigens of interest must be justified from the literature
  - Monoclonal antibody specificity should be verified by the Leucocyte Differentiation Antigens Workshops or peer reviewed publication
  - Gating strategies must be verified to establish the cell subset of interest is included while other cell subsets and non-specific events are excluded





# Specificity

## Clone Evaluation

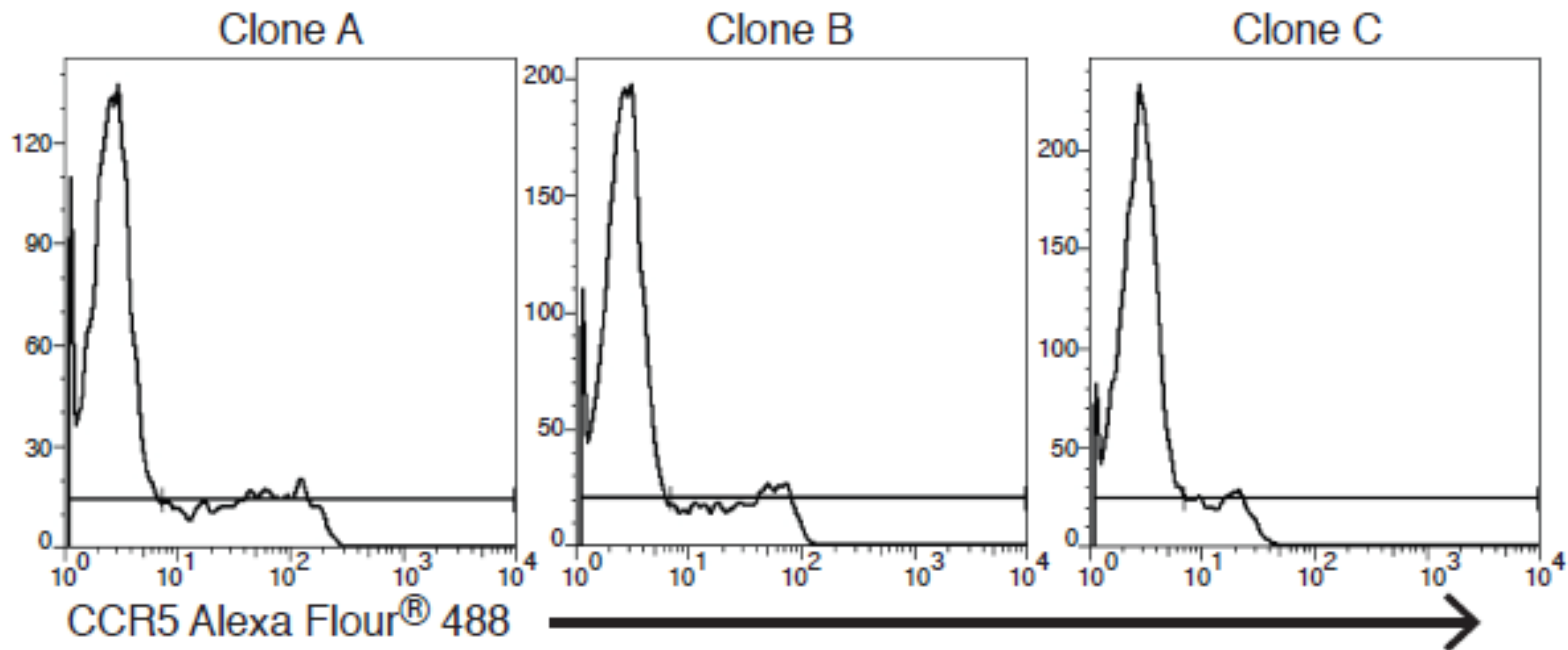


Figure courtesy of Anagha Divekar, BioLegend

# Specificity

## Fluorochrome Evaluation

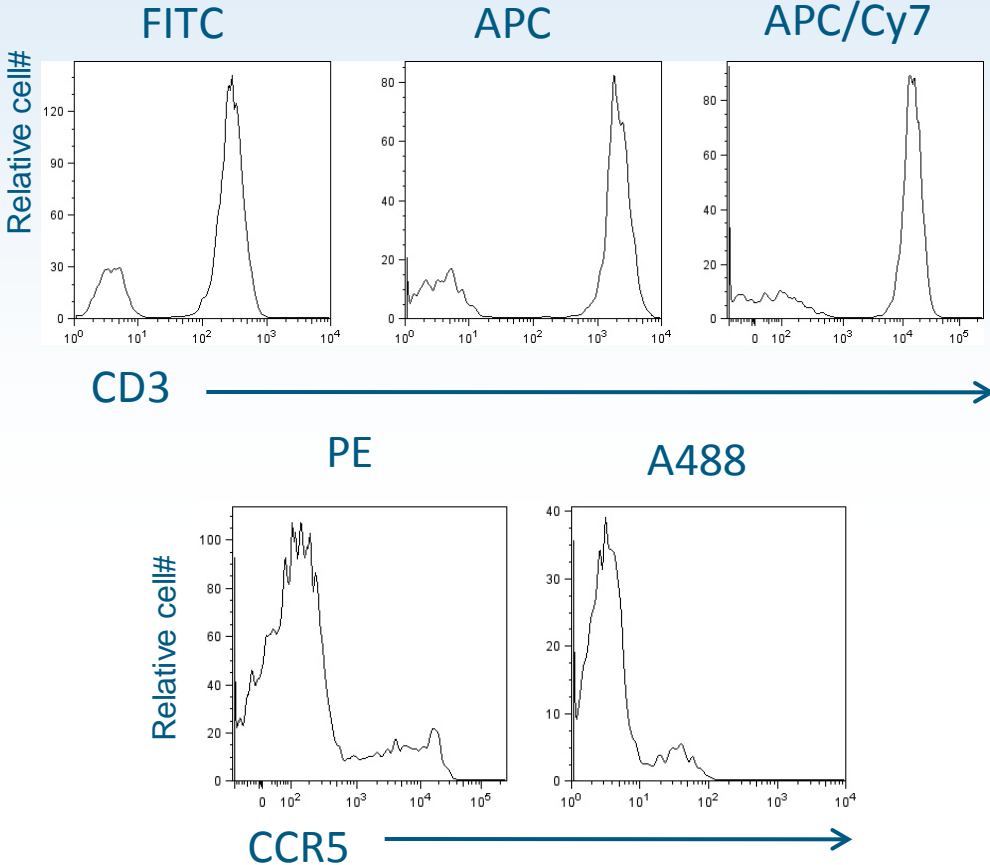


Figure courtesy of Anagha Divekar, BioLegend



# Accuracy

## Standard Definition

- Closeness of the result compared to the true value of the analyte

## GLP

- Determined by the mean bias determined in spiked recovery experiments

## CAP/CLIA

- Comparison to “gold standard” method
- Measured concentrations in an official reference sample
- Measuring a concentration in comparison to an official standard

# Accuracy for Flow Biomarker Assays

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## IVD

- Proficiency Testing Surveys are available
- QC material with target values are available
- Inter-laboratory comparison

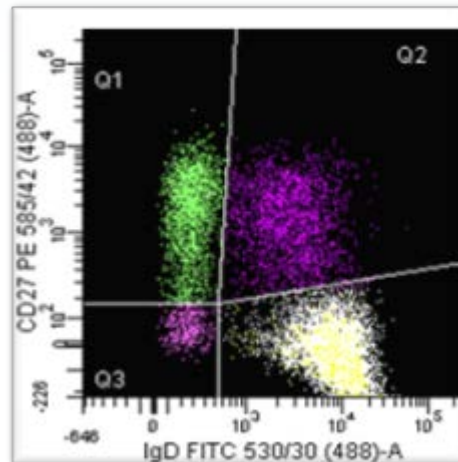
## RUO/LDT

- Lack of proficiency testing programs
- Lack of cellular reference/QC material with target values for the populations of interest
- For novel or proprietary methods, sample exchange is not possible

# Precision for Flow Biomarker Assays

## Precision

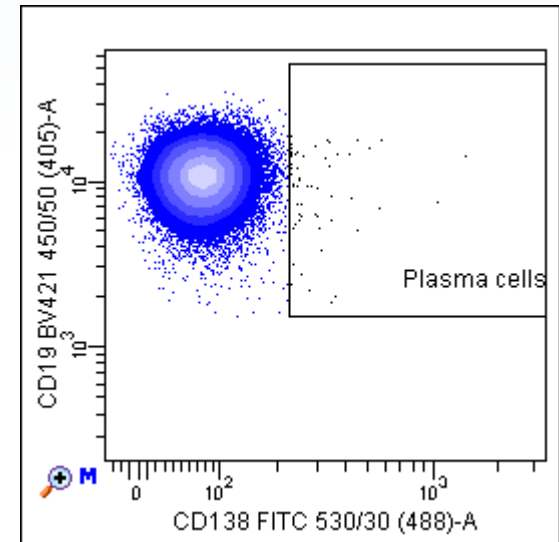
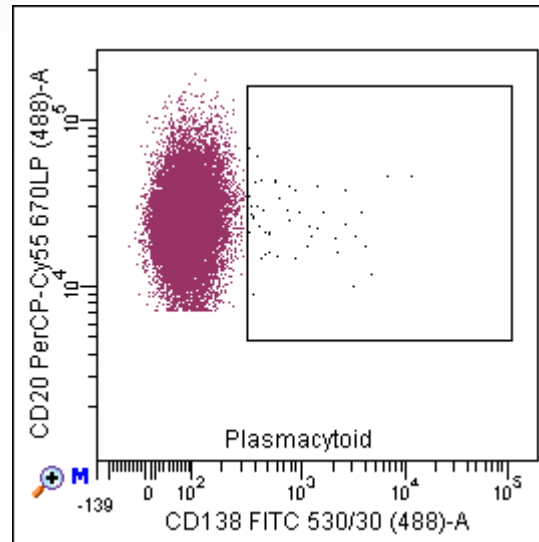
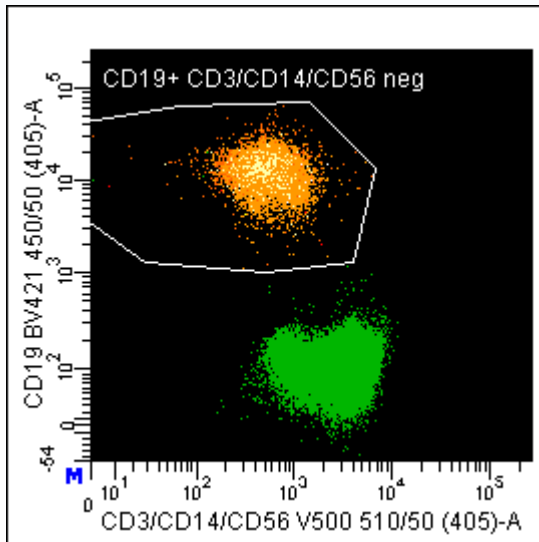
- Difficult to find samples with varying levels of each reportable result
- Weighted importance for biomarker data
  - Intended use of the data
  - Longitudinal, multicenter studies
  - Monitor responses due to treatment



# Precision for Flow Biomarker Assays

## Acceptance Criterion

- <10 %CV desirable for all methods
- <20-25 %CV acceptable for immunoassays per Fit-for-Purpose paper
- <30 %CV may be acceptable for rare event detection use as exploratory biomarkers
  - With poor precision, more replicates and samples are required  
**(iterative approach!)**



# Sensitivity

## Standard Definition

- The lowest reportable result

## GLP

- Lower limit of quantification (LLOQ) as the lowest concentration that can be measured with acceptable accuracy and precision (e.g.,  $\pm 20\%$  CV)

## CAP/CLIA

- Response above the limit of detection (LOD)

# Sensitivity for Flow Biomarker Assays

## Lower Limit of Detection (LOD)

- FMO controls

<b>Gating Control</b>	<b>CD19</b>	<b>CD3/CD14 /CD56</b>			<b>CD20</b>			<b>CD45</b>
<b>EXP1</b>	<b>CD19</b>	<b>CD3/CD14 /CD56</b>	<b>IgD</b>	<b>CD27</b>	<b>CD20</b>		<b>CD69</b>	<b>CD45</b>

## Lower Limit of Quantitation (LLOQ)

- Difficult to find samples
- Mix stained and unstained samples
- Targeted cell depletion followed by re-spiking

## Weighted importance for biomarker data

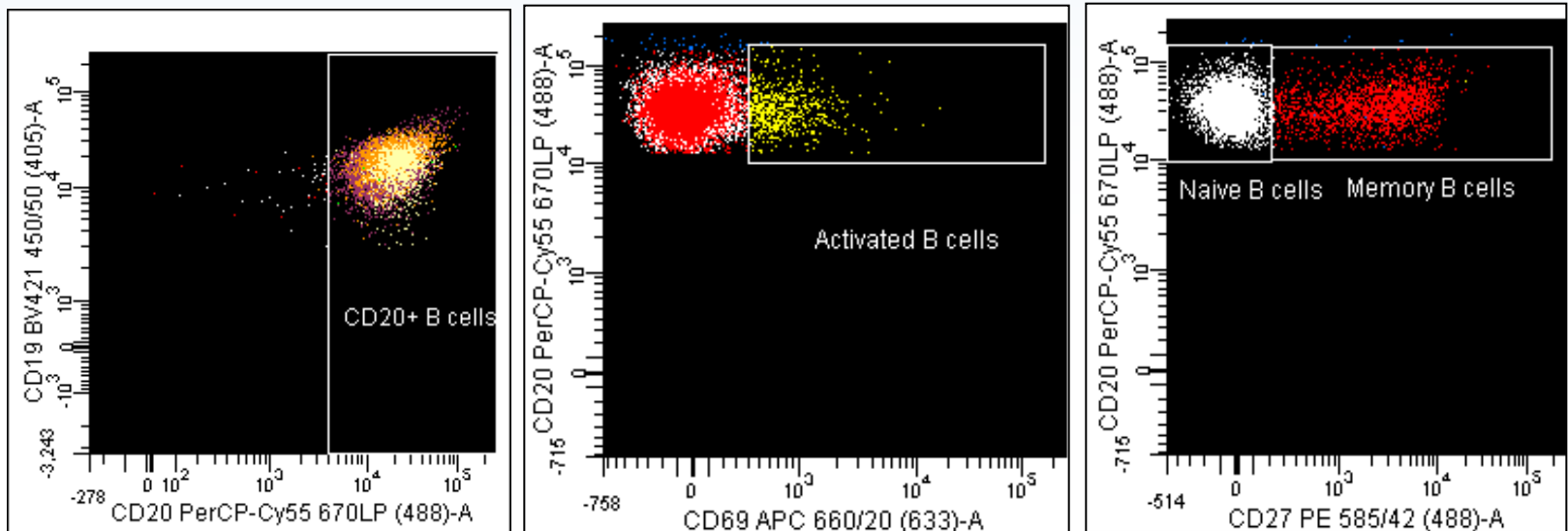
- Need to know at what point are the results are imprecise



# Reference Intervals for Flow Biomarker Assays

## Reference Intervals

- Not required for first usage exploratory biomarkers, PD biomarkers
- Required for safety, diagnostic/disease biomarkers or companion diagnostics (**iterative approach!**)



# Presentation Overview

Introduction to AAPS Flow Cytometry APC

Flow Cytometry APC Method Perspective

The Path Towards Flow Cytometry-Specific Validation Guidelines



# Path Towards Flow-Specific Guidelines

## Three Important First Steps

### 2011

- AAPS
- Recommendations for the Validation of Flow Cytometric Testing During Drug Development: II Assays (JIM 363:120, 2011).

### 2011 - 2013

- International Council for Standardization in Haematology ICSH/ International Clinical Cytometry Society ICCS Workgroup
- Cytometry Part B: Clinical Cytometry- Special Issue: Validation of Cell Based Fluorescence Assays: Practice Guideline
- <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cyto.b.v84.5/issuetoc>

### 2013

- FDA Public Workshop - Clinical Flow Cytometry
  - [www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/NewsEvents/WorkshopsConferences/ucm334772.htm](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/NewsEvents/WorkshopsConferences/ucm334772.htm)

# ICSH/ICCS Workgroup

## Two day Think-tank

- Dedham, Maine, March, 2011

## Chairs

- Bruce H. Davis (ICSH; CLSI)
- Brent Wood (ICCS/ICSH)
- David Barnett (UK NEQAS)
- Teri Oldaker (ICCS)

## Participants

- 36 international experts
- 10 observers of corporate sponsors
- Experience in the development and/or standardization of cell-based fluorescence assays
- USA, UK, France, Spain, Canada, Germany, S Korea, China, Japan, The Netherlands, Australia

## Stakeholders

- ICSH, ICCS, NEQAS, CLSI, EuroFlow, AAPS, FDA, flow diagnostic companies, reference labs

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# ICSH/ICCS Workgroup

## Why

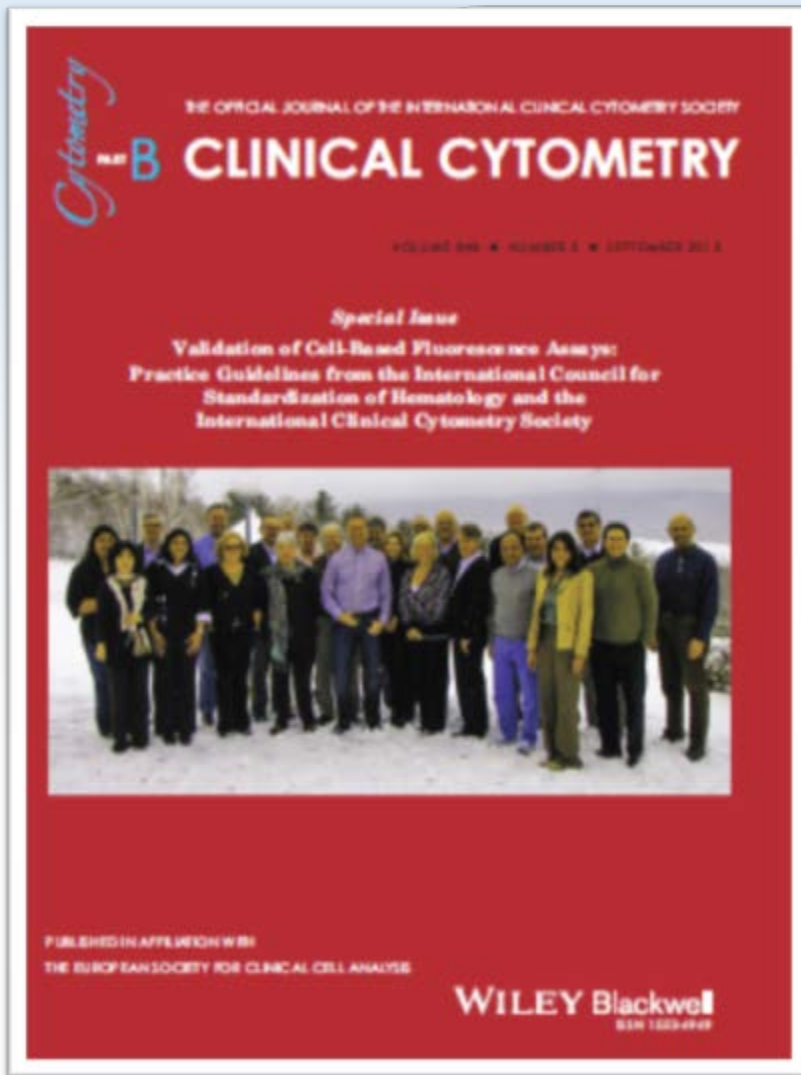
### **Controversy and confusion about regulation of laboratory-developed tests (LDT) in diagnostic laboratories in the USA**

- Testing in diagnostic laboratories is regulated by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Approval for In Vitro Diagnostic Tests is regulated by the FDA
- In 2009, the College of American Pathologists (CAP) recommended that FDA play a role in the oversight of LDT

### **The FDA has not issued guidance documents regarding LDT**

- Most current guidance documents were designed for clinical chemistry methods
- There is a need for flow-specific guidelines
- Flow-specific guidelines should be prepared by flow experts

# ICSH/ICCS Workgroup Deliverables



Cytometry Part B: Clinical Cytometry- Special Issue: Validation of Cell Based Fluorescence Assays: Practice Guideline

Submit to FDA for consideration as official guidance document for IVD submissions

# ICSH/ICCS Guidance Document

Broad, expert -driven guidelines to address the uniqueness of cell based assay validations

## Pre-analytical Considerations

Sample storage, stability, transport

Cell counts, viability and use of morphology as needed

## Analytical Performance

Optimization/validation of instrument, sample prep, antibody/reagents, compensation and data analysis

## Performance Characteristics

Validation samples

Detailed criteria to assess required performance specifications

## Post-analytical Considerations

Resulting categories, data and sample storage

Internal and external quality assurance

# FDA Public Workshop - Clinical Flow Cytometry

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

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Radiation-Emitting Products

Home > Medical Devices > News & Events (Medical Devices) > Workshops & Conferences (Medical Devices)

### News & Events (Medical Devices)

Workshops & Conferences (Medical Devices)

Past Workshops & Conferences

## Public Workshop on Clinical Flow Cytometry in Hematologic Malignancies, February 25-26, 2013.

*The purpose of this public workshop is to seek input from academia, Government, laboratorians, industry, clinicians, patients and other stakeholders on the role of clinical flow cytometry in hematologic malignancies, in order to develop a specific regulatory policy for this class of in vitro diagnostic devices.*

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# FDA Public Workshop - Clinical Flow Cytometry

## Why

- Address lack of biologic controls in hematologic malignancy testing
- Address minimal residual disease
  - Use as a surrogate marker in clinical trials
  - Discuss consensus methods

# FDA Public Workshop - Clinical Flow Cytometry

## Agenda

### **Session 1: Analytical Challenges in Standardization and Validation of FCM**

- Joint NIST ISAC Standardization Framework for Quantitative Flow Cytometry, Lili Wang, PhD
- NIAID NIH Nature Protocol for Quality Assurance for Multicolor FCM Using a Suite of Calibration Beads, Steven Perfetto, MS MT (ASCP)
- Multicolor Bead Flow Cytometry Standardization, Heba Degheidy, MD, PhD and Fatima Abbasi, MPH
- NEQAS Proficiency Testing in Acute and Chronic Leukemias, David Barnett, PhD
- College of American Pathologists (CAP) Protocol and Survey Results, Eric Hsi, MD

# FDA Public Workshop - Clinical Flow Cytometry

## Agenda

### **Session 2: Transitioning from Analytical to Clinical QC in FCM**

- The Role of Biomarkers in Clinical Trials and the Fit-for-Purpose Method Validation Approach, Virginia Litwin, PhD and Cherie Green, BS
- ICCS White Paper Validation of Fluorescent Cell Based Assays, Teri Oldaker, MLS, (ASCP), QCYM
- An Overview of CLL/BLPD and Maryalice Stetler-Stevenson, MD, PhD

# FDA Public Workshop - Clinical Flow Cytometry

## Agenda

### **Session 3: Clinical Diagnostic Flow Cytometry**

- The Bethesda Conference (US Perspective), Brent Wood, MD, PhD
- Euroflow: Standardization, Monoclonal Antibody Selection and Panel Configuration, Tomas Kalina, MD, PhD
- Different Approaches to Harmonisation and Standardisation - Experience from ERIC, EMN, Euroflow and ESCCA, Andy C. Rawstron, PhD
- A Model for Harmonizing Flow Cytometry in Clinical Trials, Phillip McCoy, PhD

### **Session 4: Flow Cytometry Data Analysis Software**

- Perspective on Software Pitfalls and Challenges, Brent Wood, MD, PhD

# Summary

Currently a lack of guidelines for the validation of flow cytometric methods for use in:

- Drug discovery
- Drug development and clinical trial
- In vitro diagnostic
- Patient care and monitoring
- Companion Diagnostics

Different groups are pushing for guidelines

- FDA, ICCS, ICSH, AAPS

Regardless of the intended use of the data flow cytometric methods must be:

- Designed using state-of-the-art concepts
- Be validated as appropriate to the intended use of the data
- Include rigorous instrument standardization and monitoring