

**New England Cytometry**

Fall Meeting

October 27, 2022

**The history of flow cytometry  
from early pioneers  
to modern high performance systems**

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Slides are taken from many different sources to reflect the technologies at their time.

Sources are shown, when they were available.

The selection of the material is influenced by what was available to me, and by how I experienced the developments during my professional activities in the field from 1980 to the present.

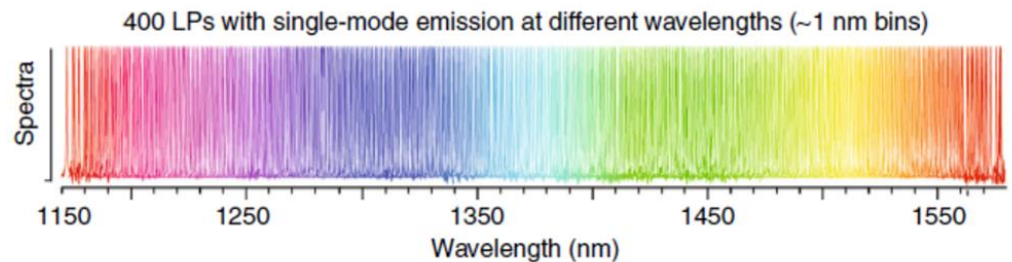
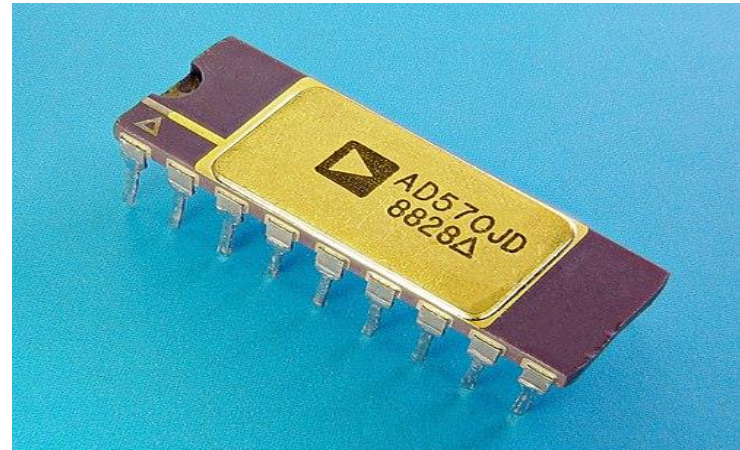
A detailed history of cytometry has been published by Howard Shapiro in 2004 in Cytometry 58A: 13-20 titled “The Evolution of Cytometers”

I have been spending most of my career with BD Biosciences, and at present I perform limited professional advice services for several companies outside of BD Biosciences.

Diether  
Recktenwald  
October 2022

# Essential Technologies

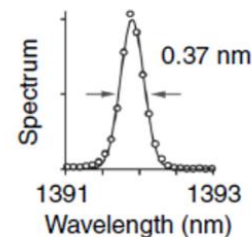
- Optics (Microscopy)
- Light sources  
detectors
- Analog and digital  
electronics
- Software &  
algorithms
- Affinity reagents
- Labels



Laser particle (LP)



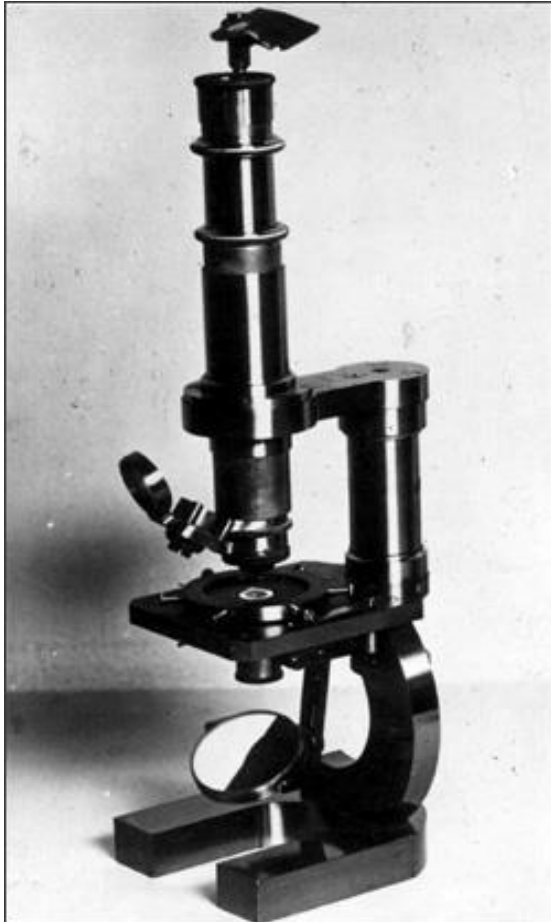
1  $\mu\text{m}$



Laser Particles as Labels  
for Cell Analysis  
Kwok S.J.J. et al (2019)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41377-019-0183-5>

# Early History



- 1665 – English physicist, Robert Hooke used a microscope lens to observe “pores” in cork
- 1674 – Anton van Leeuwenhoek built a simple microscope with only one lens to examine blood cells
- 1872 – Ernst Abbe calculated the maximum resolution in microscopes
- 1930 – L.A. Kubetsky invented the PMT in Russia
- 1932 – Frits Zernike invented the phase-contrast microscope (label-free observations)
- 1969 – Willard Boyle and George E. Smith at Bell laboratories invented the CCD
- 1960 – Theodore Maiman developed the first working laser at Hughes Research Lab
- 1971 – Intel launches 4-bit 4004 microprocessor

# Persistent Supporters from Two Large Companies



Wallace H. Coulter  
1913-1998

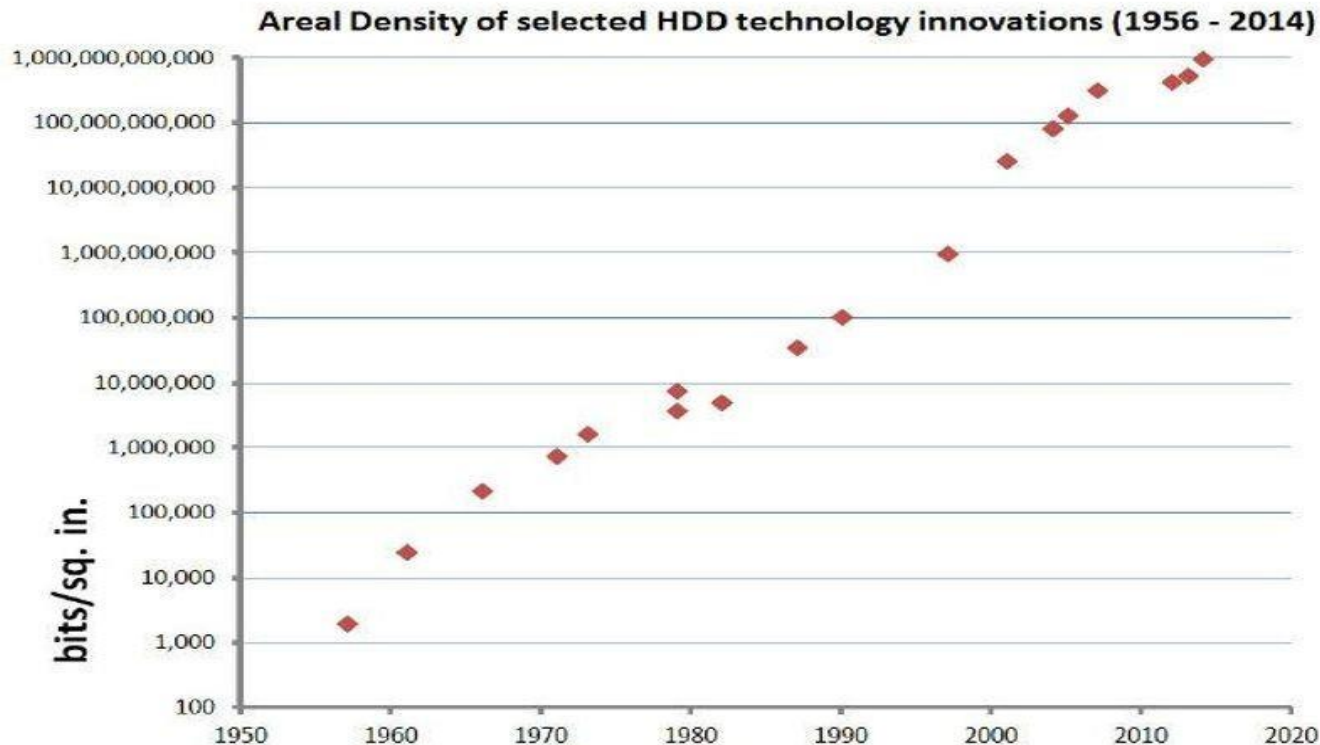
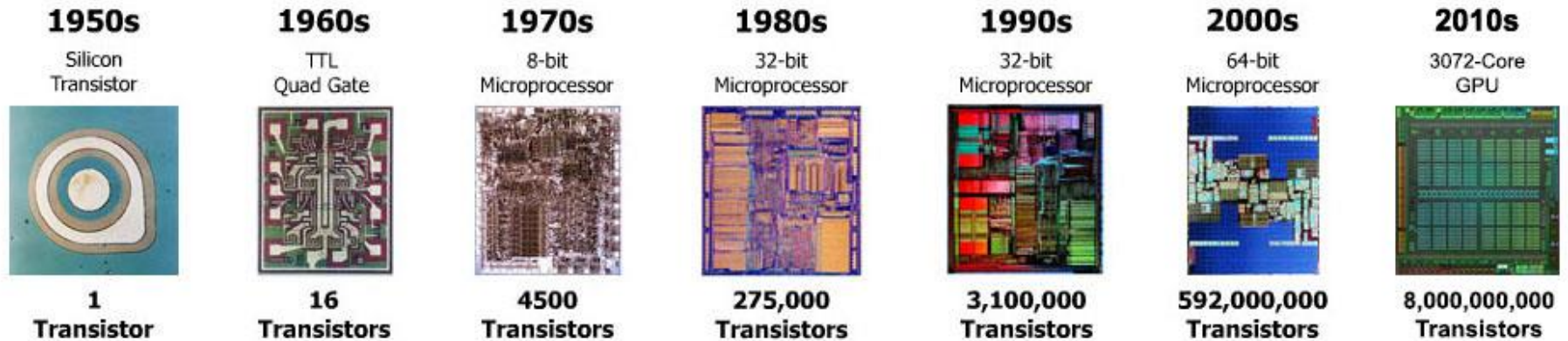
Joseph R. Coulter, Jr.  
1924-1995

BEC now Danaher

BDX



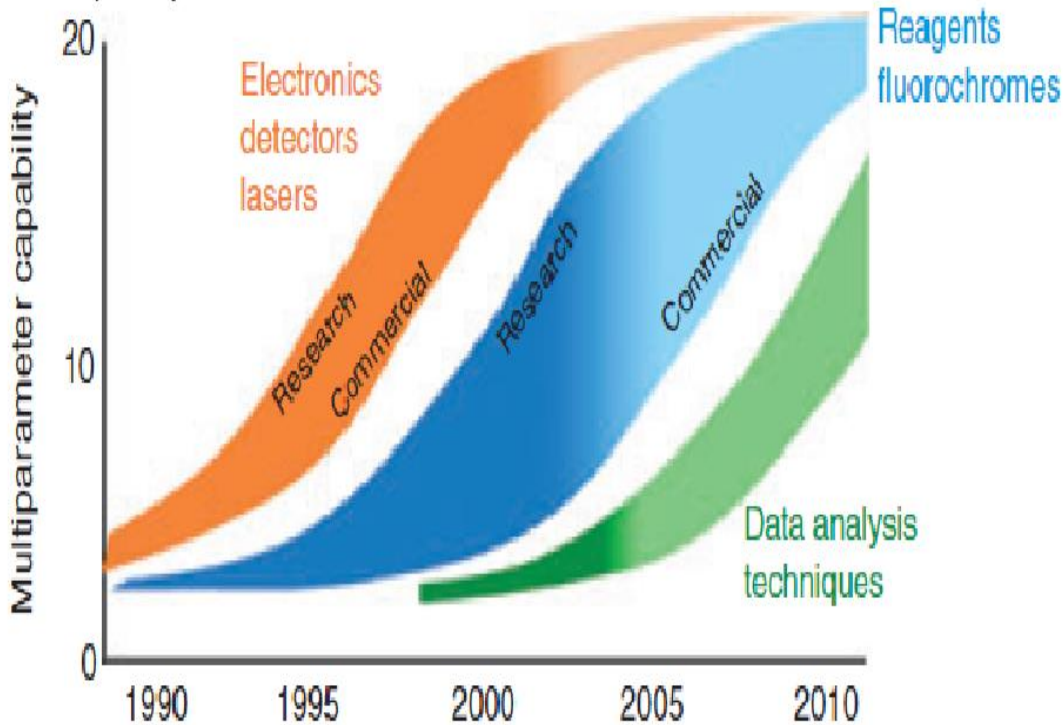
# Computing Performance





# Technology Development History

ChattopadhyayPK2008



**Today, October 2022:**

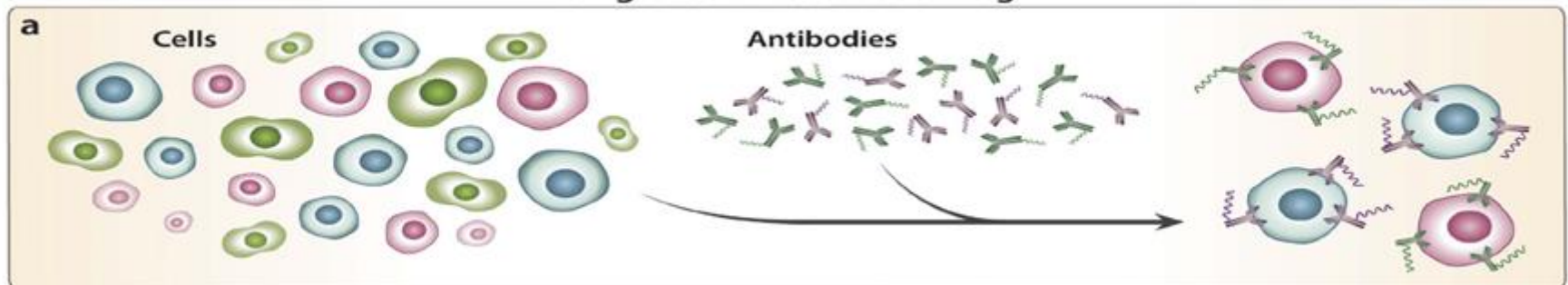
Instrumentation 100

Fluorochromes 70

NA barcoding 100s

Data analysis 100s

## Single-Cell Protein Profiling



Shahi P et al. (2017) Abseq; DOI: 10.1038/srep44447

# Academic Innovators

Wolfgang Goehde, ICP22

Len Herzenberg, Wayne Moore, Dave Parks, FACS™

Klaus Rajewski, Andreas Radbruch, 1<sup>st</sup> European FACS™, MACS™

Joel Gray, Brian Mayall, Phil Dean, chromosome sorting

Gary Salzmänn, Jim Jett, John Nolan, early software, single molecule detection

Steven W. Graves, Gregory Kaduchak, “acoustic cytometer”

Joe Trotter, WinMDI

Alexander Glazer & Lubert Stryer, Barbara Prezelin, algae pigments & tandems

Roger Tsien, fluorescent proteins

Paul Alivisatos, qDots

Paul Robinson, full spectrum flow cytometry

Alan J Heeger, PI-coupled fluorescent polymers

Bahram Jalali, Eric Diebold, high speed imaging flow cytometer/sorter

Flow cytometry group leaders, system improvements & voice of the customer





# Industrial Innovators

L.A. Kamentsky, M.R. Melamed, H. Derman, spectrometer for ultra-rapid cell analysis  
Howard Shapiro, multibeam flow cytometer, low cost system, the BOOK  
Mack Fulwyler, Dick Sweet, Bernie Shoor, industrial FACS™ cell sorter  
Bob Auer, Yong Chen, Coulter flow cytometry product line  
Chia Huei Chen, John Kimura, commercial algae pigment conjugates  
Linda Lee, small molecule DNA/RNA dyes  
Rosaria & Dick Haugland, many new fluorescent dyes  
Ger van den Engh, William Stokdjik, innovative electronics  
Bob Hoffman, Joe Trotter, BD cytometry product innovation  
Bruce Bagwell, innovative algorithms for cytometry  
Morgan Conrad, Pierre Bierre, algorithms for cytometry  
Collin Rich, Nathan Bair, simplified portable cytometer  
Masataka Shinoda, Motohiro Furuki, Masanobu Yamamoto, SONY cytometers  
Ming Yan, Wenbin Jiang, Eric Chase, advanced full spectrum cytometry

1964 Kamentsky Sorter



BEC web-  
site 2013

# Particle Technology

## Particle Technology Inc. - COULTER -1971

Fulwyler began consulting for Coulter in the late 1960's. Spinning out LASL FCM and Particle manufacturing technologies.

In 1971, Mack Fulwyler resigned from LASL and established PTI as a Coulter subsidiary company

1976 PTI dissolved, technology transferred to Florida



Epics II 1975, Designed by Mack Fulwyler and Jim Corell  
Delivered to NCI/NIH

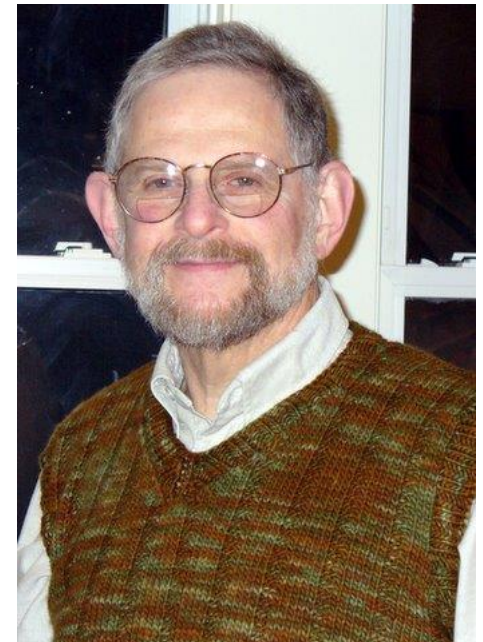


TPS 1974 - 1979, Designed by Bob Auer

# Multi-beam Flow Cytometers

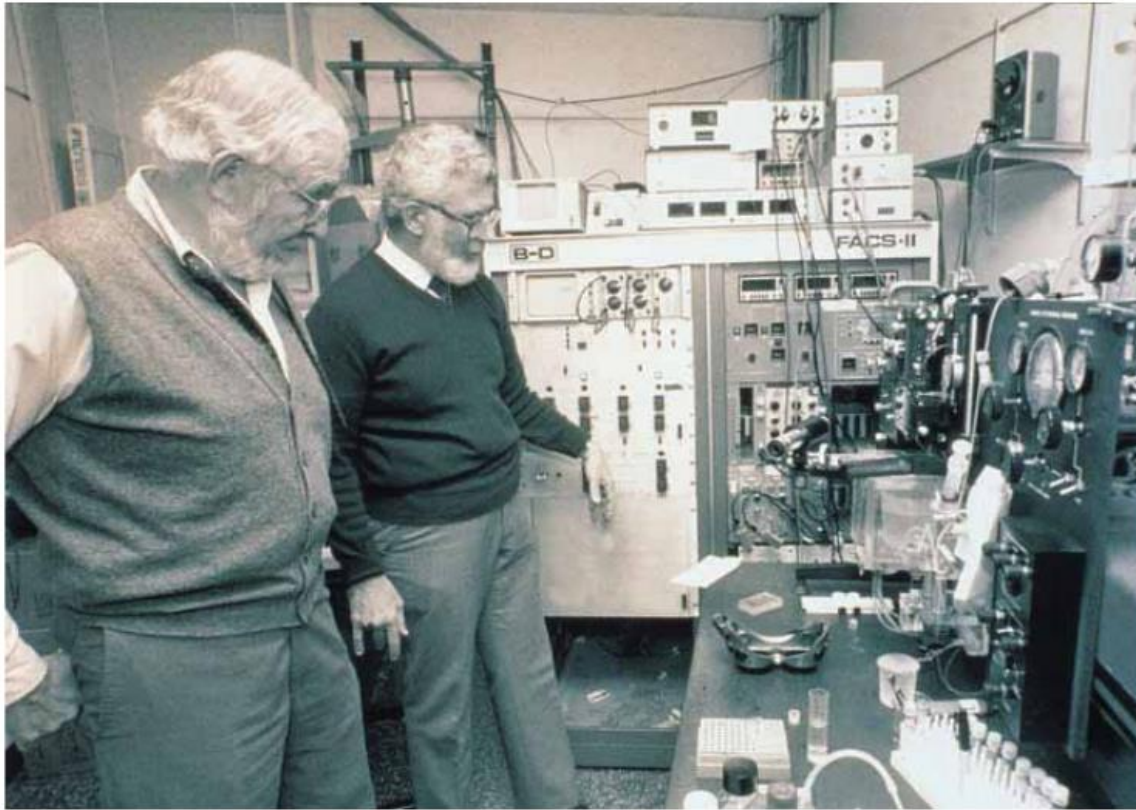
**Howard M. Shapiro - 1973-76**

Shapiro and the Block Instruments designed a series of multibeam flow cytometers that did differentials and multiple fluorescence excitation and emission

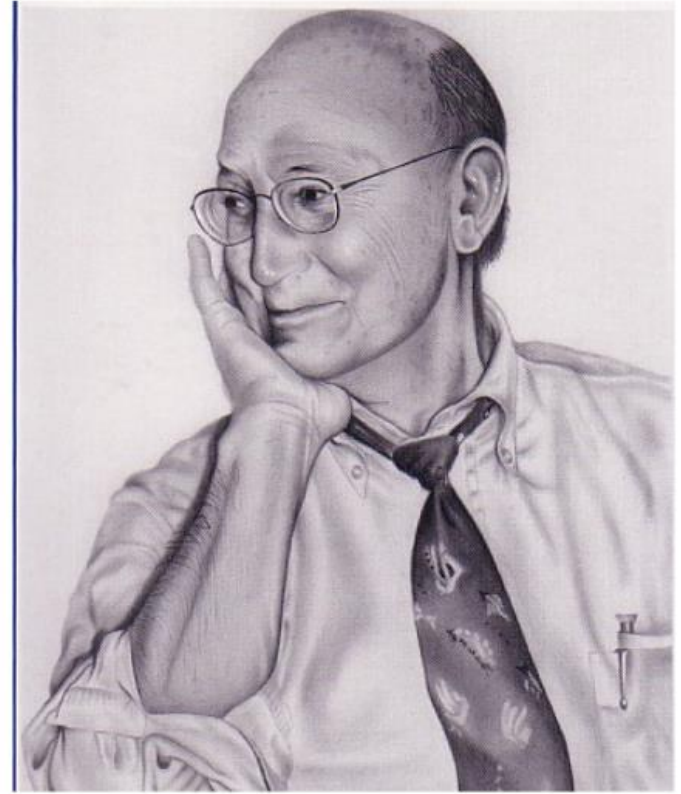


From Beckman-Coulter website 2013





Bernie Shoor and Len Herzenberg



Mack Fulwyler

From the original business plan (1976): “*We are convinced that the FACS cell sorter can be sold to at least 50 leading research laboratories in the world.*”

- FACS history from the Smithsonian archives  
[http://siarchives.si.edu/research/videohistory\\_catalog9554.html](http://siarchives.si.edu/research/videohistory_catalog9554.html)

Flow  
cytometer  
breadboard  
at BD  
Biosciences



Source: Dr. Robert Hoffman, BD



# History of Early Commercial Cytometry Instruments

1968 1<sup>st</sup> fluorescence-based device (ICP 11) by Wolfgang Göhde, University Münster, Germany, commercialized in 1968/69 by German developer and manufacturer Partec through Phywe AG.

1971 Cytofluorograph, Ortho

1973 PAS 8000, Partec

1974 1<sup>st</sup> FACS instrument, BD

1977 Epics Instrument, Coulter



# Manufacturers of Flow Cytometers

## Past and Present



iCyt



Guava



Miltenyl Biotec

OWL Bio

DVS Sciences

Fluidigm

Cytomation



Cytopia Influx  
accuri  
CYTOMETERS



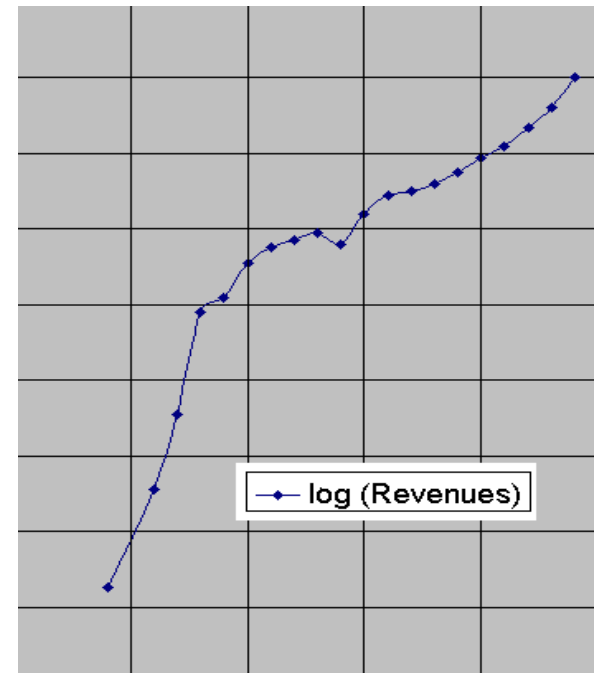
ZE5 Se3 from Propel



Acousticyte Attune  
BigFoot, Propel

## An intrapreneurial founder

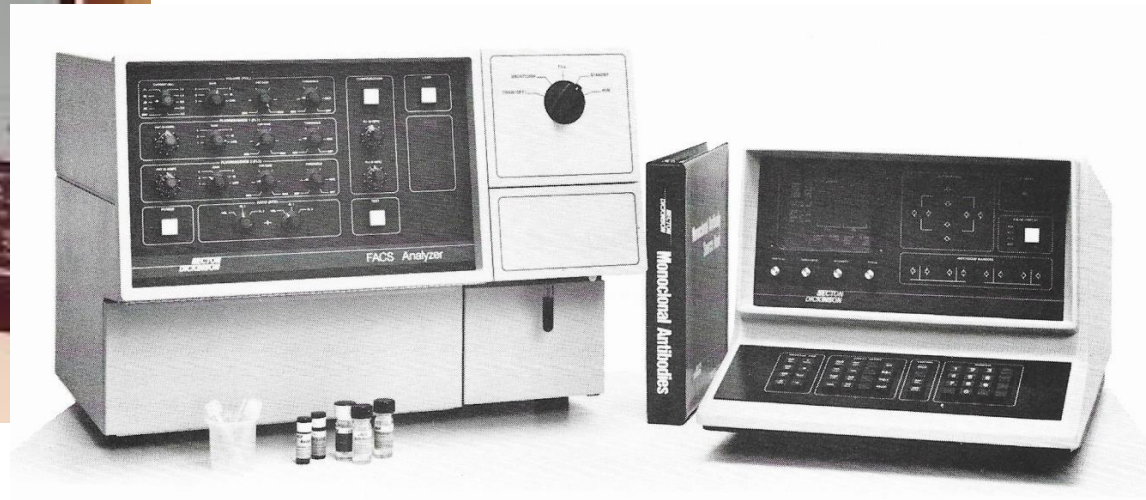
**Bernie Shoor** completed his B.A. in physics from NYU in 1946. After receiving his degree, he worked for the Army Signal Corps and subsequently the Sperry Gyroscope Company. In 1966, Shoor began working for Endevco Corporation, a small scientific instrument company which was eventually bought by BD. In 1970, Shoor became manager of BD's Mountain View, California laboratory. (from the Smithsonian Videohistory Collection THE HISTORY OF THE CELL SORTER RU 9554)



Rapid growth from a small beginning to a large business

# Early Flow Cytometry Practice

Many system control knobs and switches with oscilloscope display for pulses and histograms.



# Requiring the early users to perform complex adjustments and to service the instrument.

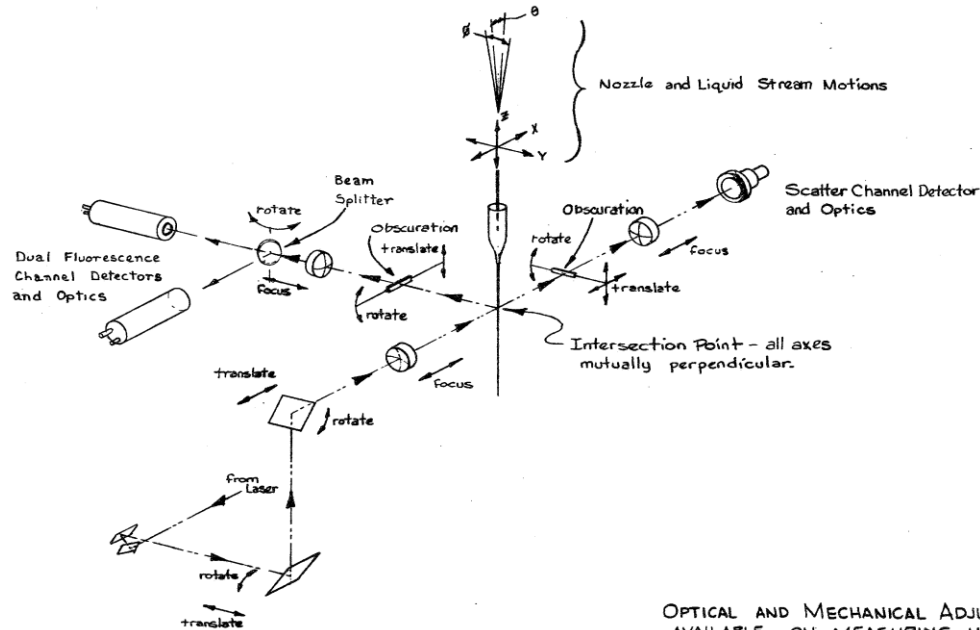


FIGURE 1-8

OPTICAL AND MECHANICAL ADJUSTMENTS  
AVAILABLE ON MEASURING HEAD

## PULSE HEIGHT ANALYZER (CONTINUED):

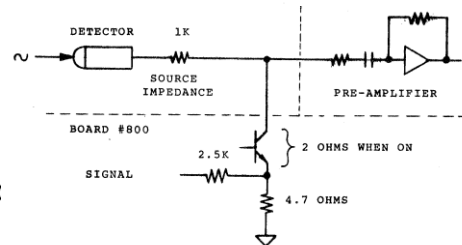
In the standard version, a single parameter PHA is provided which is capable of analyzing one parameter at a time, as selected on the control panel. The analyzer is capable of dividing the input signal into 1024 channels (on the basis of amplitude) and accumulating up to  $10^6$  events (cells) in each channel. Typically, the memory bank is sub-divided (by front panel controls) into four quadrants, each containing 256 channels. This permits storing and displaying four sequential experiments.

## OPTIONAL DUAL PARAMETER STORAGE AND DISPLAY:

In addition to providing normal single parameter analysis and display, the dual parameter system is capable of storing and displaying correlated data from two parameters at the same time. This information is stored in a  $64 \times 64$  matrix which may be sub-divided into four  $32 \times 32$  matrices or two  $32 \times 64$  matrices. Display of correlated data is on the x-y CRT oscilloscope and may be selected in either contour or isometric display. Regions of interest may be intensified and data accumulated for these regions.

## OTHER AUXILIARY SYSTEMS:

The PHA, with or without the optional dual-parameter storage and display, can be interfaced with x-y plotters, mini-computers, teletype keyboards, etc., using direct plug-in interface boards.



## SET-UP PROCEDURE FOR TIMING AND CONTROL LC

### A. SYSTEM TO CALIBRATE MODE

1. All cards installed, power ON
2. Scope Switching Panel
  - a. push CALIBRATE SIGNALS switch to lit position
  - b. TRIGGER switch to CALIBRATE



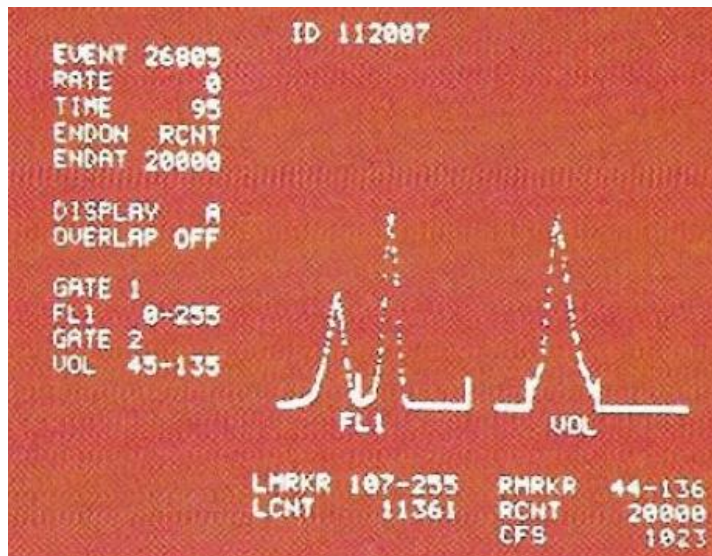
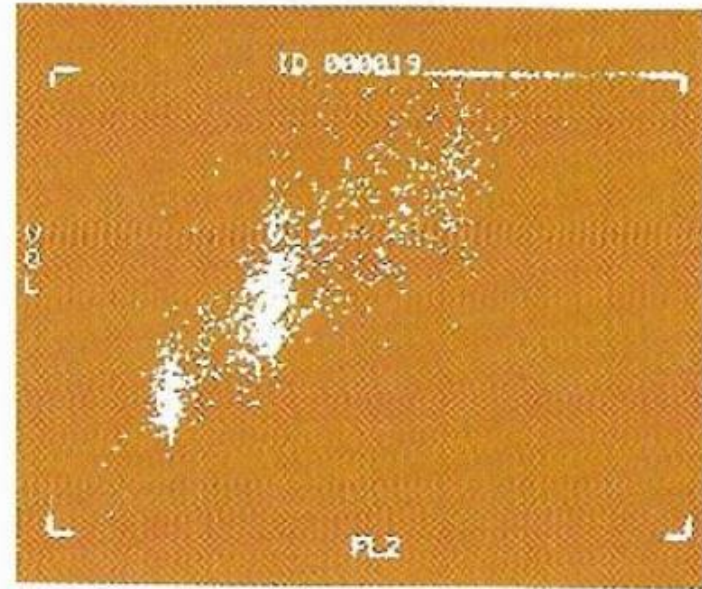
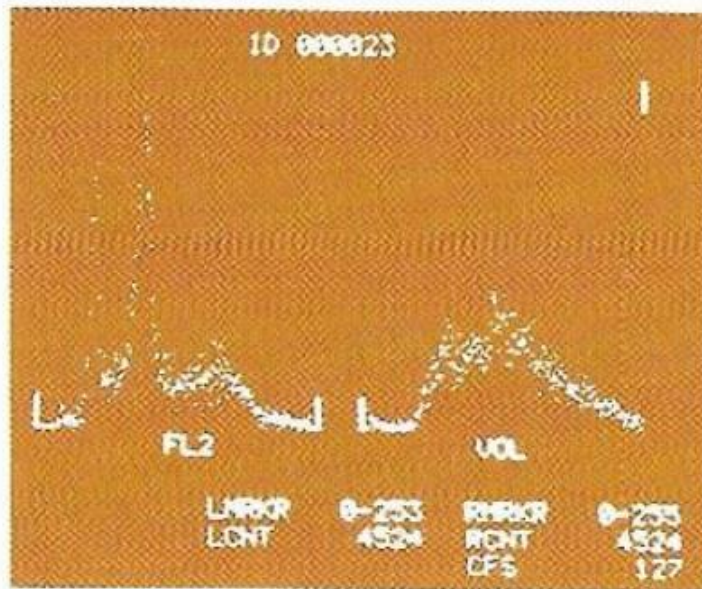
Sir Gustav Nossal shows a FACS II in 1977, the 1<sup>st</sup> FACS in the Southern hemisphere.



## ADVANCED FEATURES OF THE FACS ANALYZER

- Mercury-arc lamp illumination as standard with fluorescence filter sets for use with a wide variety of fluorochromes
- Microprocessor-controlled measurements of cell volume and two fluorescence parameters, including ratios of any two parameters
- Two-parameter analysis with independent two-parameter gating
- Display of data as side-by-side profile histograms, each with 256 channels of resolution, or two-parameter dot plots
- Paired histogram comparisons by overlap
- Logarithmic and linear amplification of fluorescence and volume signals with linear gain controls
- Single-knob fluid control providing orifice and sample backflush
- Interchangeable fluid orifices from 50 to 150 microns in diameter and 75 to 225 microns in length for operation with a wide variety of samples
- Operates from a standard electrical outlet (115 VAC, 15 Amp) requiring no compressed gas or external fluid source
- Optional CONSORT 20 data processing package for mass storage and fully automated analysis of histogram data
- Typical sample analysis with data output: one to three minutes per sample

# FACS Analyzer Console Data Output



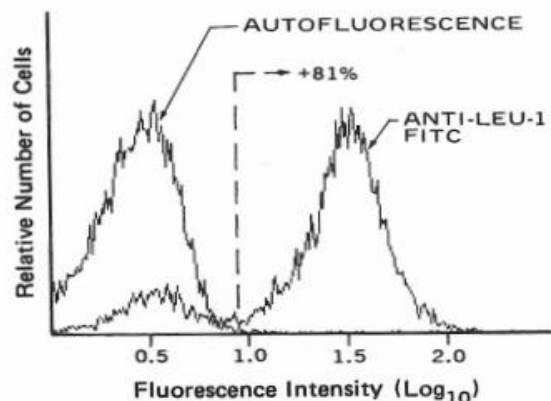
1D side by side histograms and  
2D dotplot (top)

Volume gated histogram of  
leukocytes stained with CD4-FITC  
(left)

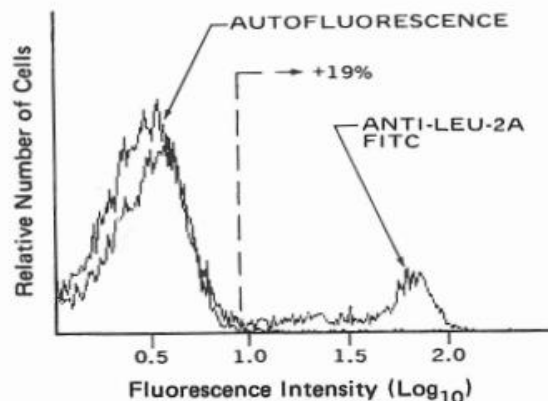
## FACS ANALYZER DATA

Shown below are volume-gated fluorescence profiles of normal human peripheral blood lymphocytes (Ficoll-Hypaque gradient preparation). Reagents are **Becton Dickinson Monoclonal Antibodies**<sup>†</sup> to human lymphocyte antigens: Leu-1, Leu-2a, Leu 3a + 3b, Leu-4, Leu-5 and HLA-DR. These antibodies were directly conjugated with fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC), except Anti-Leu-5, which was analyzed with indirect immunofluorescence. Total number of cells analyzed for each run was approximately  $2 \times 10^4$  at count rates of up to 1000 cells per second. Data were processed using CONSORT 20 software.

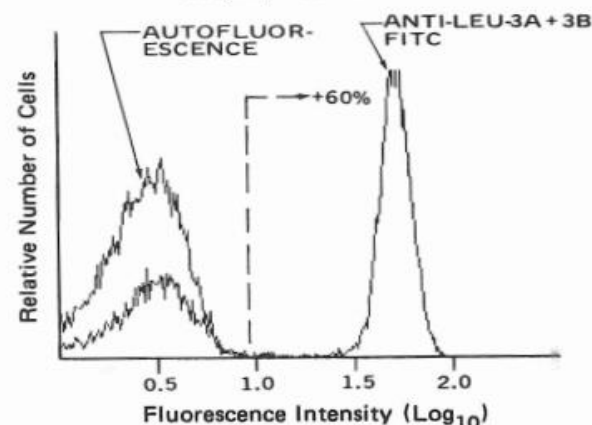
**Anti-Leu-1**  
(Catalog No. 5303)<sup>†</sup>  
Pan T



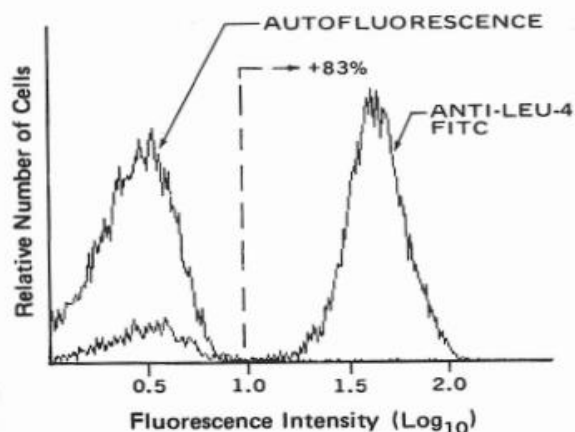
**Anti-Leu-2a**  
(Catalog No. 5313)<sup>†</sup>  
T Cytotoxic/Suppressor



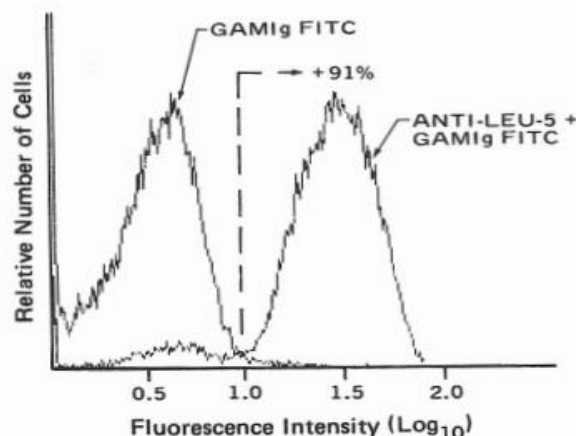
**Anti-Leu-3a + 3b**  
(Catalog No. 5413)<sup>†</sup>  
Helper/Inducer



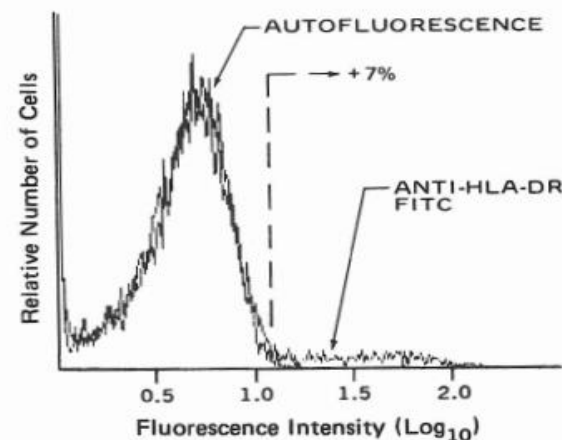
**Anti-Leu-4**  
(Catalog No. 5343)<sup>†</sup>  
Pan T



**Anti-Leu-5**  
(Catalog No. 5380)<sup>†</sup>  
Pan T/E-Rosette



**Anti-HLA-DR**  
(Catalog No. 5363)<sup>†</sup>  
B Cell and Monocyte





## Computers changing the instrument appearance

- Digitize in 14-bits
  - 16,384 levels
- Sample at 10Mhz
  - 10 million times/sec
- 16 channels

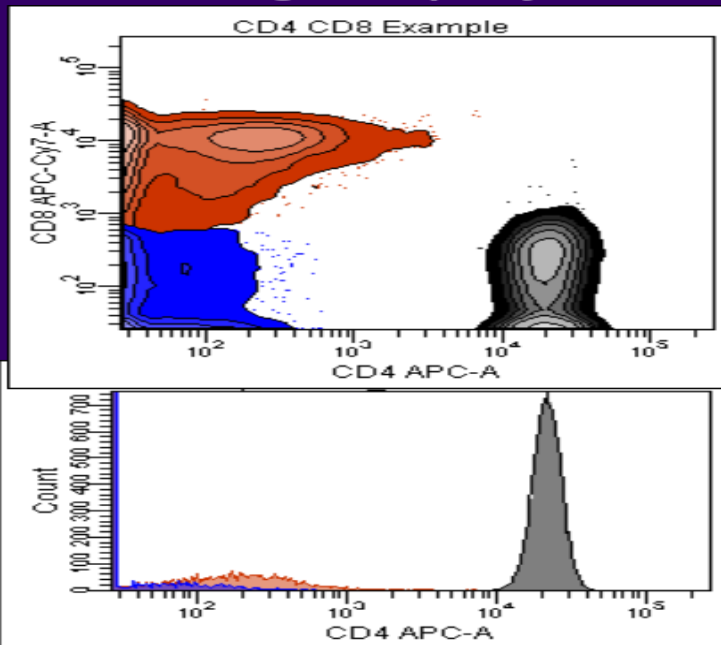


FACS™ digital Vantage  
cell sorter

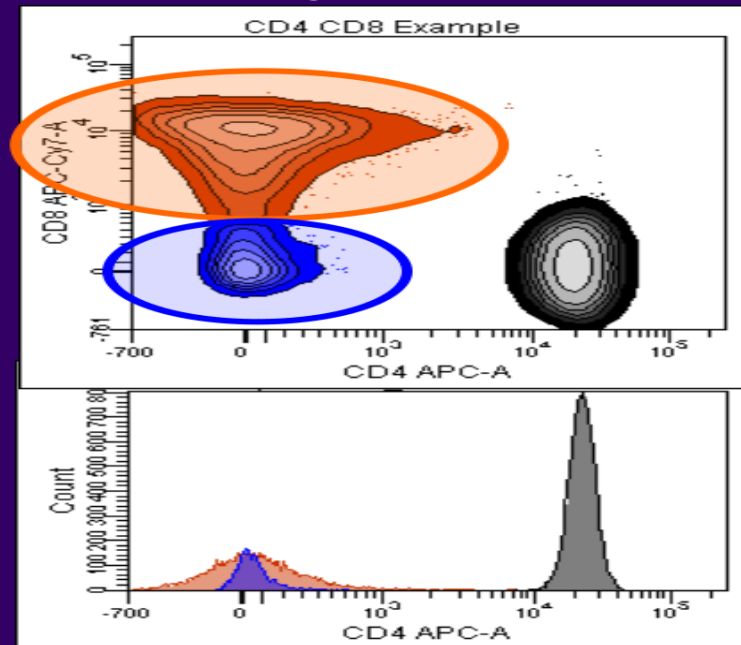
# Recognizing Issues with log Data Display

- Since  $\log(0)$  is undefined we cannot visualize numbers  $\leq 0$  using a log scale (on-axis events)
- At the low end the CV tends to increase unlike the high end where it is usually constant
- The inherent character of immunofluorescence data is
  - Log-like at the high end
  - Linear near zero
  - Contains negative corrected numbers (after baseline and compensation) which are valid scores
- Asilomar 2002: Dave Parks – suggested log transformation is not the best visualization approach for flow Immunofluorescence data

## Log Display



## Biexponential





# Spectra from Single Particles using Diffraction Grating

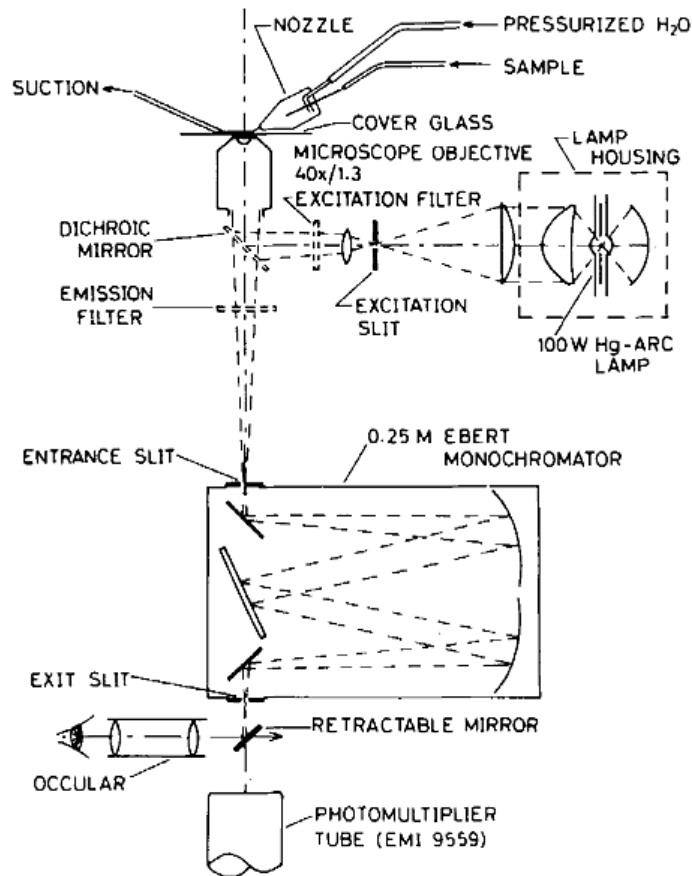


FIG. 1. Optical outline of the flow cytometer including a grating monochromator for monochromatic fluorescence detection.

SteenHB1986Cytometry7\_104

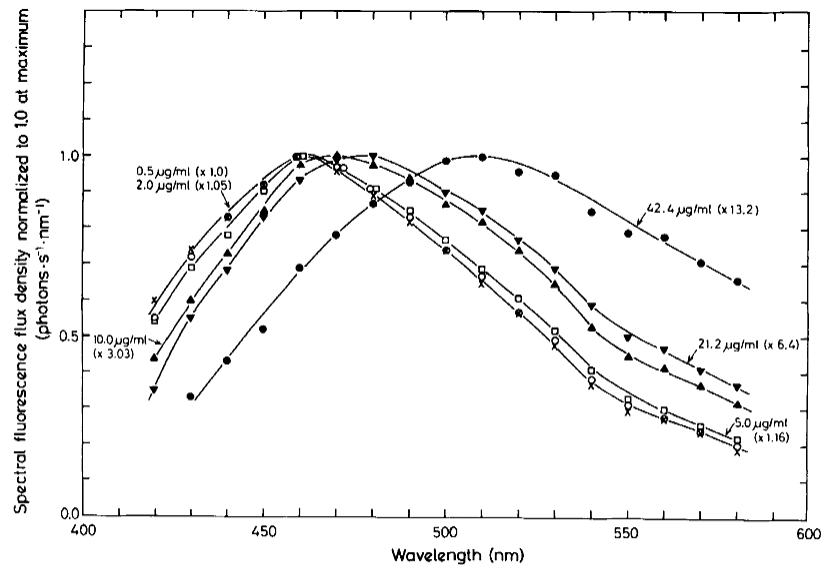


FIG. 2. Corrected fluorescence spectra of rat thymocytes fixed in ethanol and stained with Hoechst 33258 in the concentrations indicated on the curves. Each spectrum has been multiplied by the normalization factor given in parentheses. The total fluorescence intensity is thus approximately inversely proportional to this factor. The similarity between the spectra obtained with the two lowest dye concentrations is an indication of the reproducibility of the measurements.

SteenHB1986Cytometry7 104

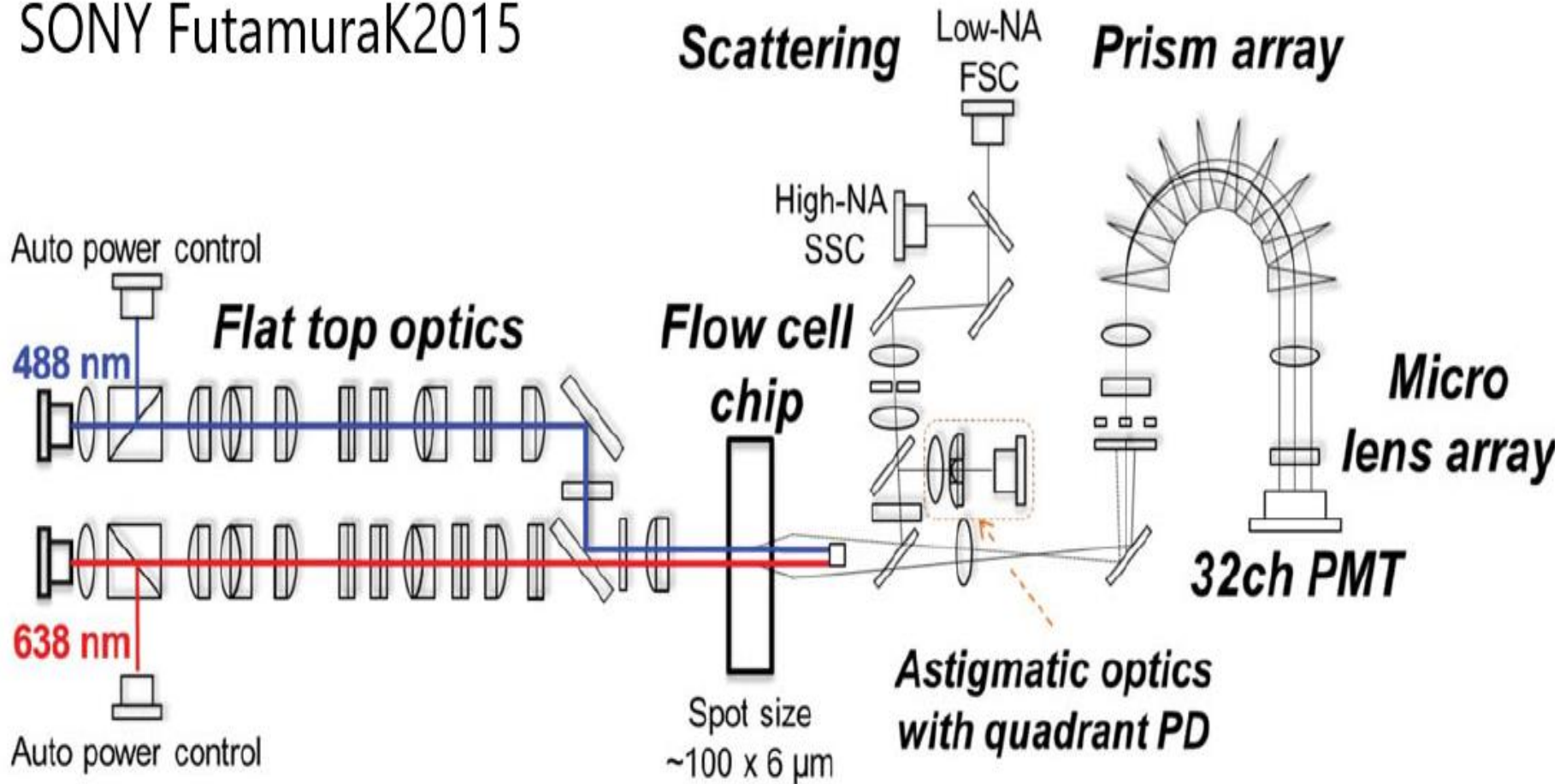
Others:

Gauci MR 1996, prism based flow cytometry

Buican T 2004, FT interferometry

# Modern Day Flow Cytometry

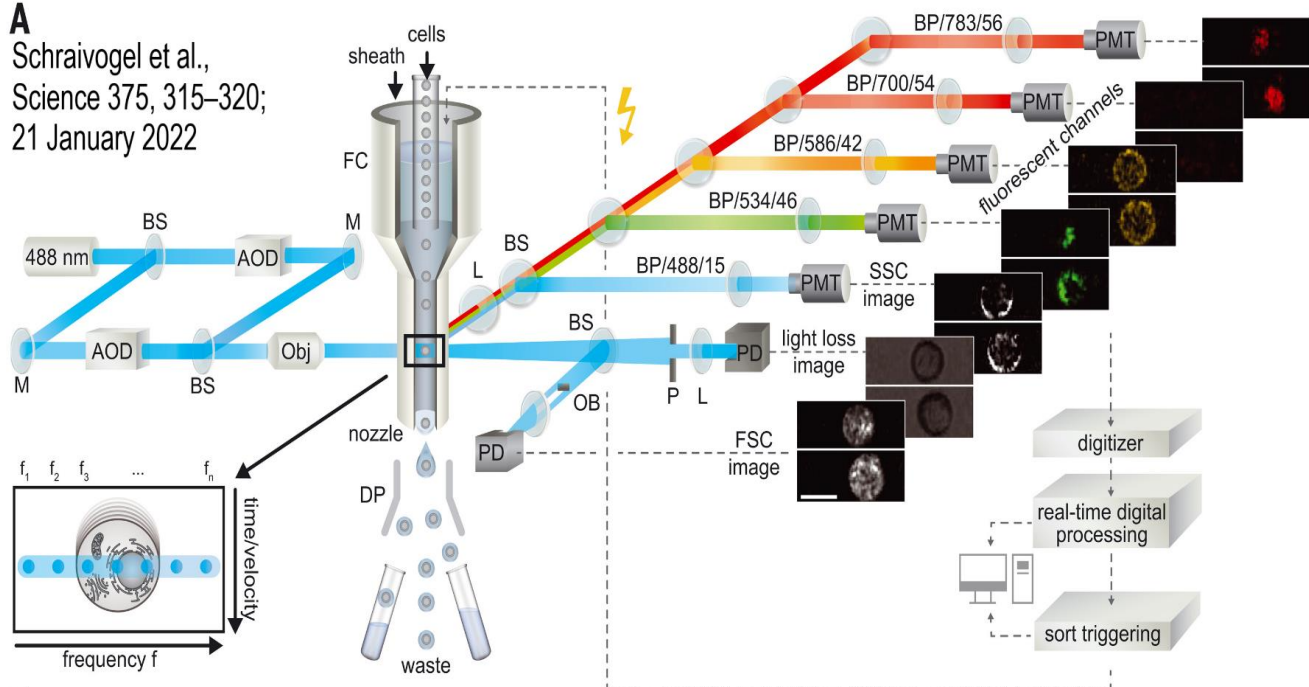
SONY FutamuraK2015



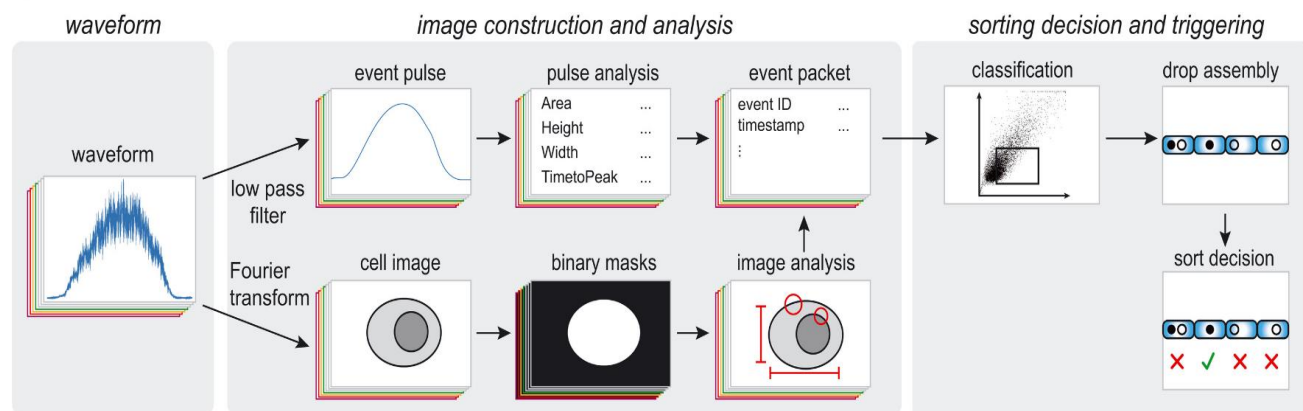
# Flow Sorting based on Morphology

**A**

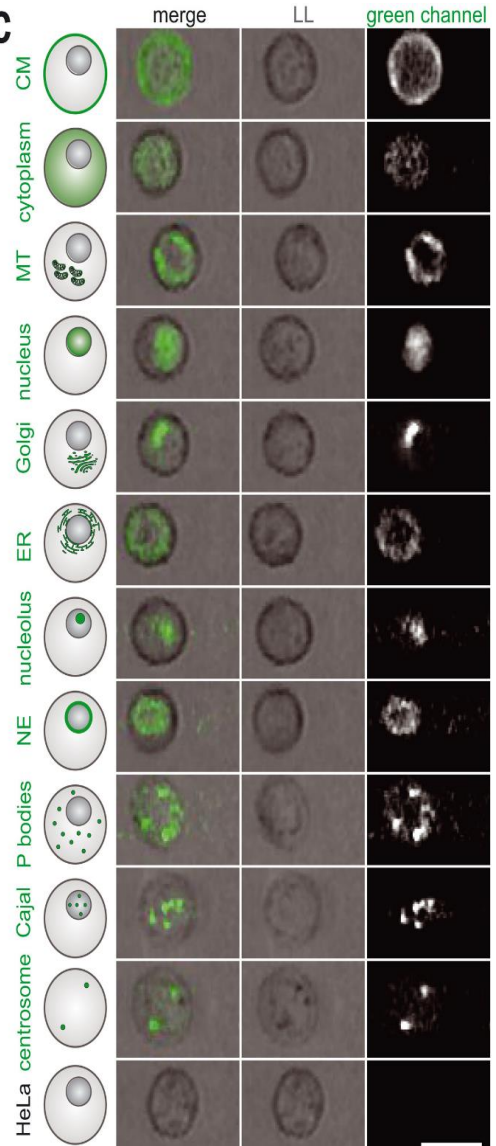
Schraivogel et al.,  
Science 375, 315–320;  
21 January 2022



**B**



**C**







I thank Fred Preffer for making the contact and the organizers for the invitation to give this talk to the New England Flow Cytometry Group.

I thank Allen Poirson for providing me input about the SONY cytometry team, and Bob Auer for input about the Beckman Coulter team.

If you are interested in further detail about the history of flow cytometry I suggest reading Howard's text at Howard Shapiro (2004) Cytometry 58A: 13-20  
"The Evolution of Cytometers"

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