



# Flow Cytometry in a Nutshell

**Rui Gardner**

Head, Flow Cytometry Core Facility



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Flow Cytometry Core Facility - Analyzers

Polychromatic

Spectral



**#3 Fortessa/LSRII**  
Up-to 18 colors



**#1 CytoFLEX LX**  
Up-to 21 colors



**#2 Aurora**  
40+ colors

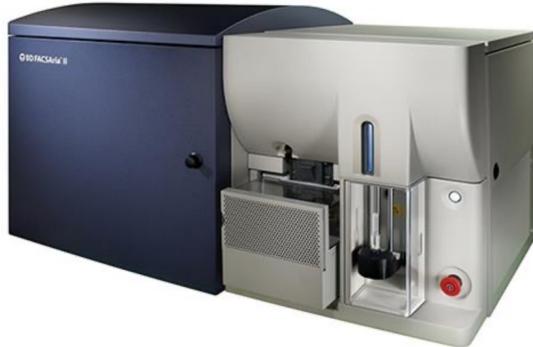
# Flow Cytometry Core Facility - Sorters

Spectral

Polychromatic



**#2 FACSymphony S6**  
Up-to 18 colors



**#5 FACSAria**  
Up-to 18 colors



**#2 SH800**  
Up-to 6 colors

Available 10am-8.30pm

#4 Operator Assisted Sorter

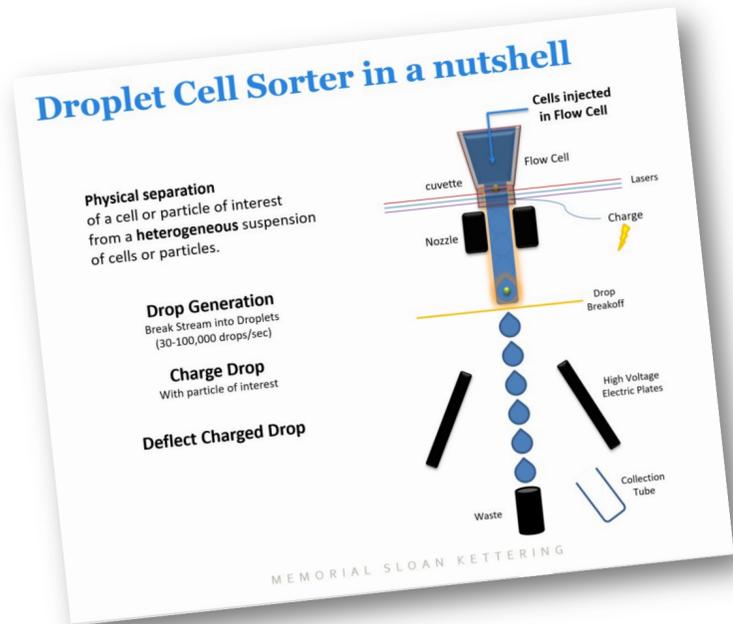
#5 Self-Operated Sorters

Available 24/7

# Flow Cytometry Core Facility – Edu & Training

## Current Training & Courses:

- » Principles of Flow Cytometry
- » Multicolor Panel Design
- » The art of (self) sorting
- » Best Practices in Publishing Flow Cytometry Data
- » Software analysis with FlowJo/FCS



## Training & Courses (203):

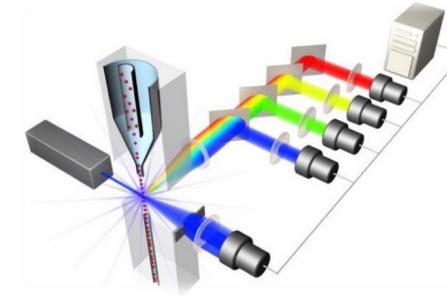
- » New modules for Multicolor Flow Cytometry
- » Multidimensional Data Analysis
- » Cell Cycle, Proliferation, and Death

## Educational Material:

- » <https://expertcytometry.com/>



# What is Flow Cytometry?



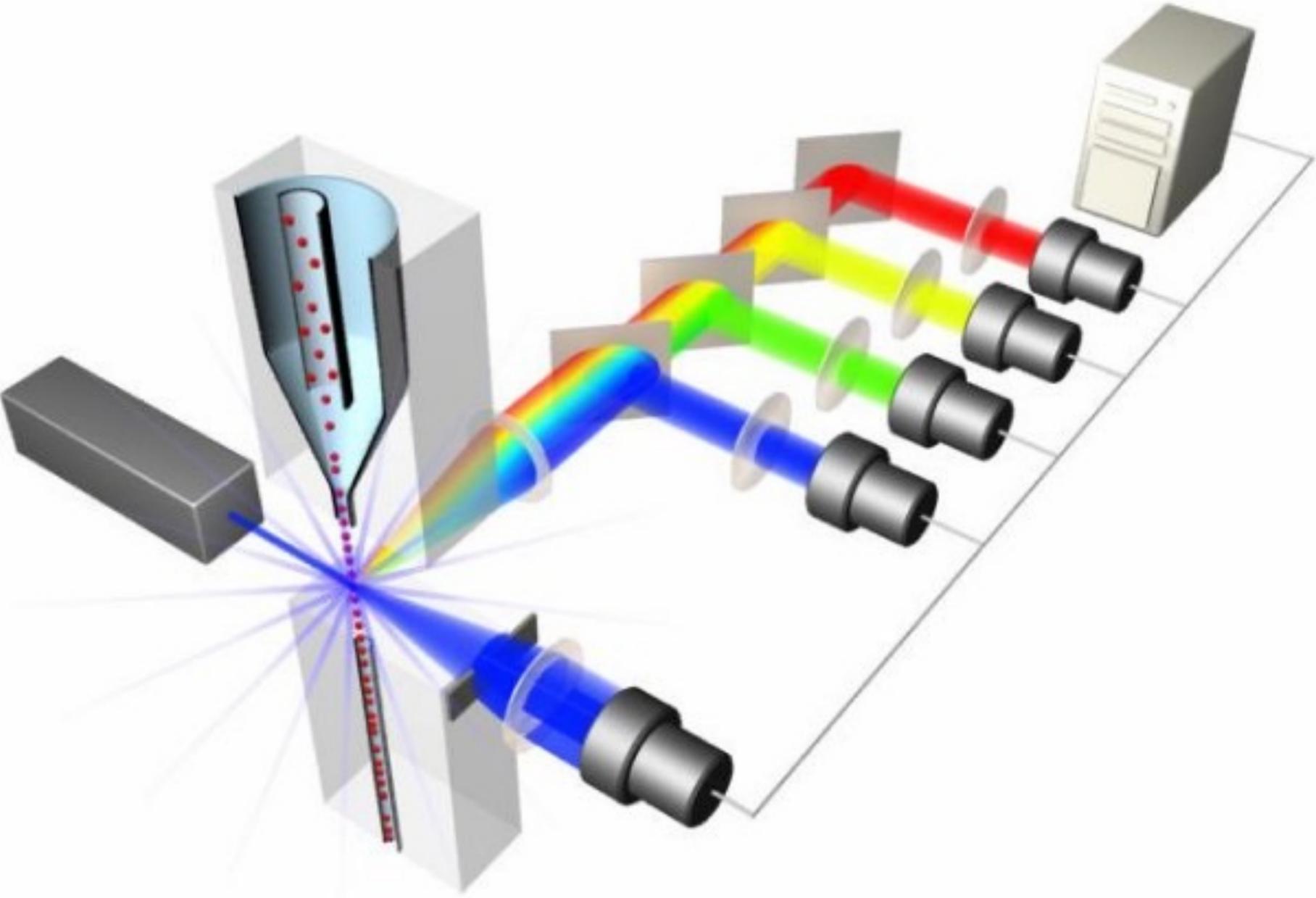
**Cyto – metry:** Measurement of physical and chemical properties of cells  
(Cell) (measurement)

**Flow Cytometry:** Characterization of cells **flowing** in a stream of fluid

**What is Flow Cytometry used for?**

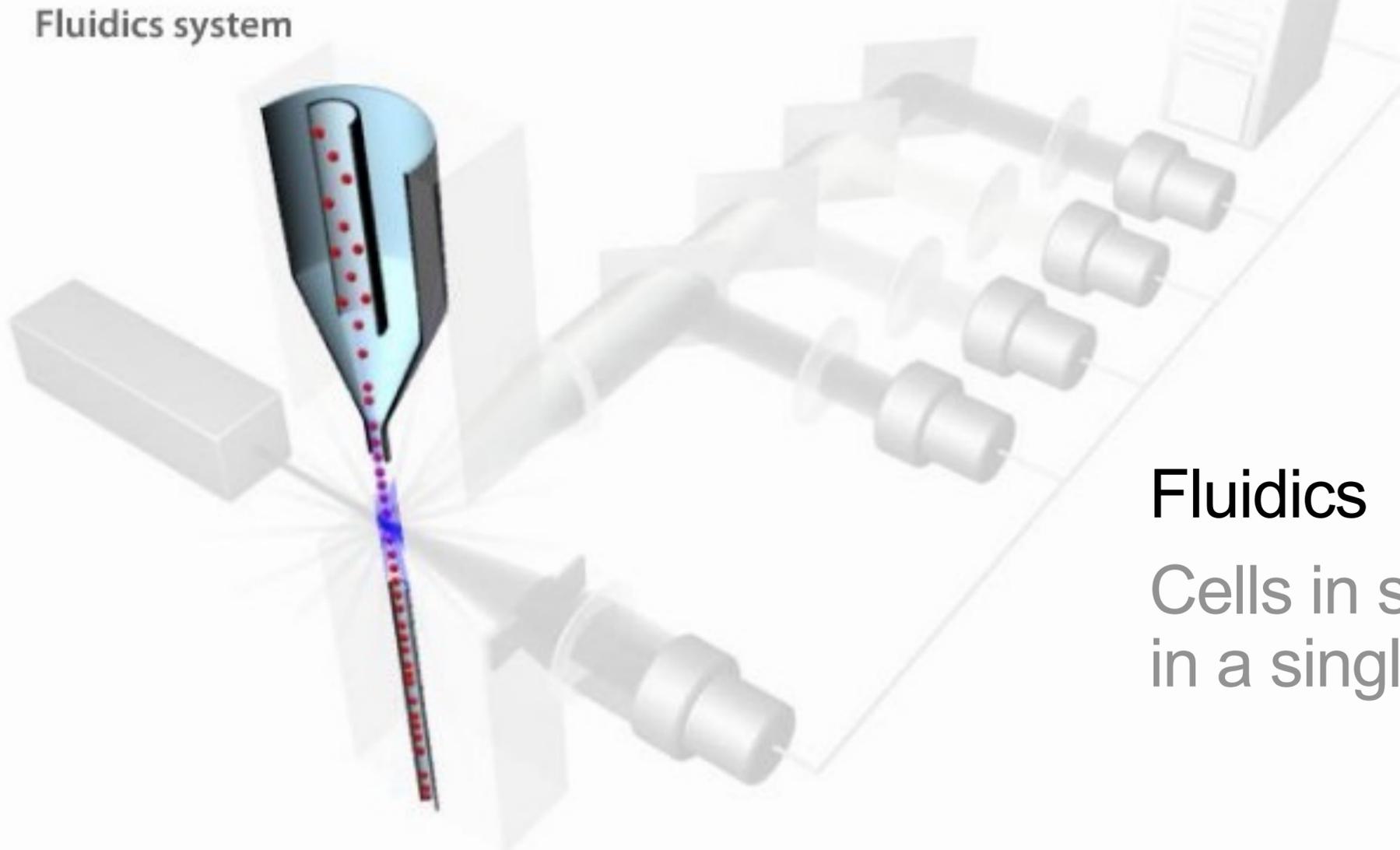
- » Flow cytometry is typically used to count large numbers of cells or particles based on size, internal complexity, phenotype, cellular state, cell function, DNA content, gene expression, and to quantify these same cellular properties at a single-cell level.

# Flow Cytometer in a nutshell

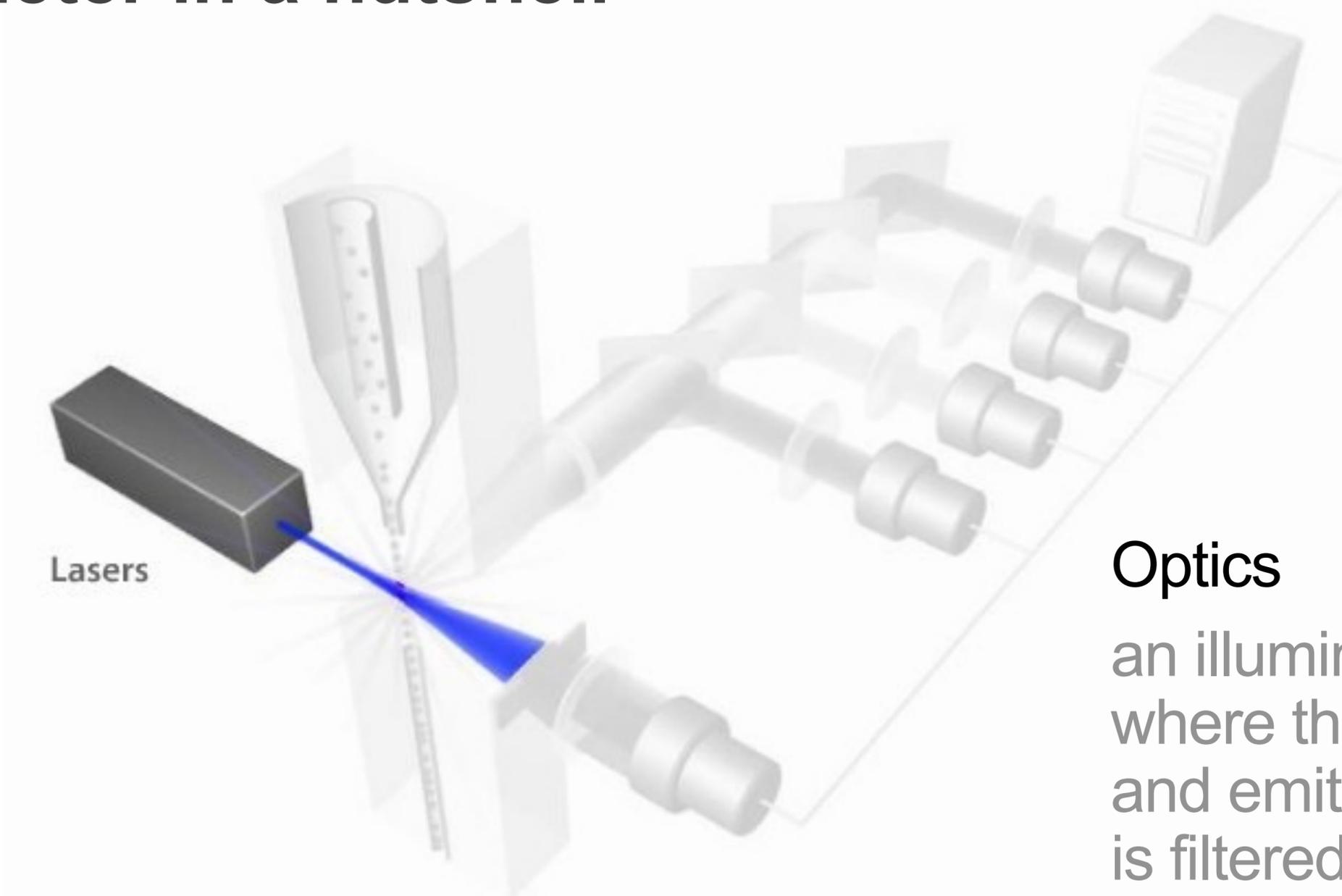


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# Flow Cytometer in a nutshell



# Flow Cytometer in a nutshell

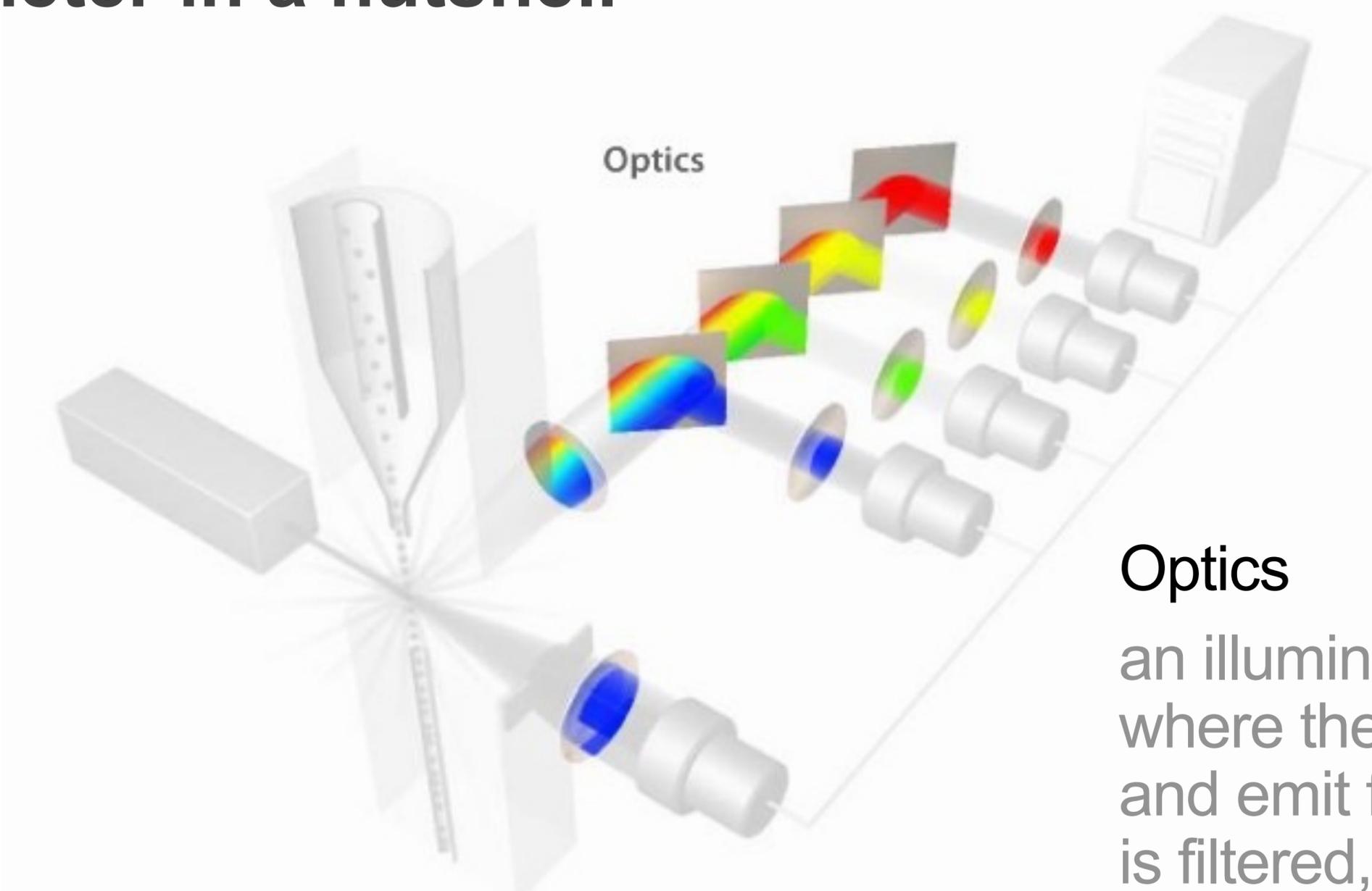


## Optics

an illuminated volume where they scatter light and emit fluorescence that is filtered, collected, and...



# Flow Cytometer in a nutshell

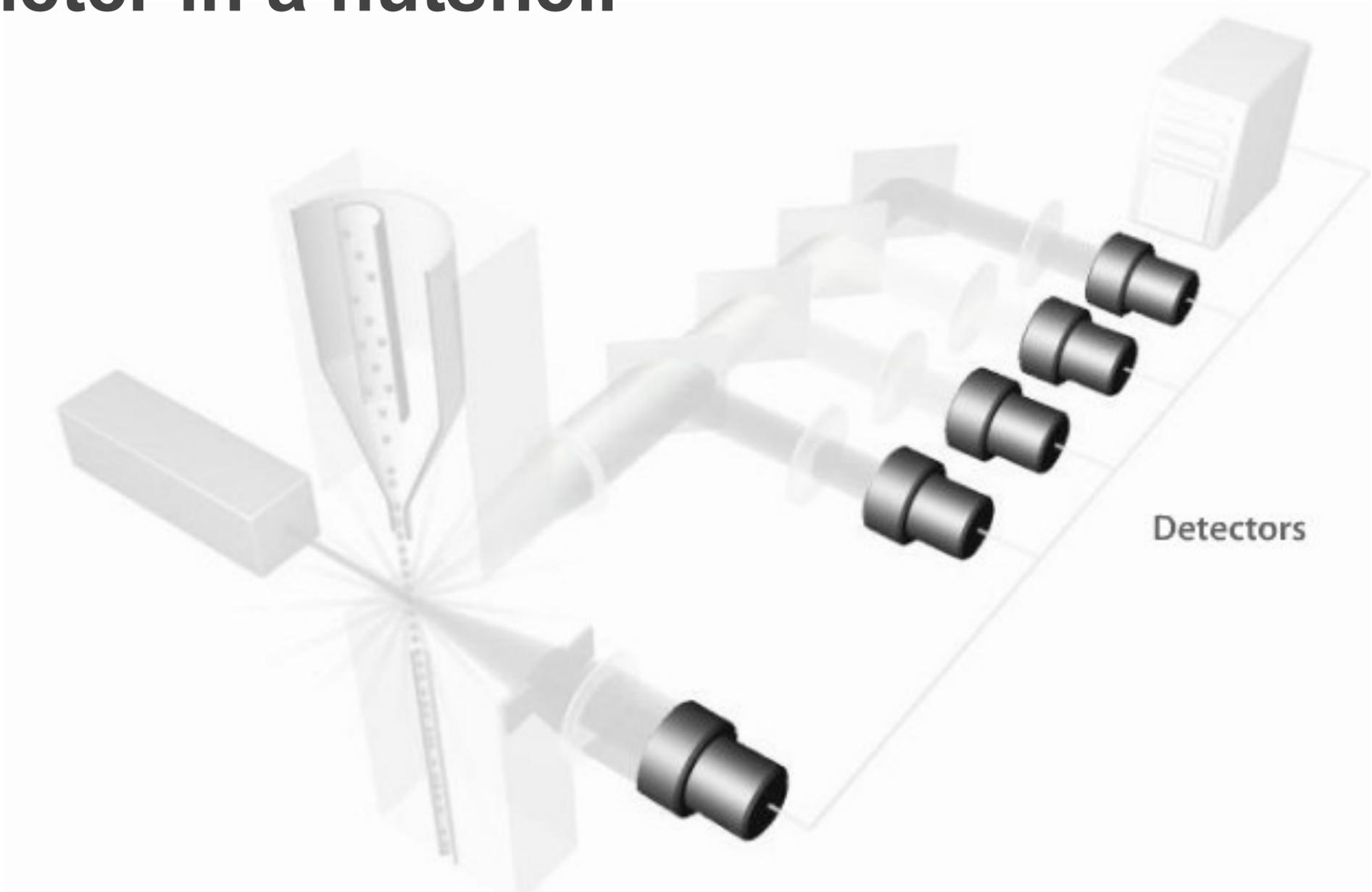


## Optics

an illuminated volume where they scatter light and emit fluorescence that is filtered, collected, and...

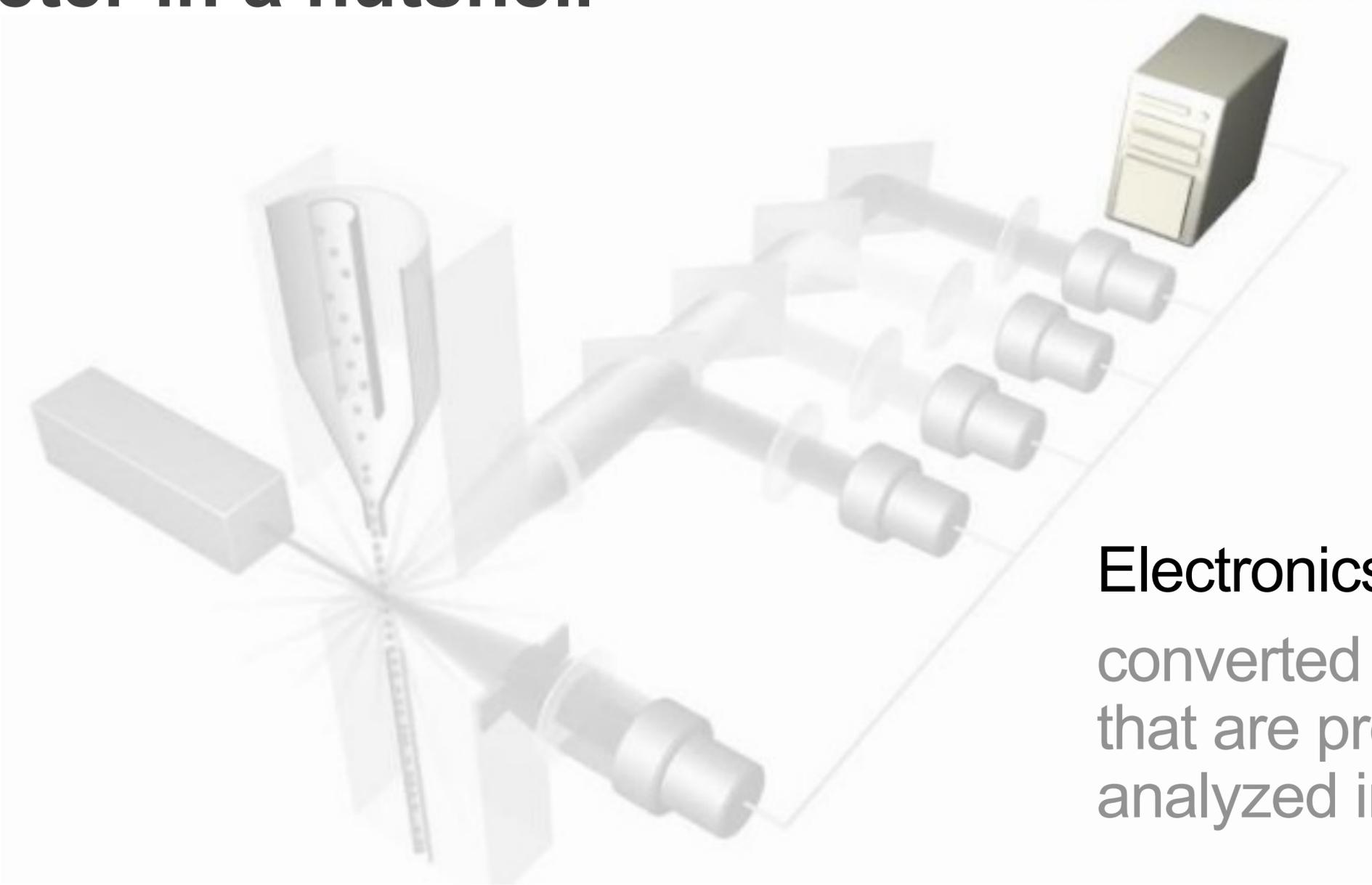


# Flow Cytometer in a nutshell



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# Flow Cytometer in a nutshell

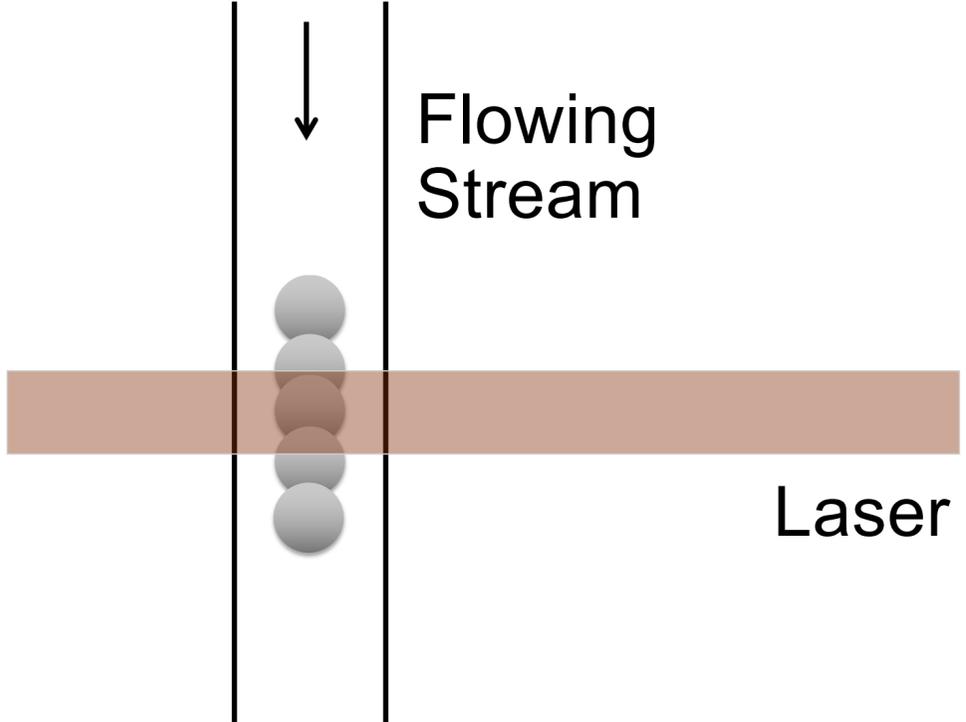
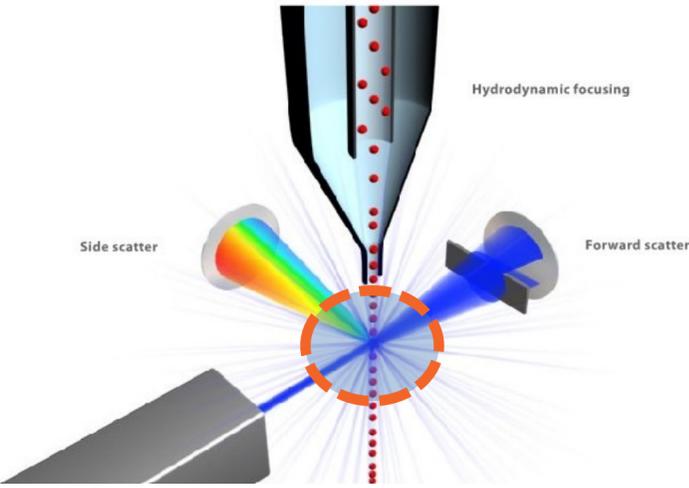


## Electronics

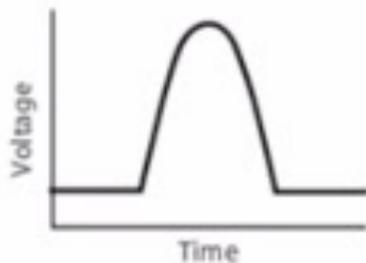
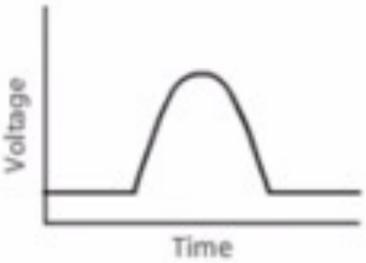
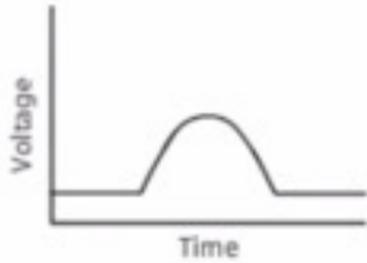
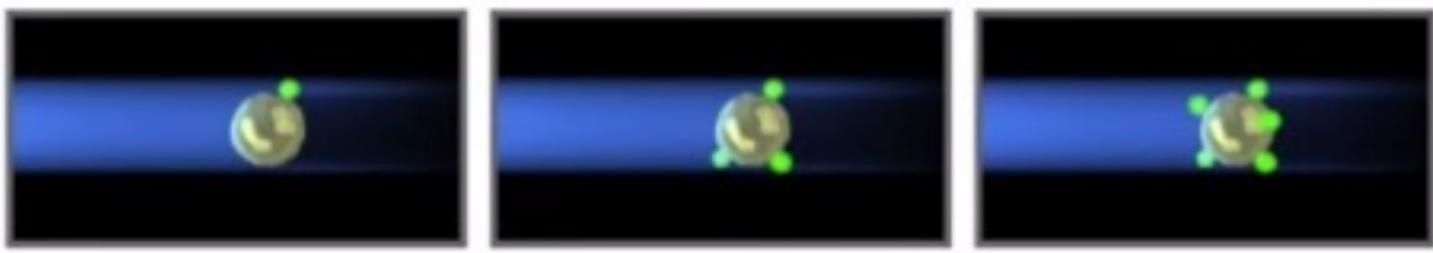
converted to digital values that are processed and analyzed in a computer



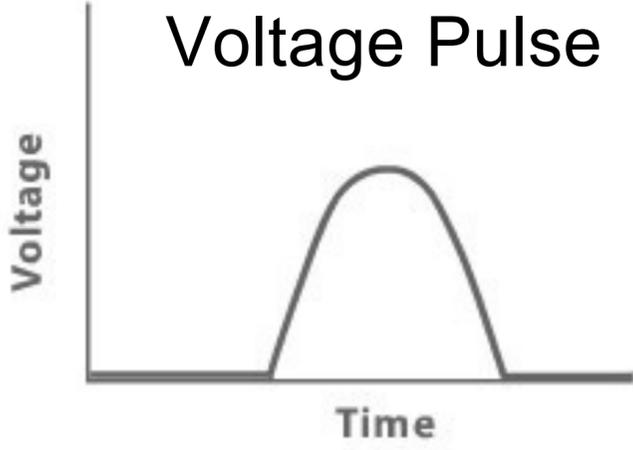
# Measuring Cell Properties



Brighter →

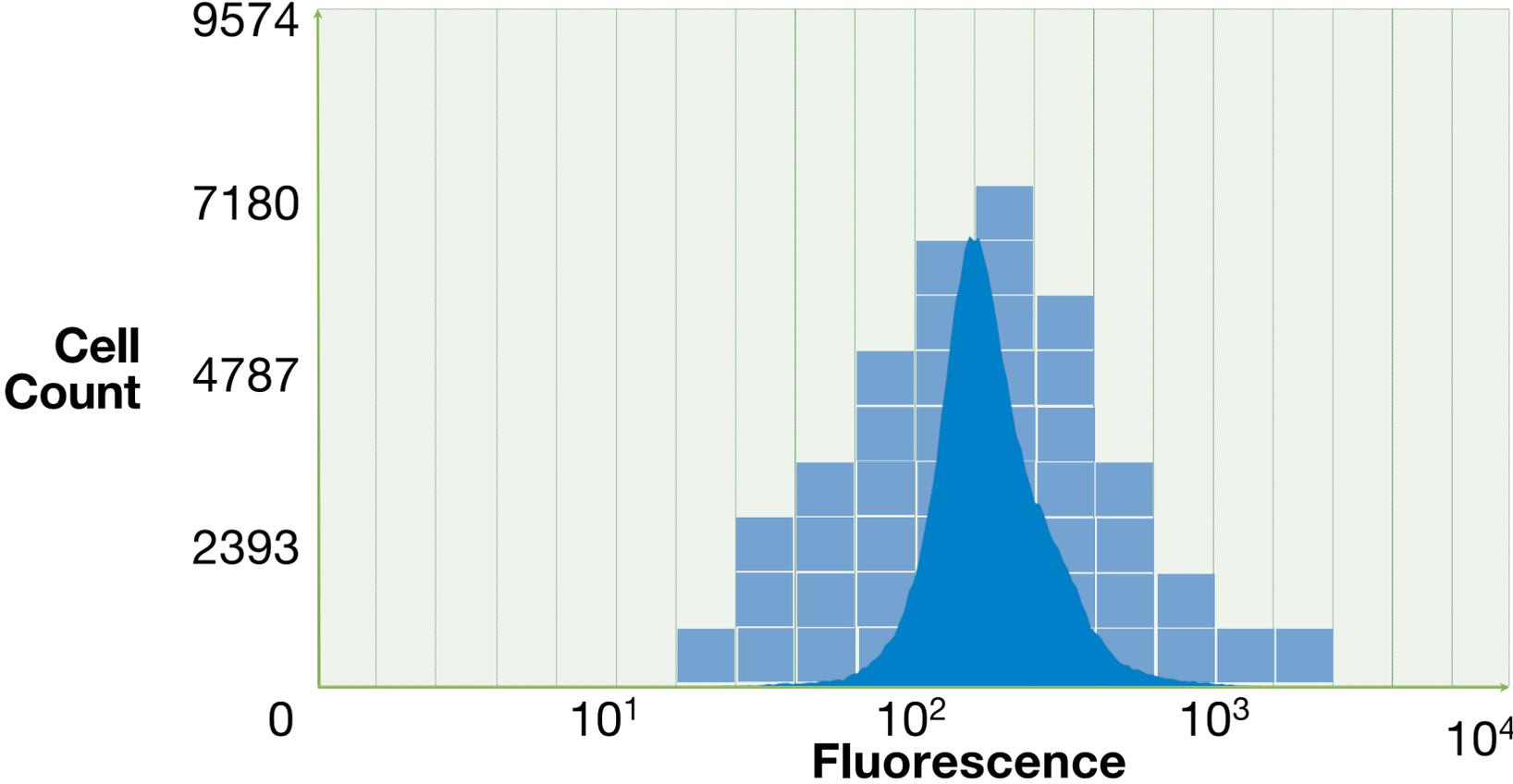


molecular probes<sup>®</sup>

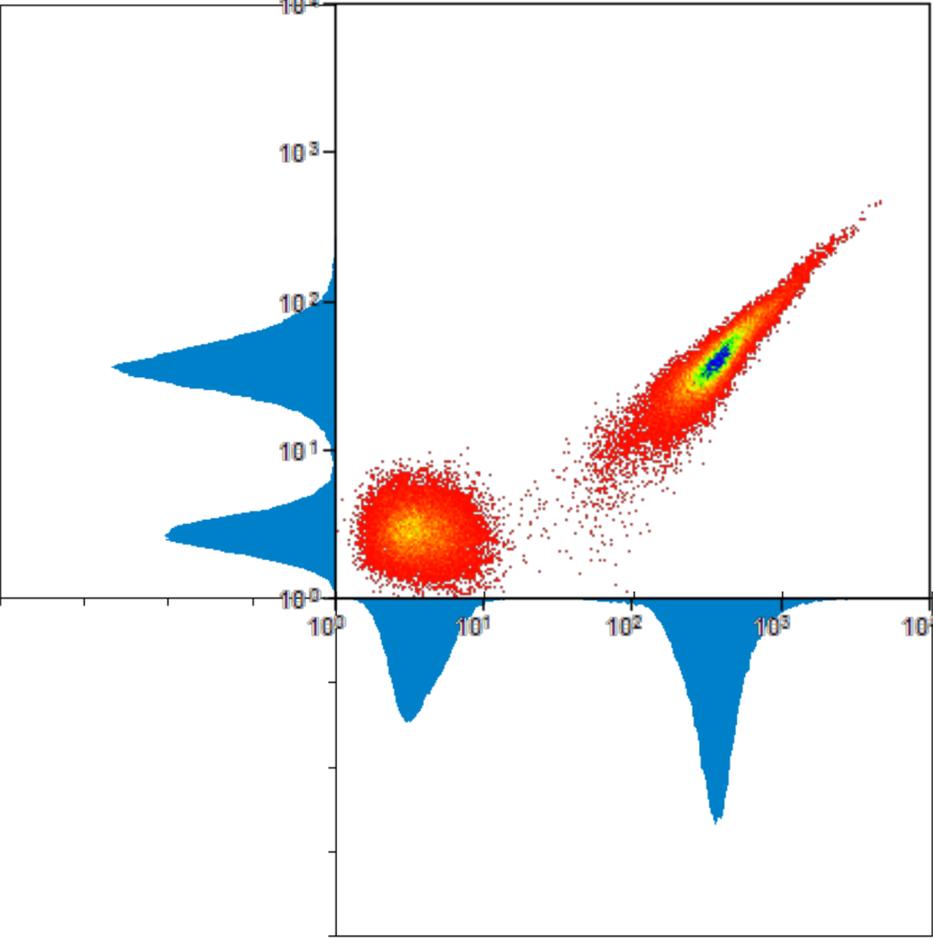


# Measuring Cell Properties

1-D Histogram  
Fluorescence/cell

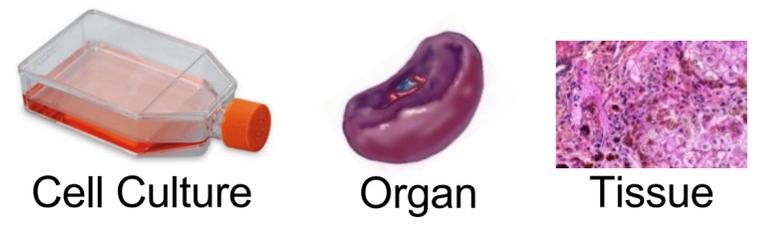


2-D Histogram  
Fluorescence1 vs Fluorescence2



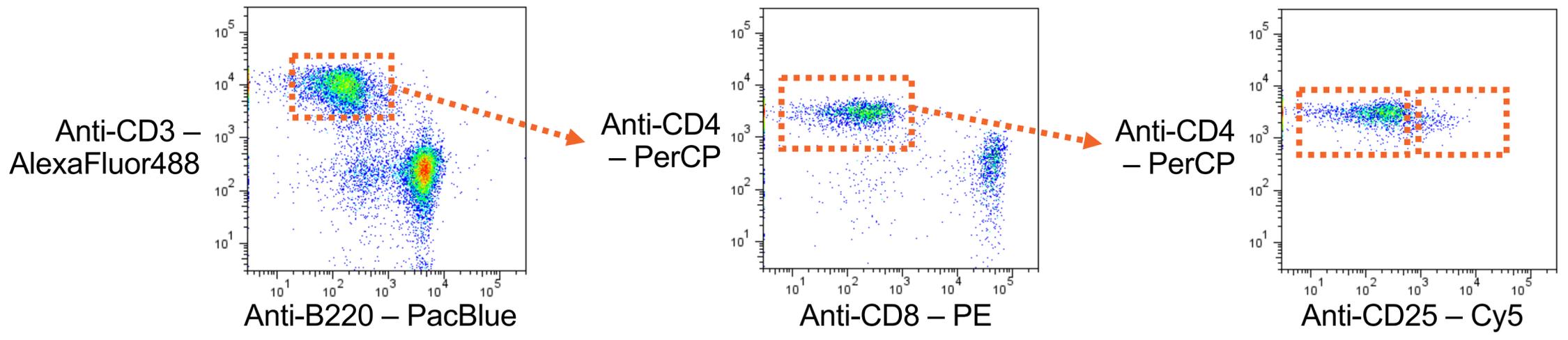
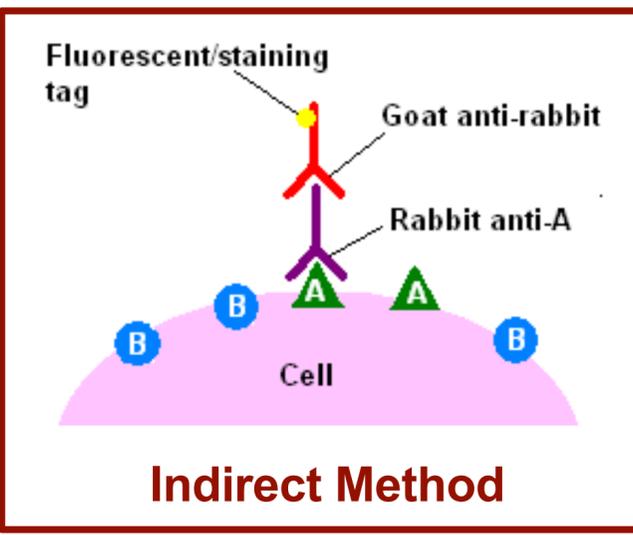
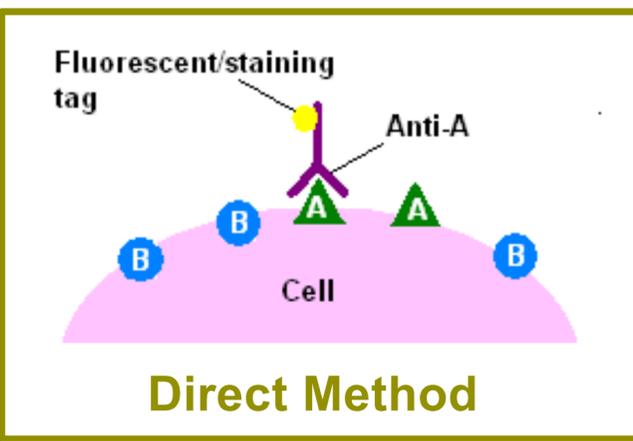


# Immunophenotyping

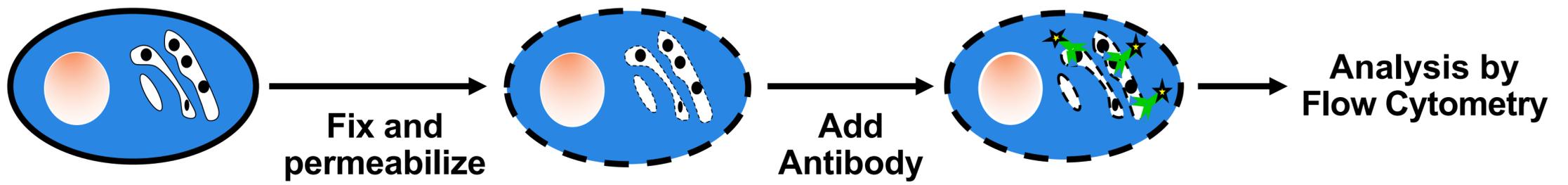


Single Cell Suspension

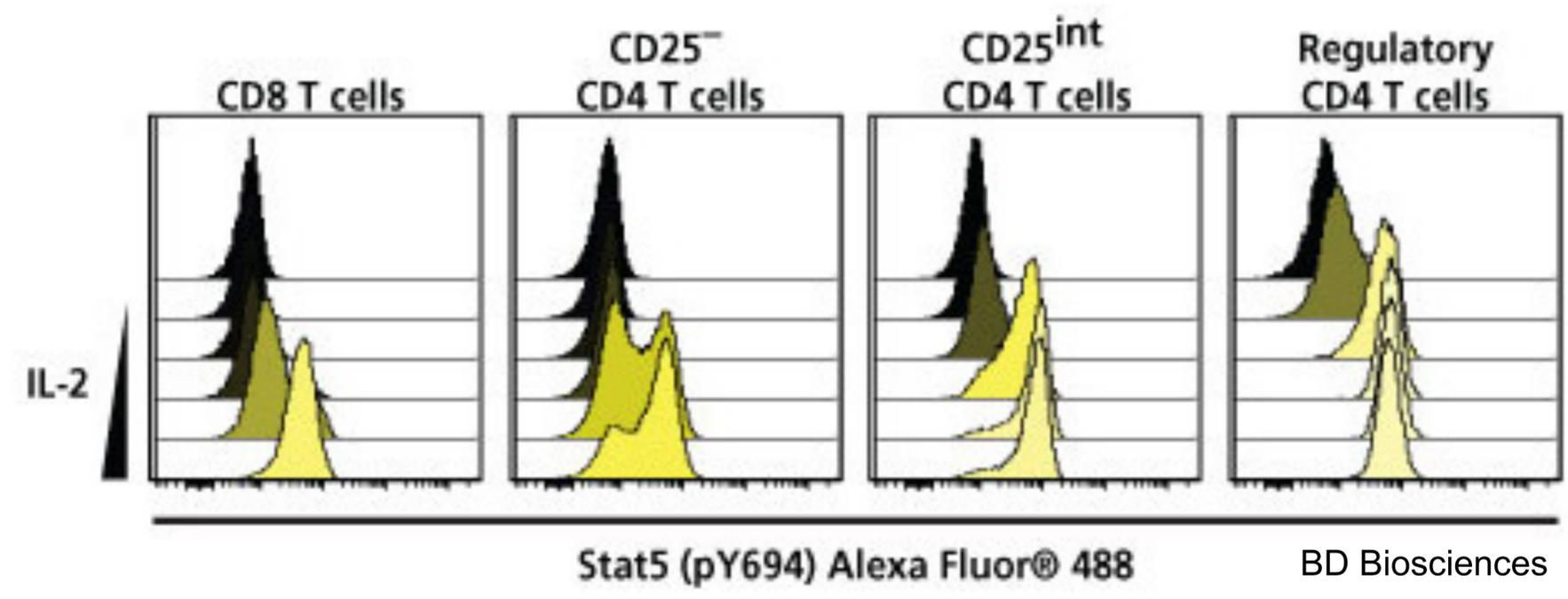
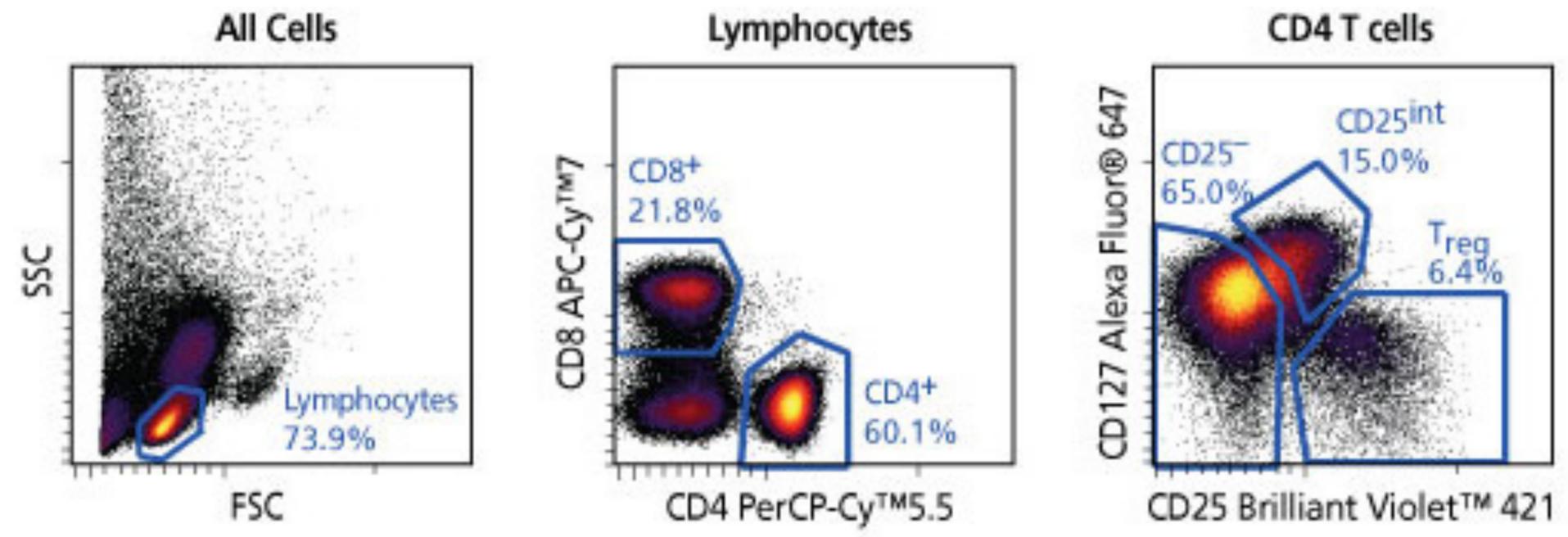
## Antibody Fluorescence Labeling



## Intracellular Staining



# Flow Cytometry Analysis



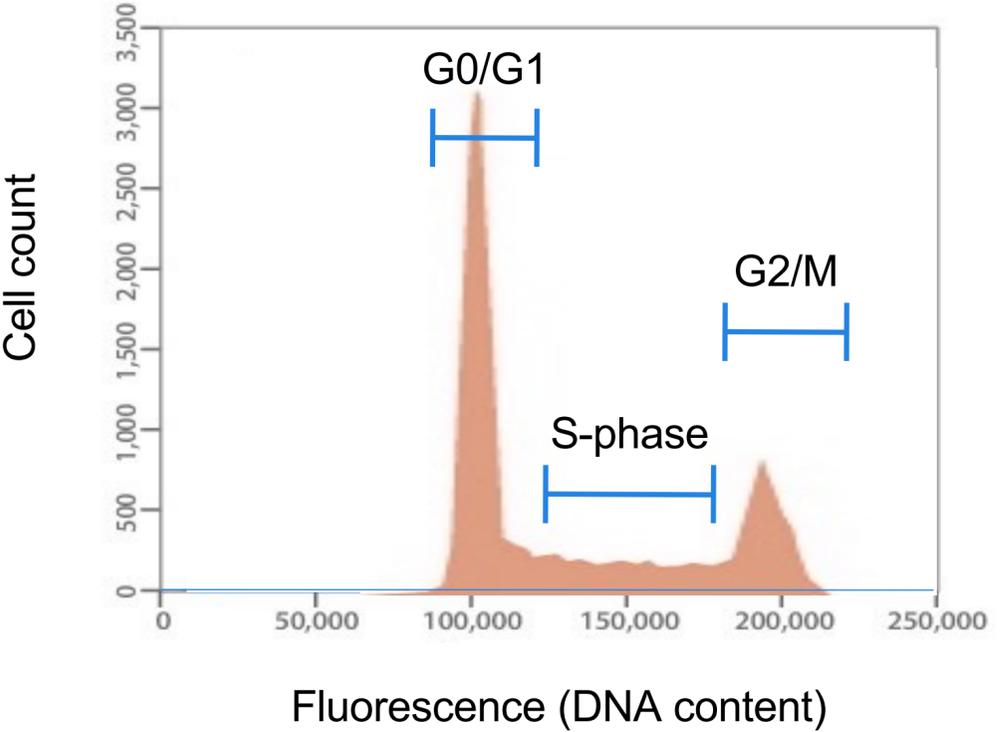
Memorial Sloan Kettering  
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# Applications in Flow Cytometry

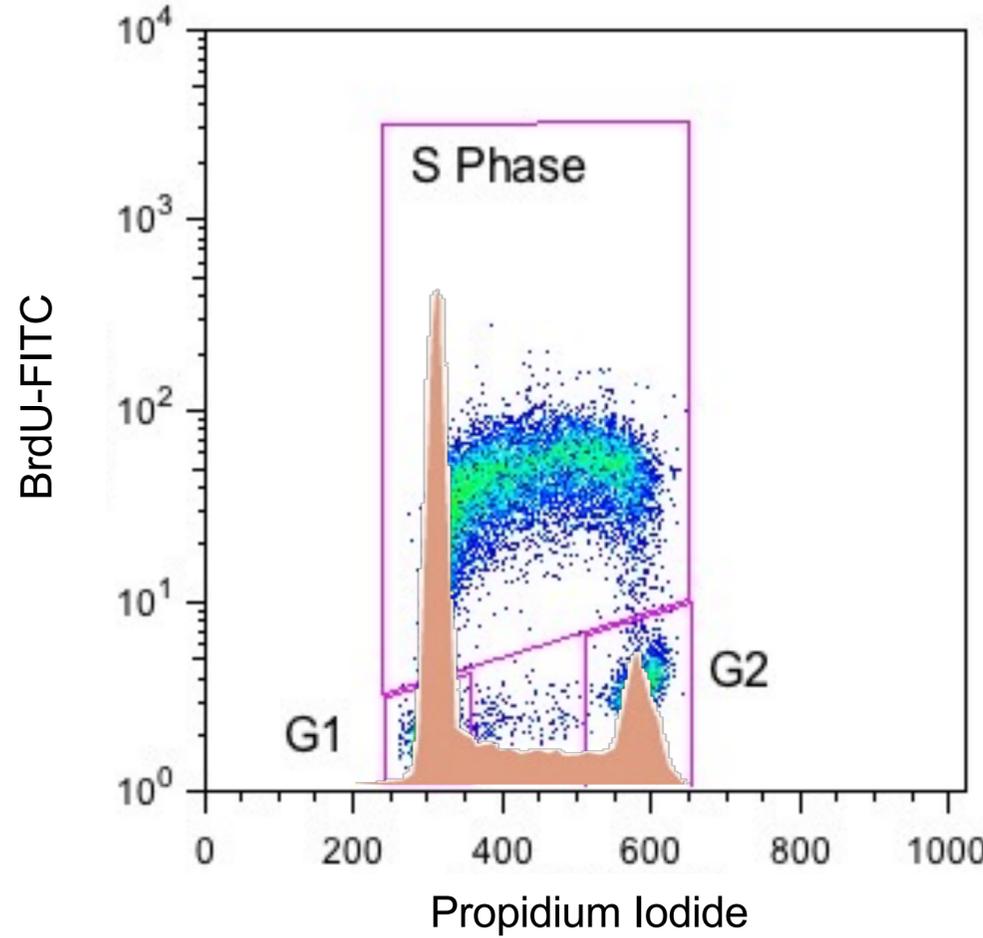
# Cell State: Cell Cycle

### Cell Cycle based on DNA Content

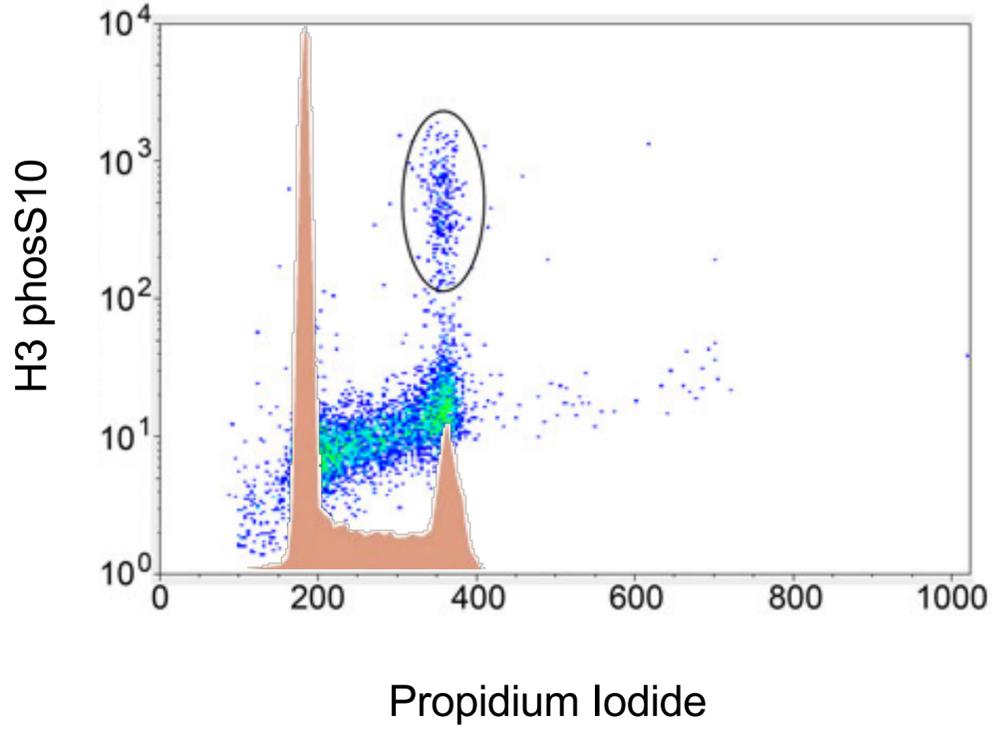


(<http://www.abcam.com>)

### Discriminating S-phase



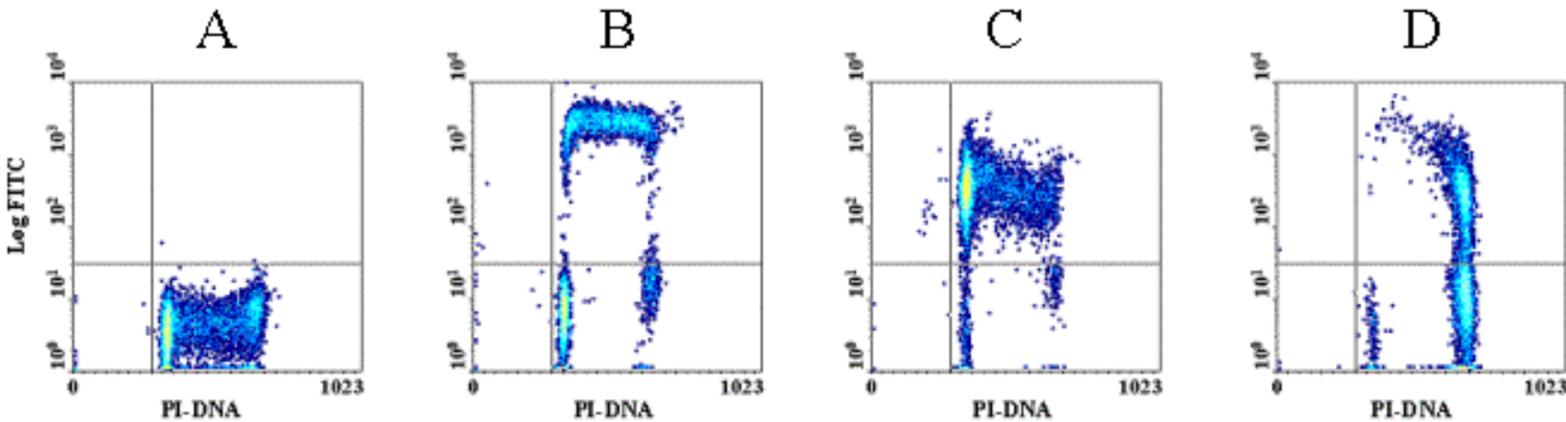
### Discriminating Mitosis



Derek Davies (<http://bitesizebio.com>)

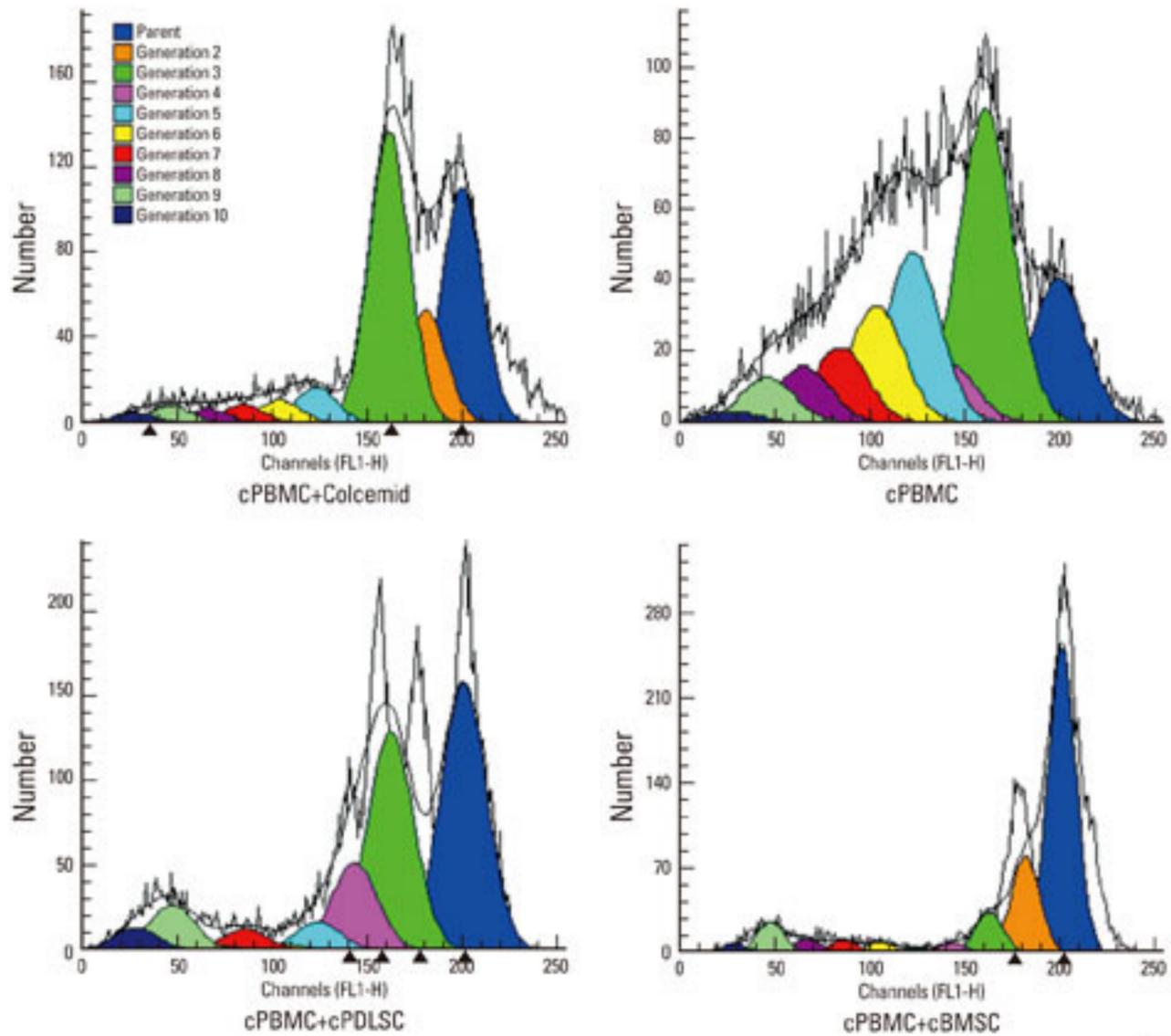
# Cell State: Proliferation

## Cell Proliferation

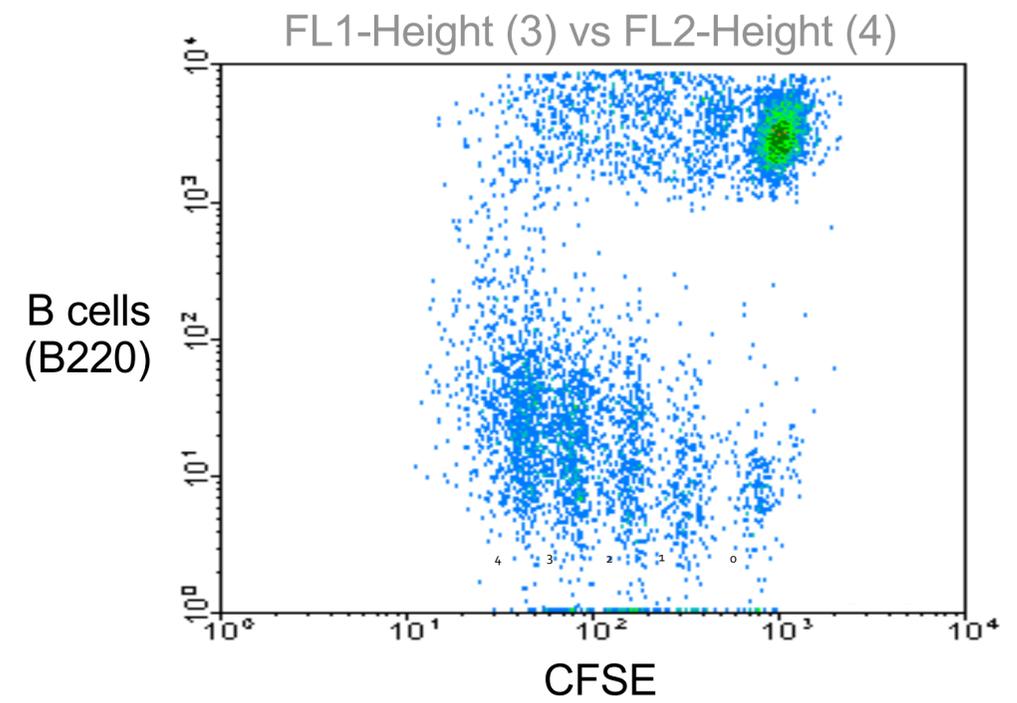
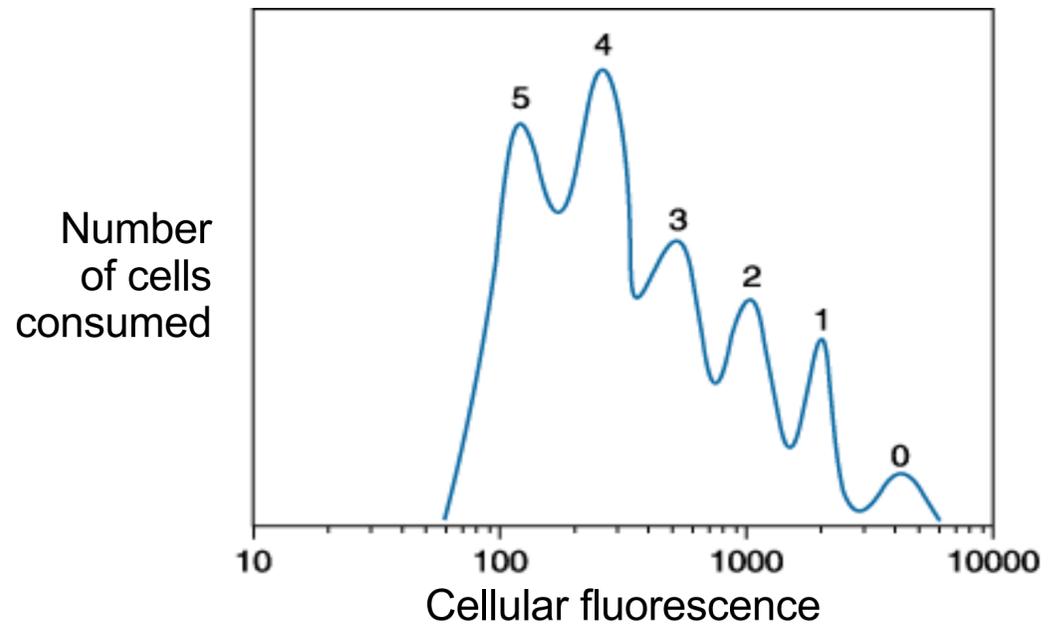
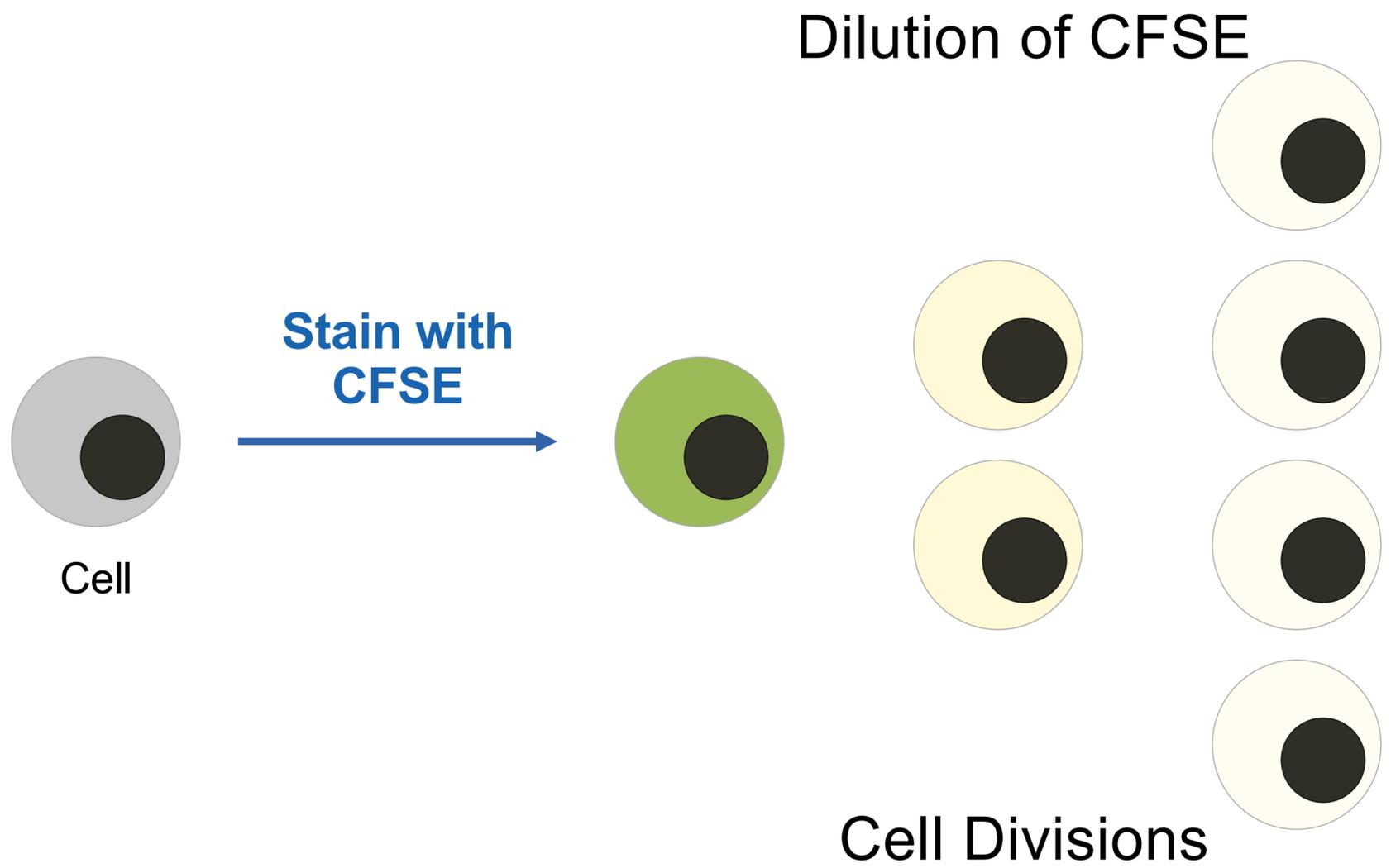


- A. Antibody control for SW620 cells. (No BrdUrd)
- B. Exponentially growing SW620 cells.
- C. SW620 cells after 24 hr incubation with 2mM hydroxyurea.
- D. SW620 cells 24 hr after 7.5 Gy of ionizing radiation

# Quantifying Cell Proliferation



# Cell State: Proliferation

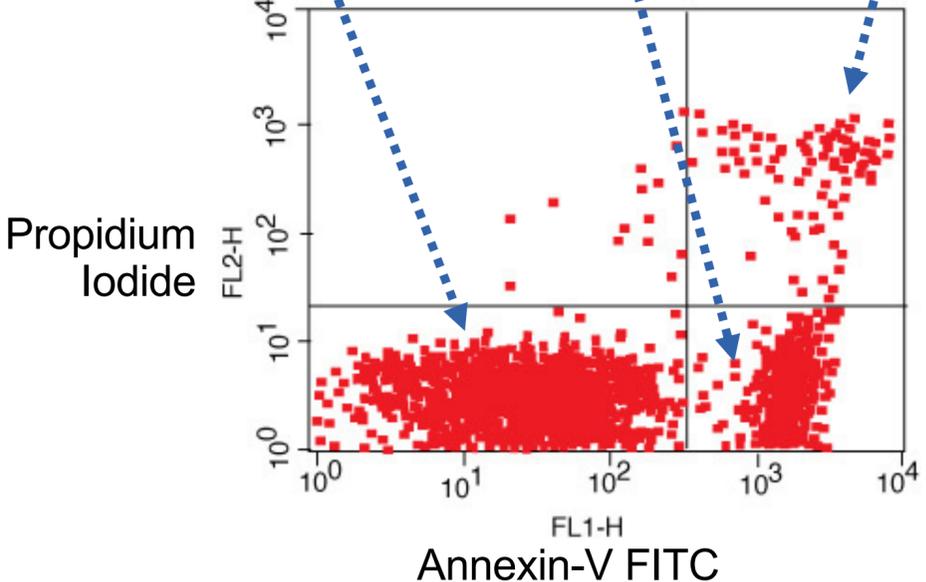
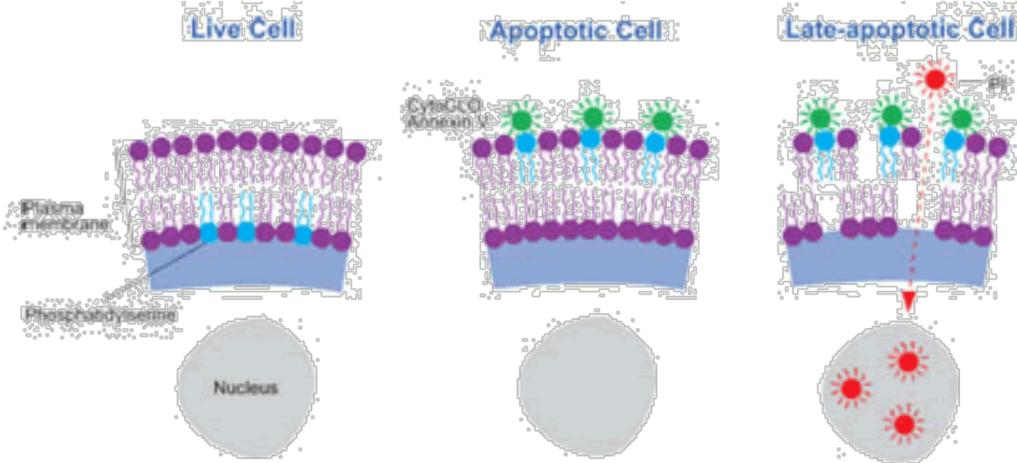
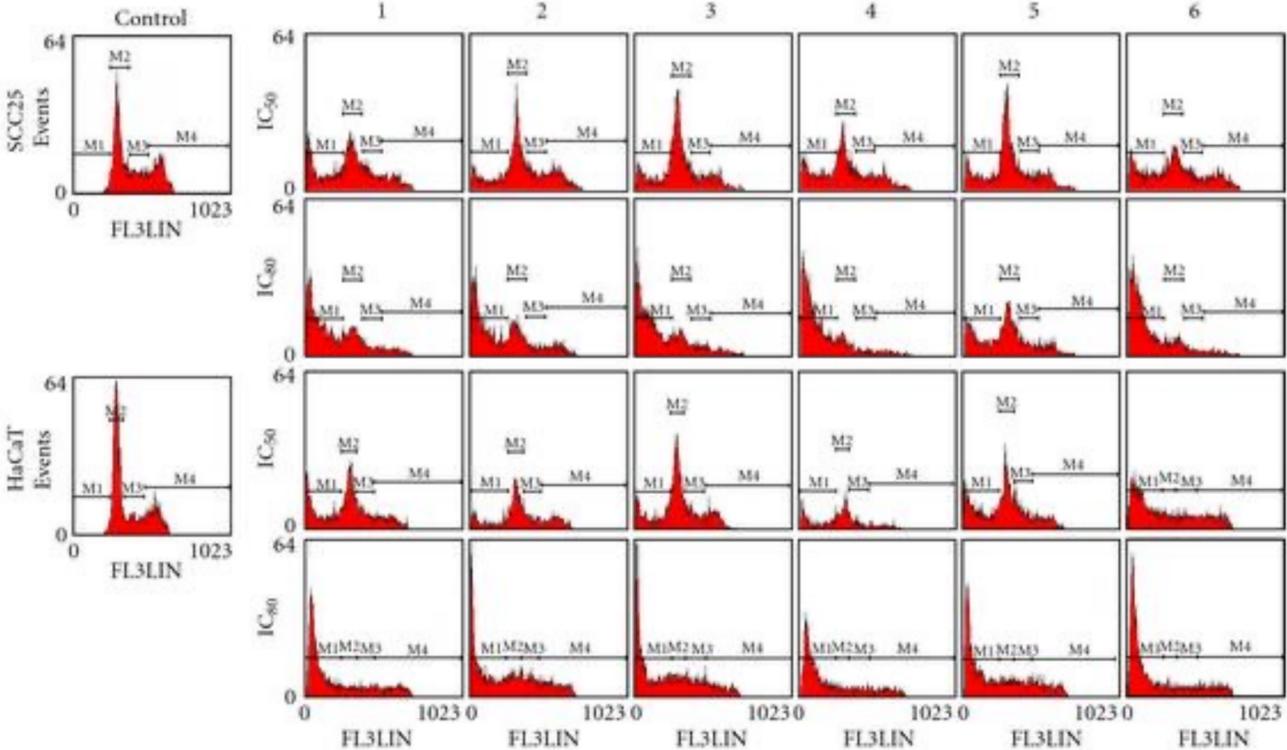


# Cell State: Death

Annexin-based assay to distinguish apoptosis from necrosis

Annexin V-fluorochrome + Propidium Iodide

## Apoptosis based on DNA Content

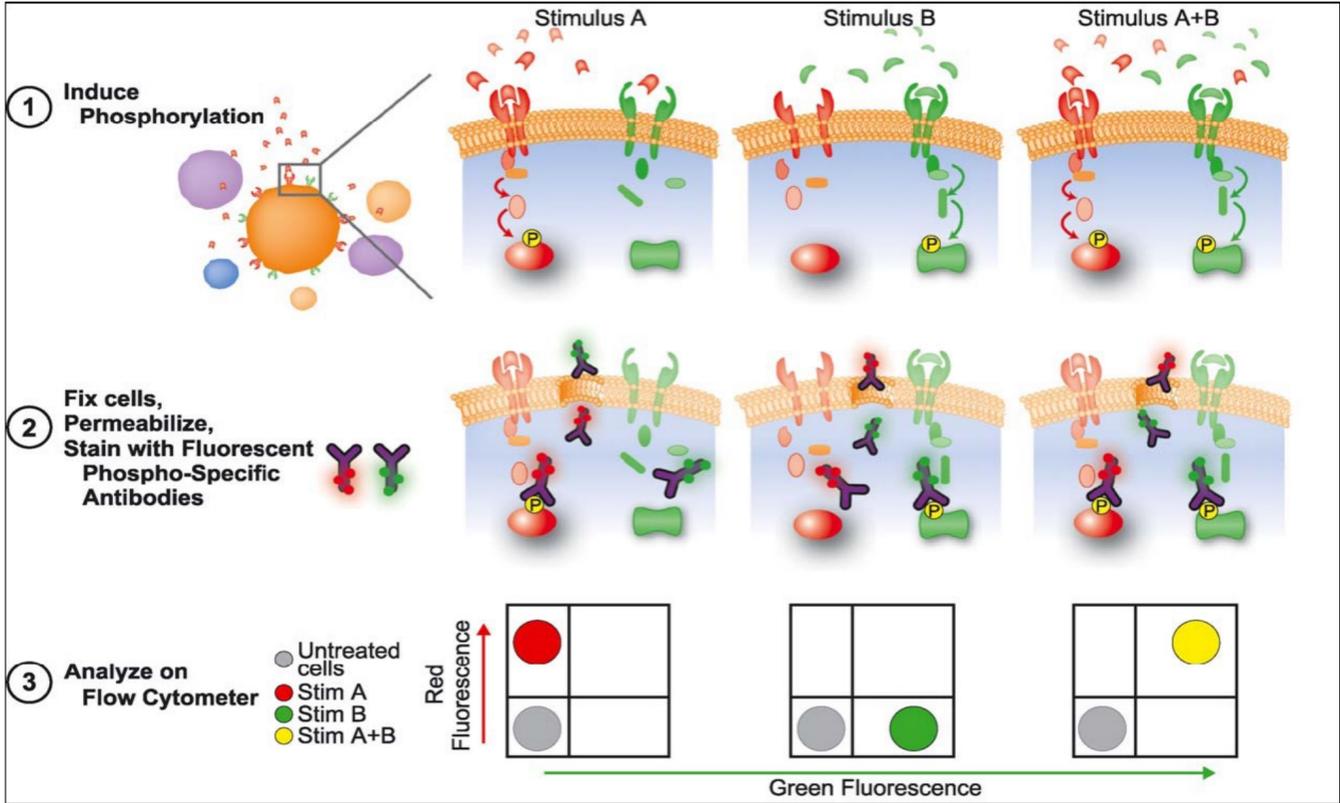
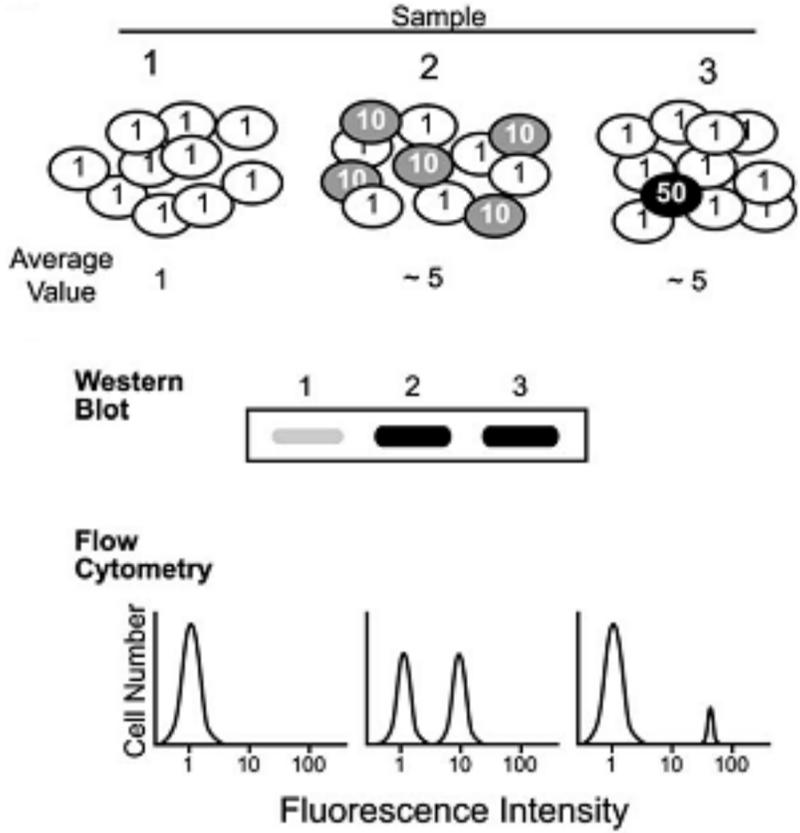
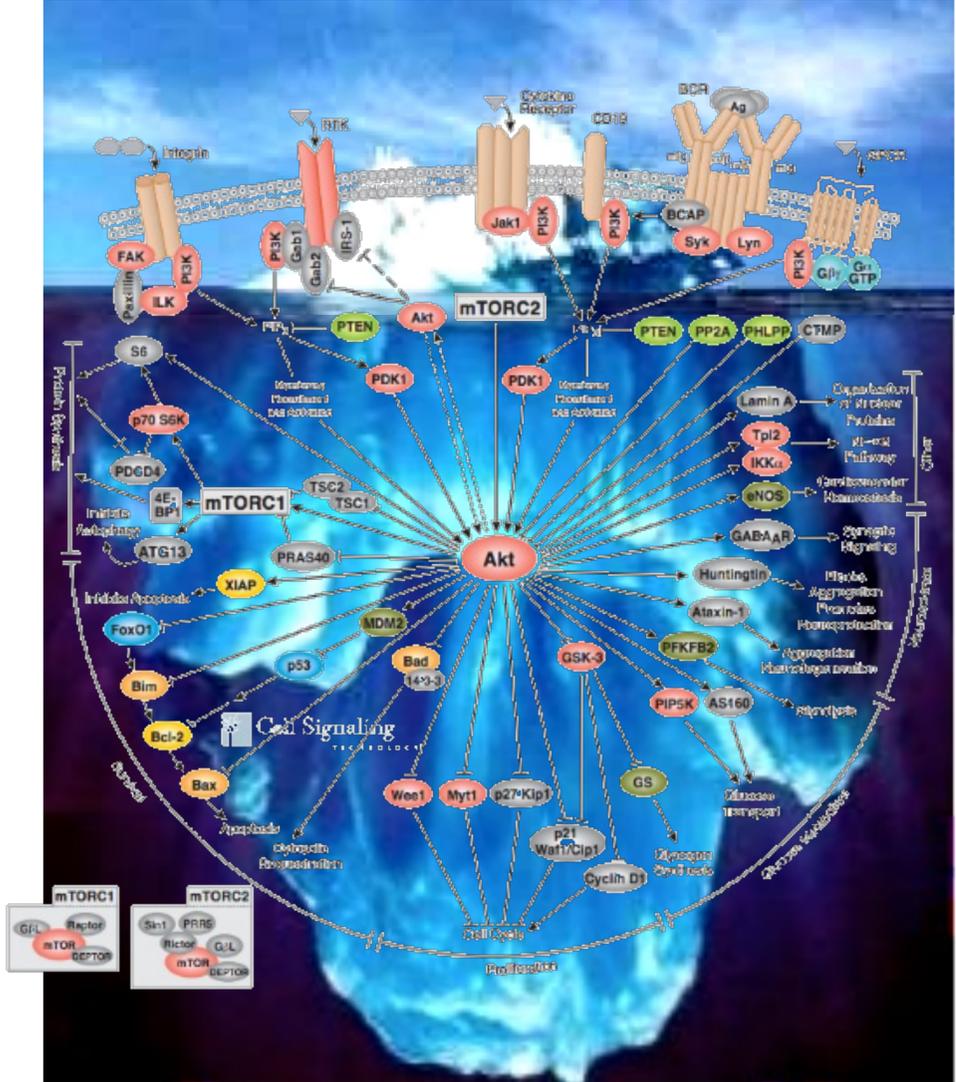


Cytotoxic Effect of the Genus *Sinularia* Extracts on Human SCC25 and HaCaT Cells: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2009/634868>

# Cell Function: Signaling

Cell Signaling by intracellular staining

Powerful Multivariate Multiparametric Technique

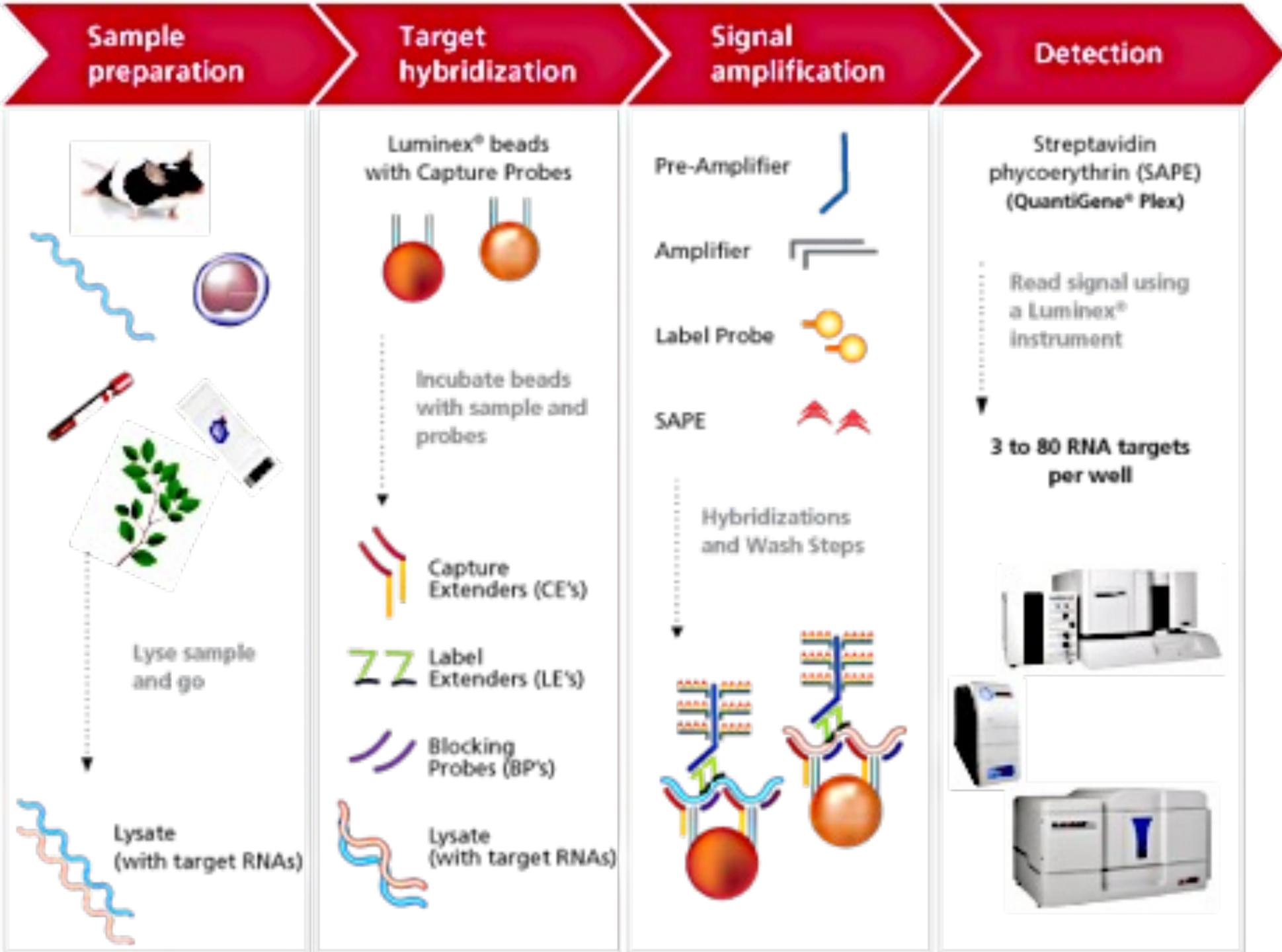


Cell Signaling Technology

Krutzik et al. Clin Immunology (2004)

# Measuring Soluble Analytes

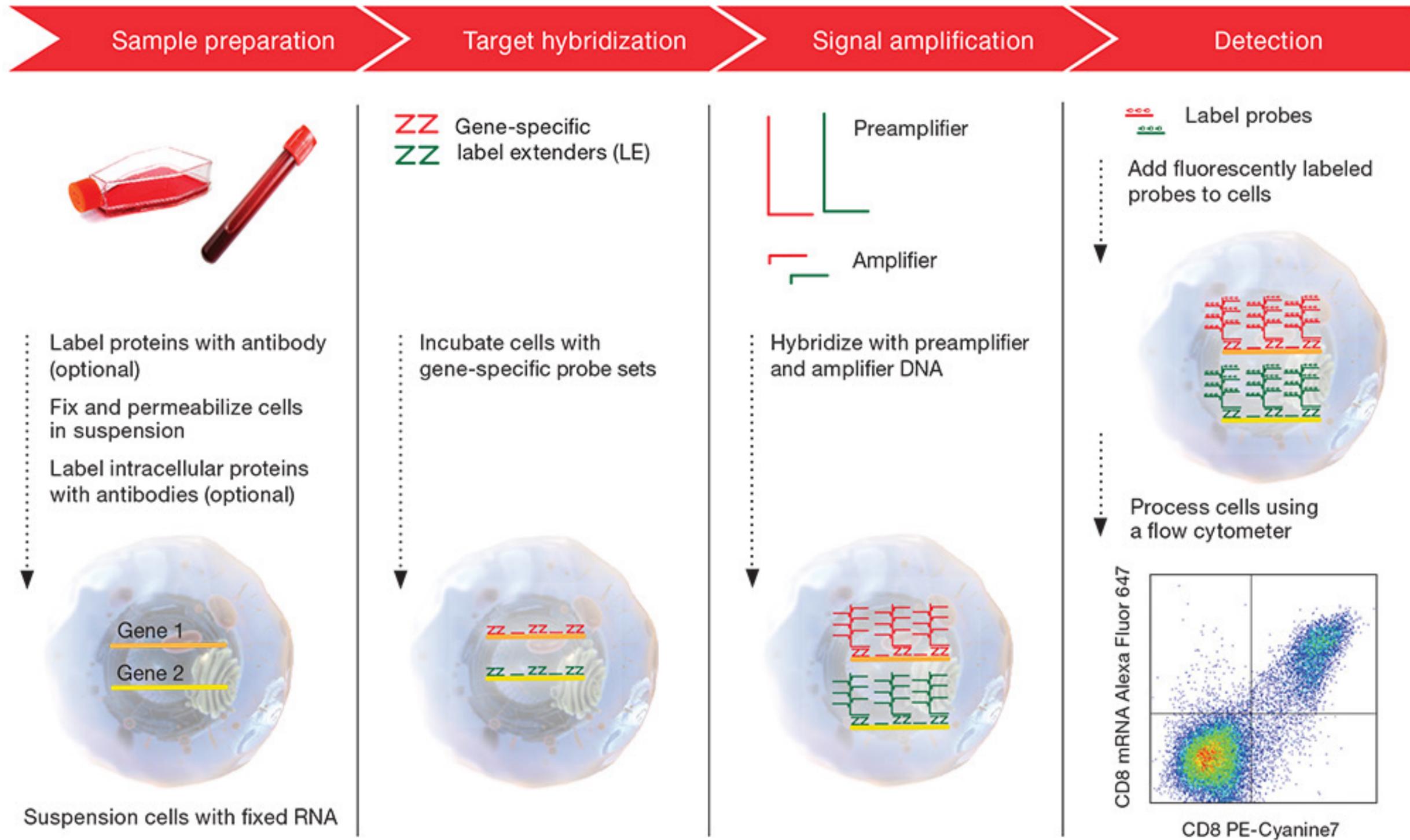
Multiplexed ELISAs: Luminex



# RNA Detection by Flow Cytometry

## PrimeFlow RNA Assay

<https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/references/newsletters-and-journals/bioprobables-journal-of-cell-biology-applications/bioprobables-75/bioprobables-75-primeflow-rna-assay.html>



# Drinking the Data

The technology has not only been utilized in clinical and research environments, but also throughout the food and beverage industry.

During fermentation, the microorganisms responsible for the production of wine can be analyzed via Flow Cytometry. This allows for a monitoring of the quantity and viability of desired species which also determining contamination levels of unwanted organisms which can spoil the process.

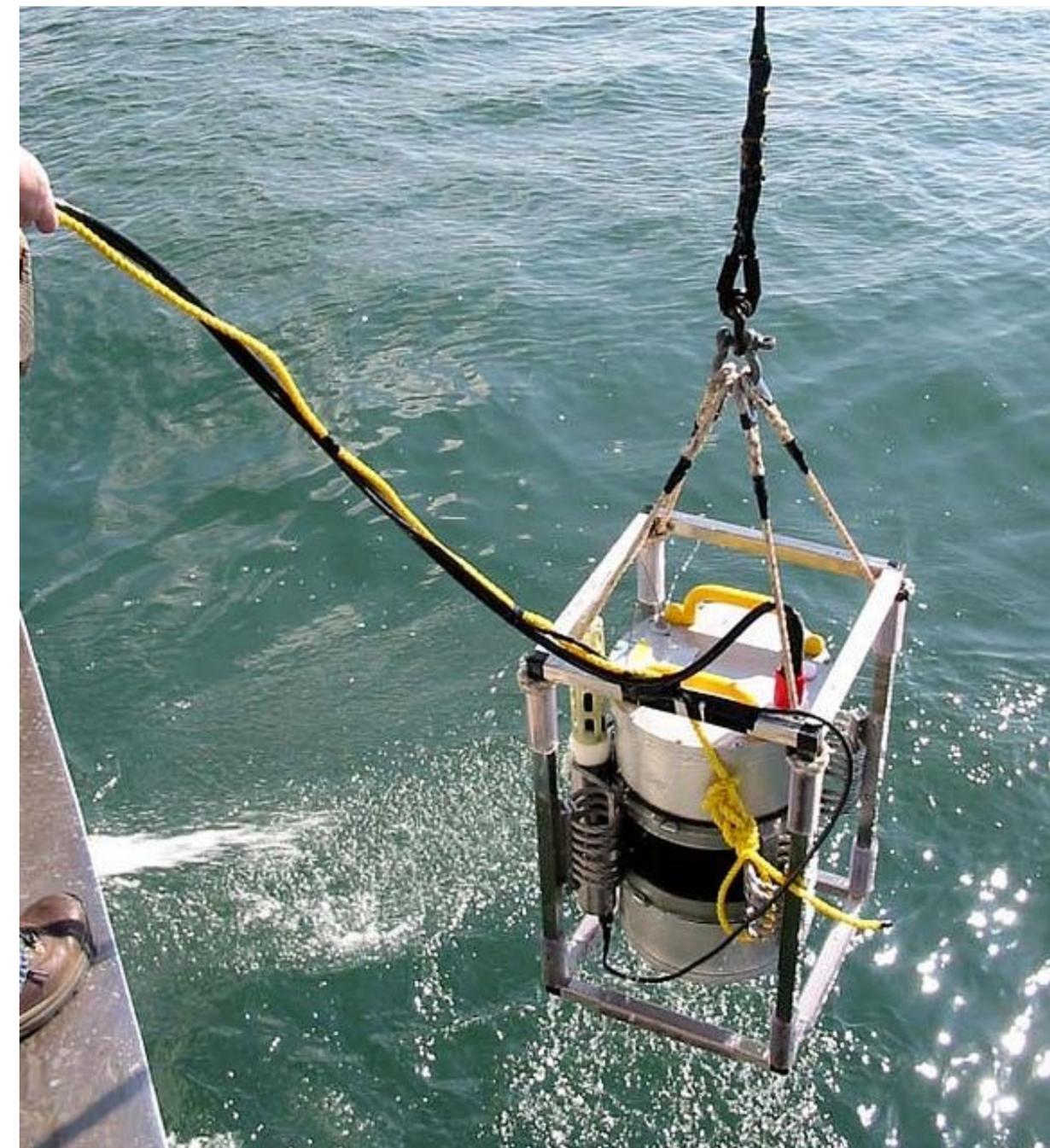


This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA

# Marine Cytometry

Many researchers use Flow Cytometry to analyze aquatic samples. Instruments have been specially developed to spend extended periods of time under water for various purposes.

This monitoring has been used to track impacts of environmental changes on phytoplankton and blooms in different settings.



**CytoSub submersible Flow Cytometer**

# Cosmic Flow Cytometry

Flow is a technology that can be used not only here on Earth, but also in ventures beyond. “Micro” flow cytometer instruments are in development and have shown positive preliminary results.

This instrumentation will allow for real time monitoring of physiological changes that occur while in space along with routine blood screens.



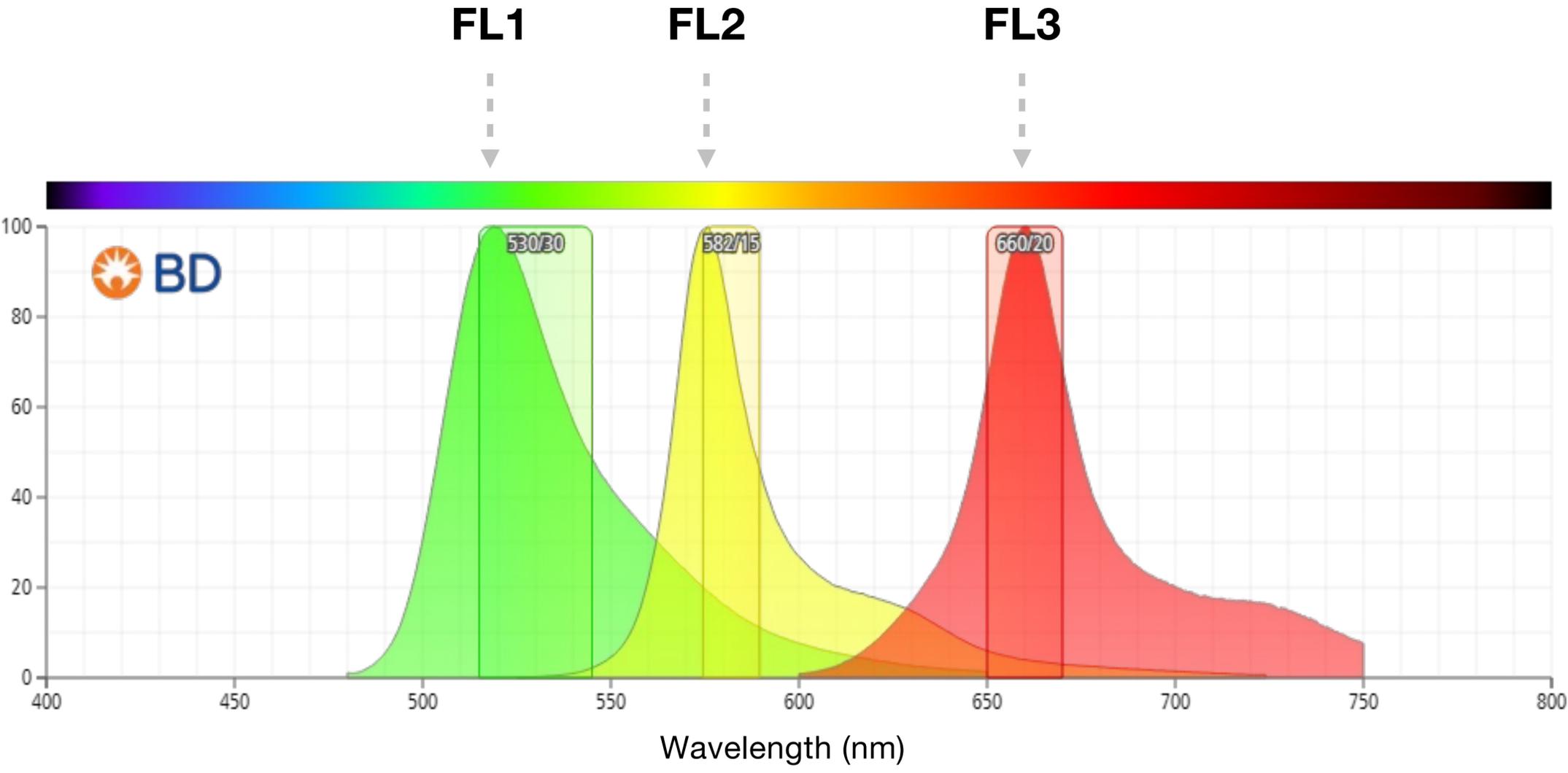
**Pictured above: Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Chris Hadfield with the Microflow 1 miniature Flow Cytometer aboard the ISS.**



# Spectral Flow Cytometry

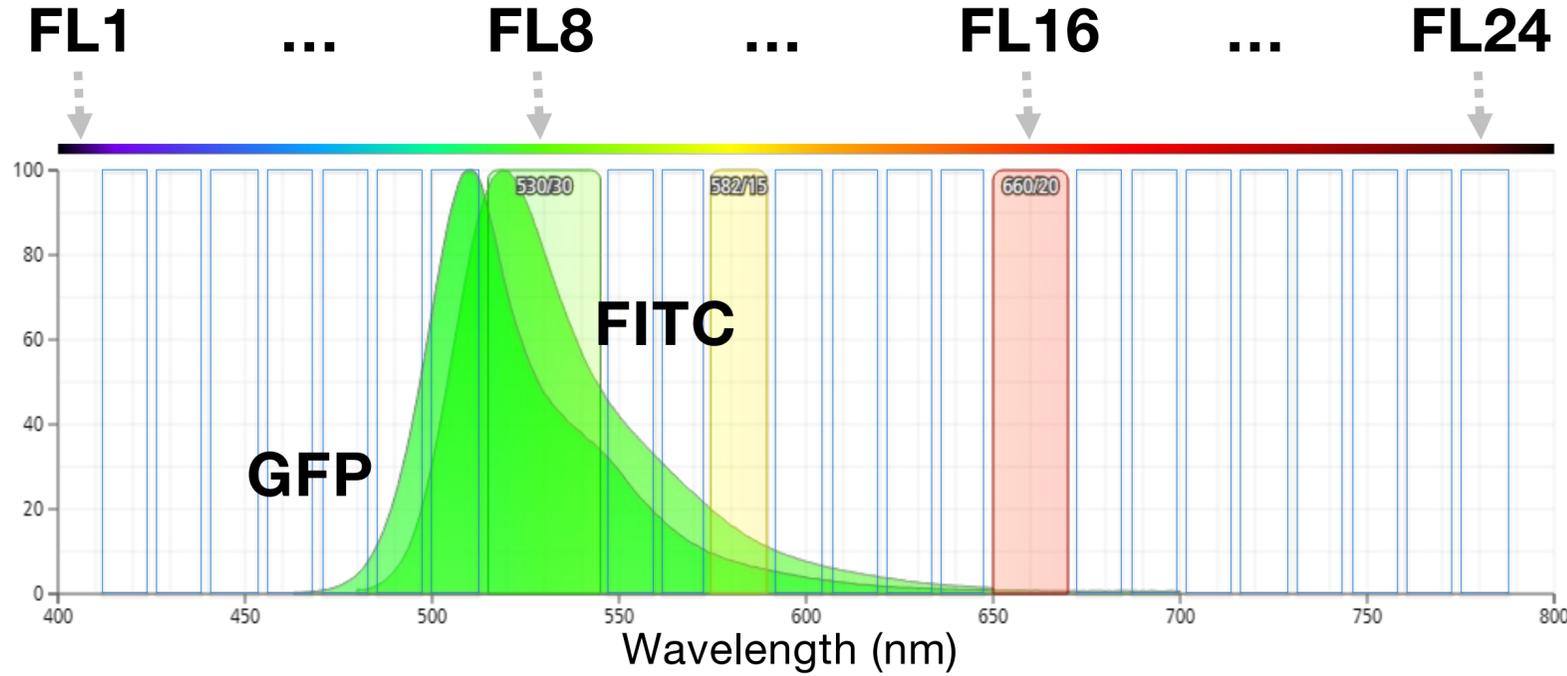
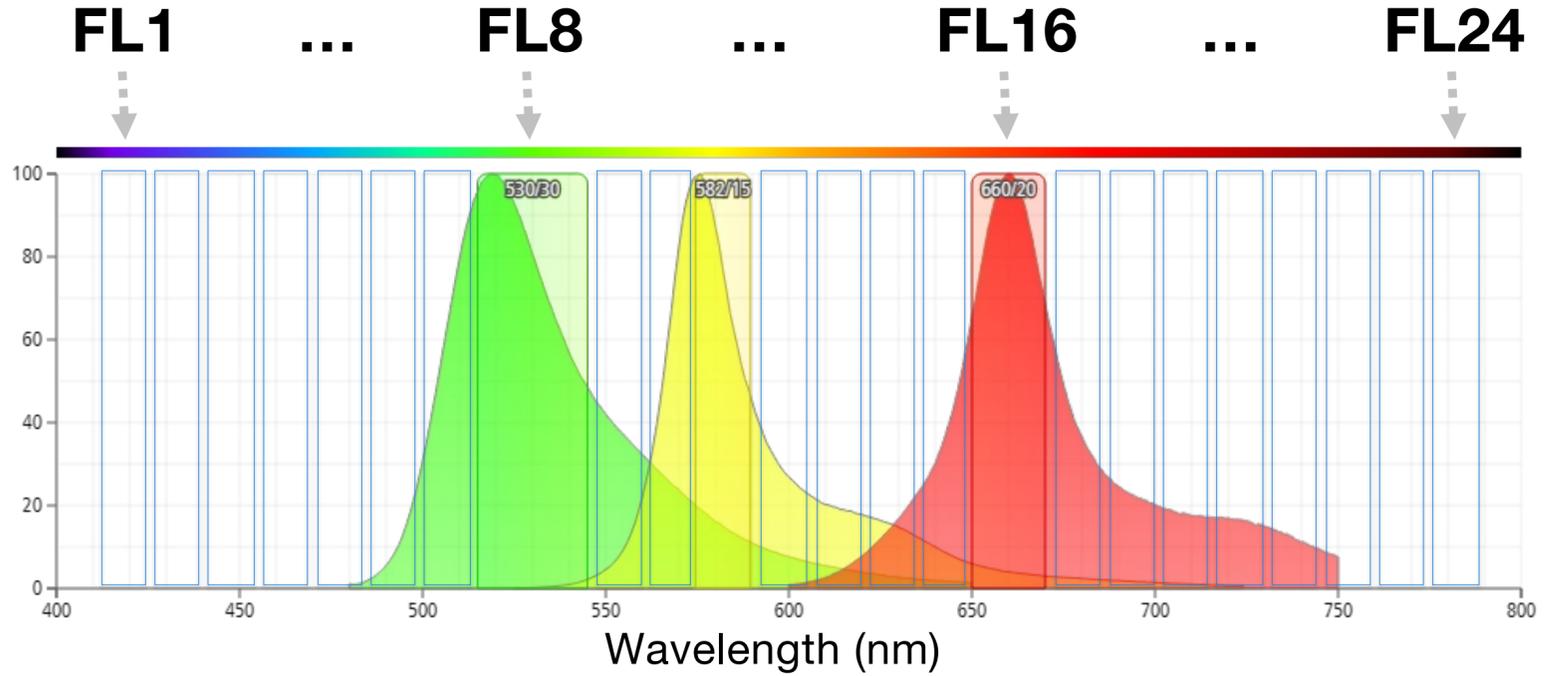
# Polychromatic Flow Cytometry

- FL1 -----> FITC
- FL2 -----> PE
- FL3 -----> APC



One detector per fluorochrome

# Spectral Flow Cytometry



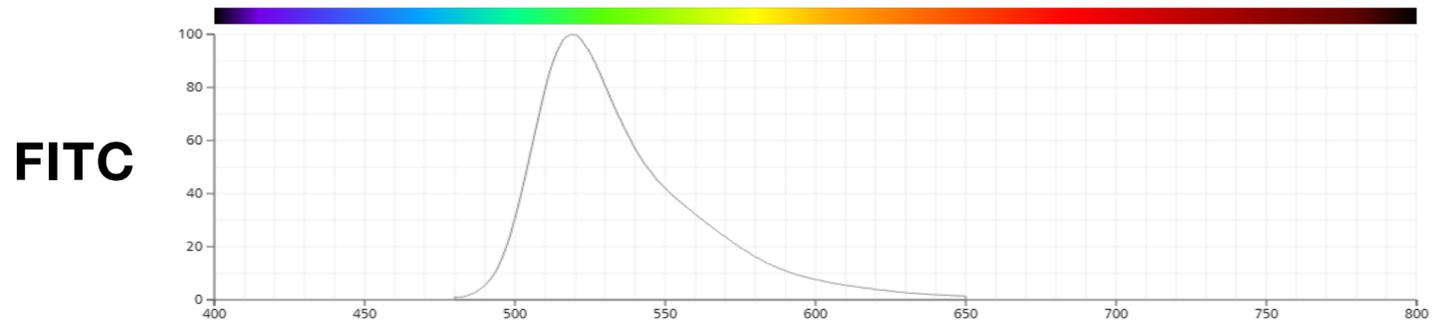
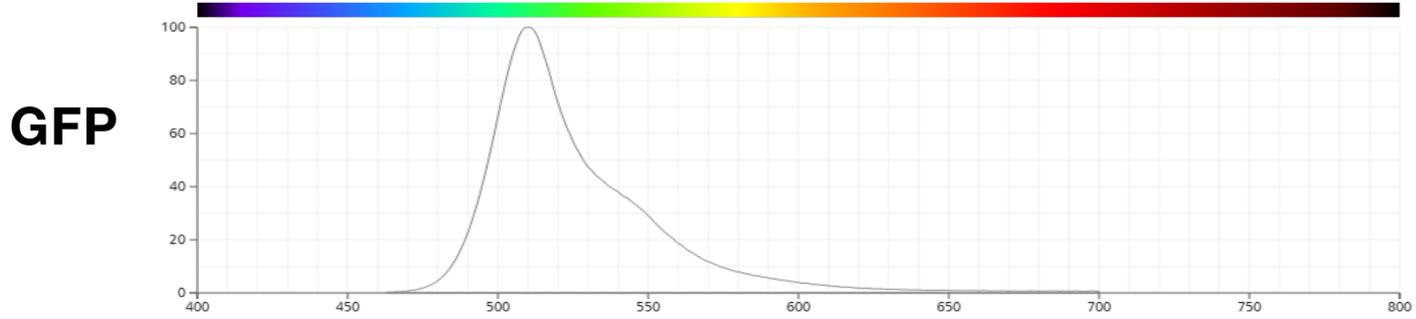
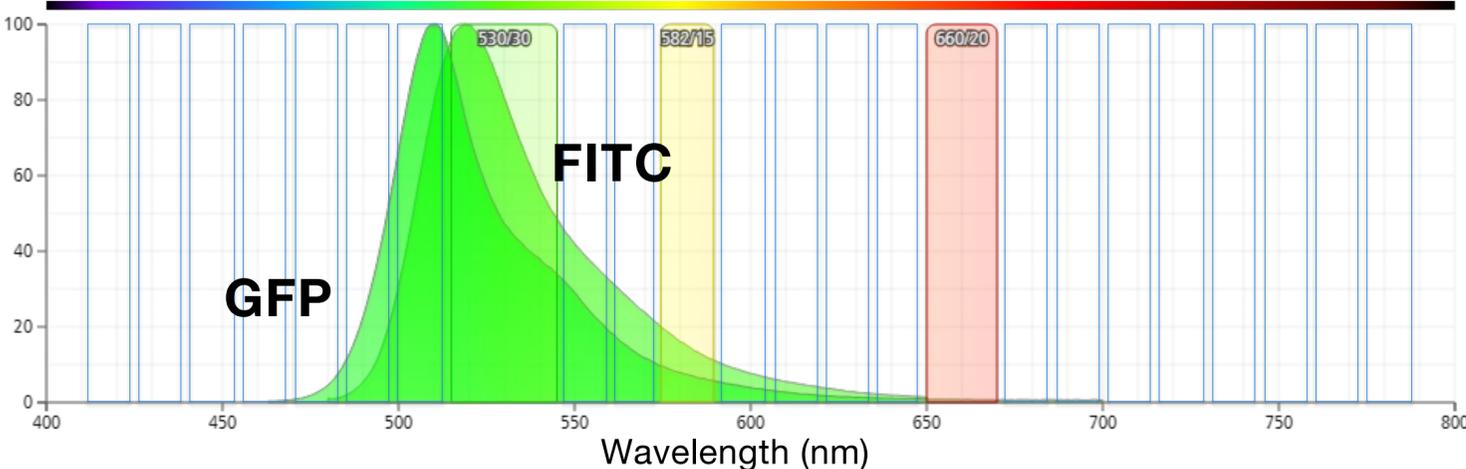
**FL1 ... FL24** -----> **FITC**  
**PE**  
**APC**

**Several detectors per fluorochrome**

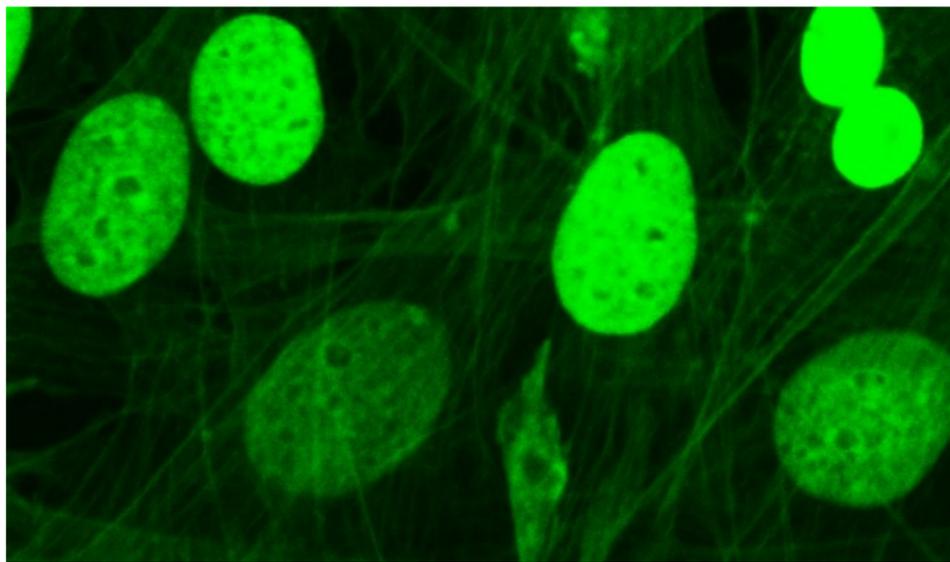
**FL1 ... FL7 ... FL24** -----> **GFP**  
**FL1 ... FL8 ... FL24** -----> **FITC**

Spectral Flow Cytometry performs as good or better than Polychromatic Flow Cytometry

# Seeing is Believing



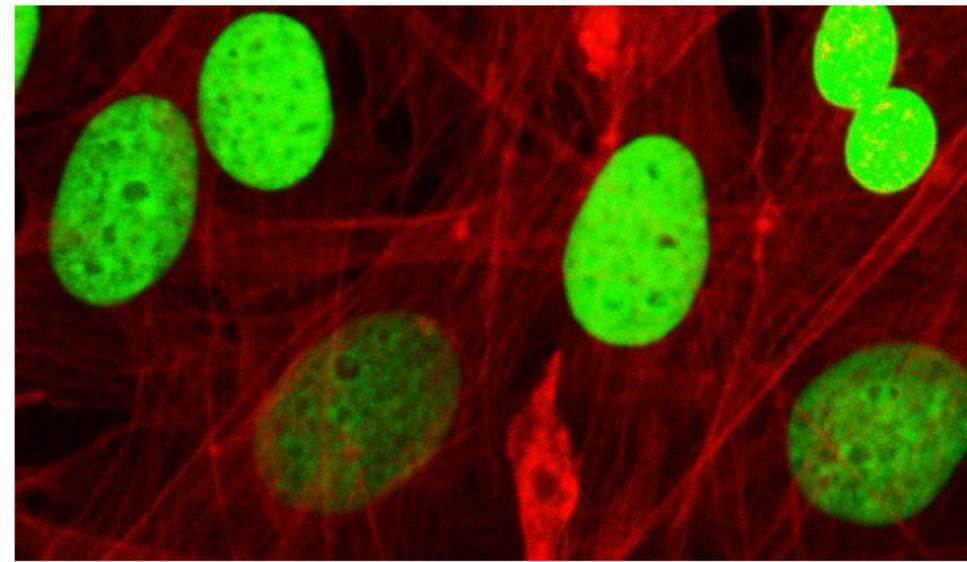
Through the Eyepieces



Unmixing



GFP-Histone2B  
FITC-phalloidin  
(actin filaments)

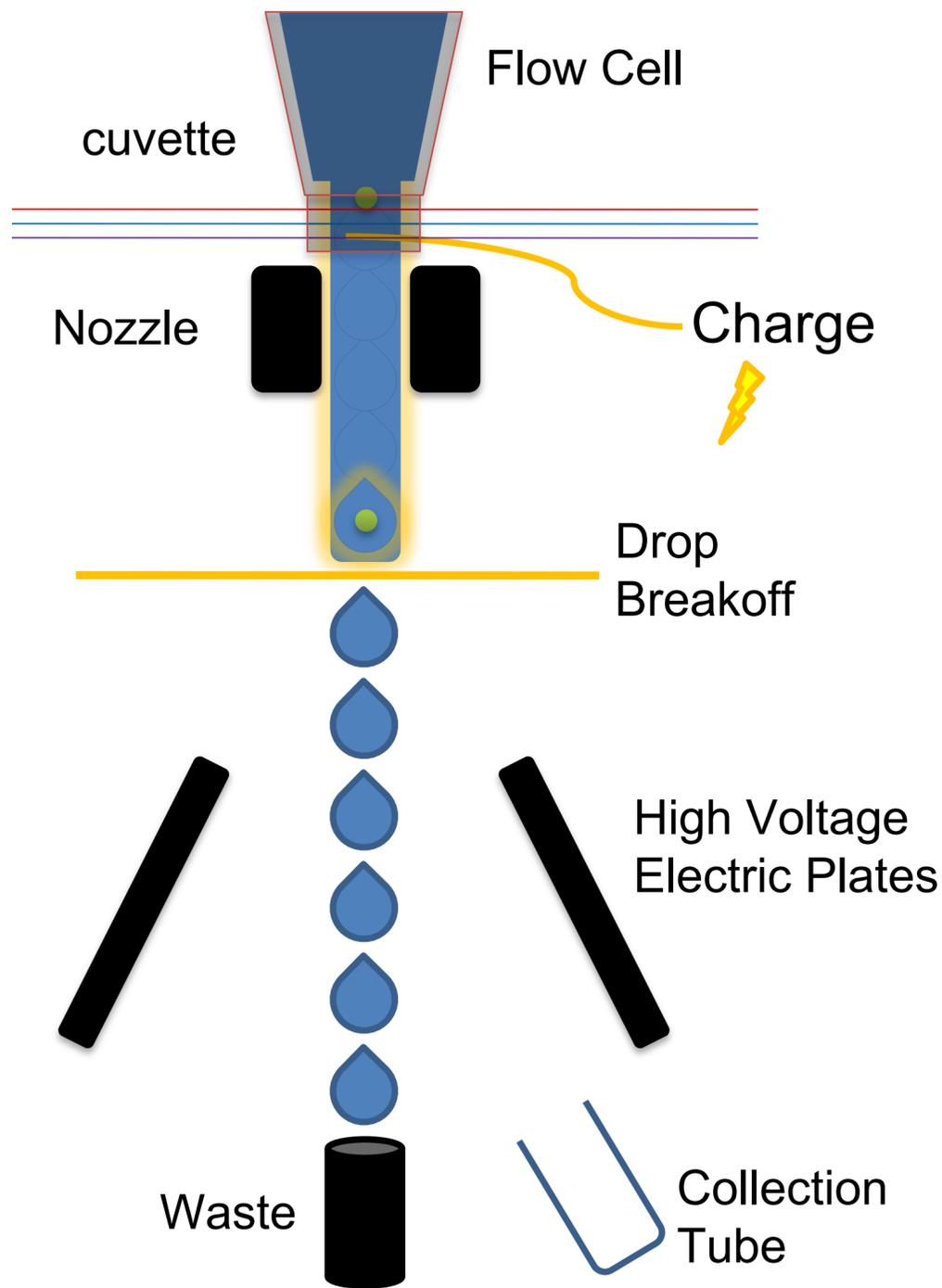


Images taken from Zeiss: "Linear Unmixing for Dummies"



# Cell Sorting

# Cell Sorting



## Physical separation

of a cell or particle of interest from a heterogeneous suspension of cells or particles.

## Drop Generation

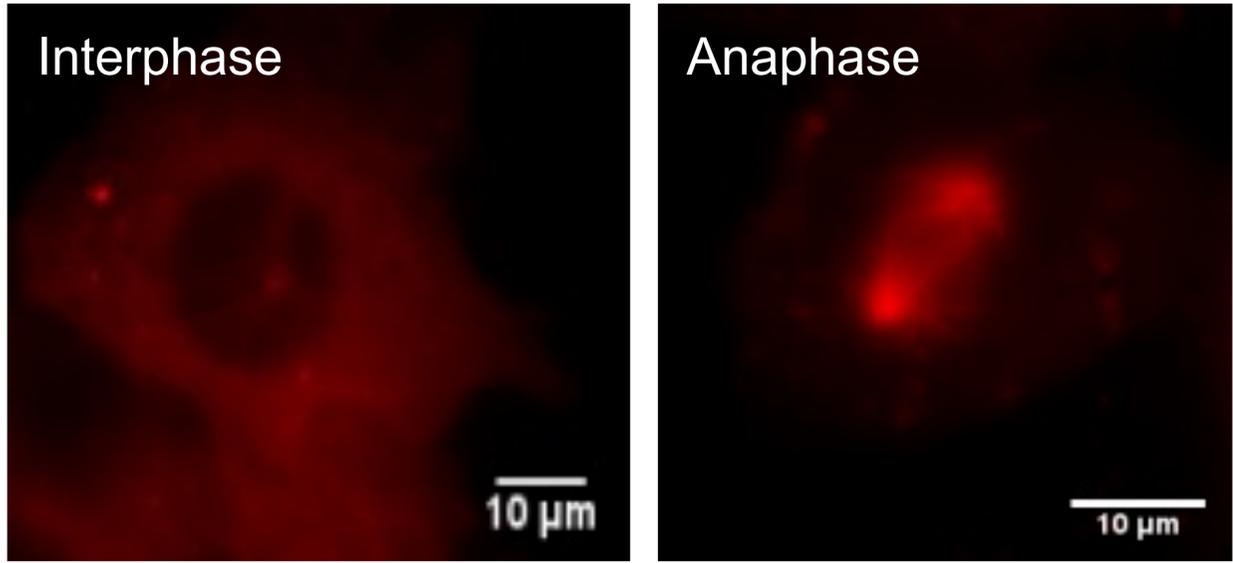
Charge Drop  
Break Stream into Droplets  
With particle of interest  
(30-100,000 drops/sec)

## Up to Millions of cells/h

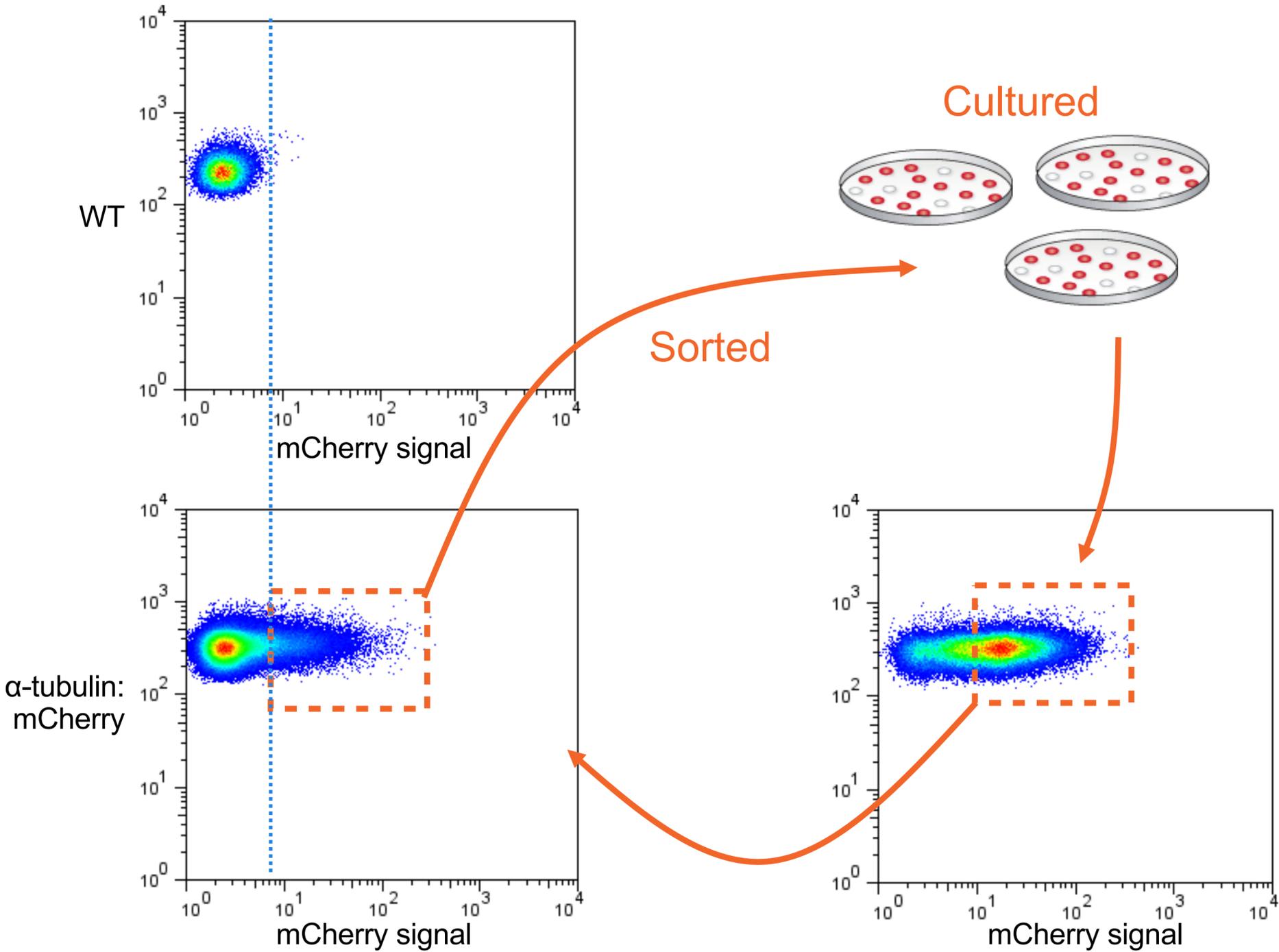
- Deflect Charged Drop can be sorted with.
- High Purity
- High Yield
- High Speed
- High Viability

# Cell Sorting

Establishing Fluorescent Cell Lines



Human hepatoma cell line  
Expressing  $\alpha$ -tubulin fused with mCherry

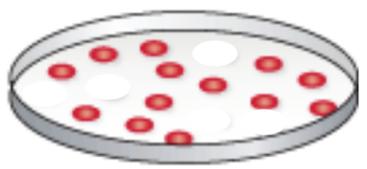
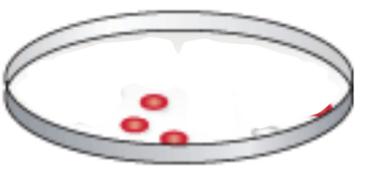
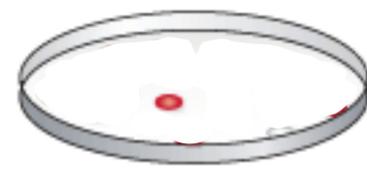


# Cell Sorting

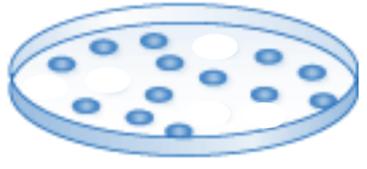
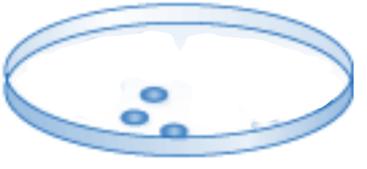
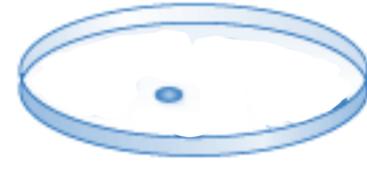
Establishing Cell Clones with Single-Cell Sorting



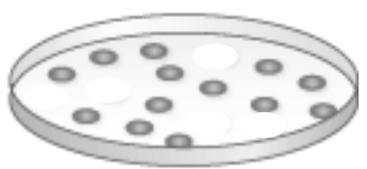
1 Cell



Clone A



Clone B

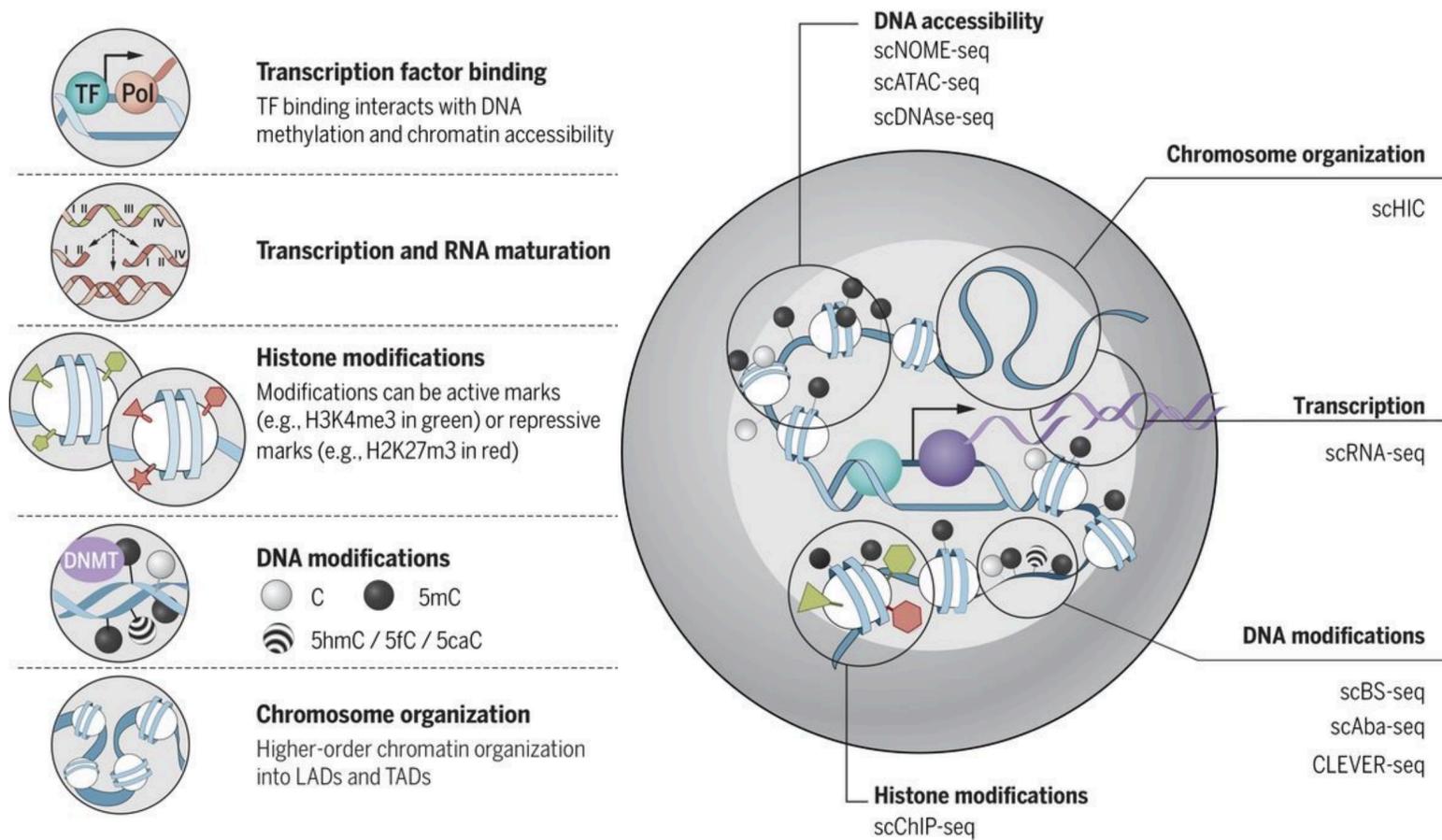


Clone C



Time

# Cell Sorting for Single Cell Genomics



Gavin Kelsey et al. Science 2017;358:69-75

<http://www.fluidigm.com/single-cell-genomics.html>

Other technologies:

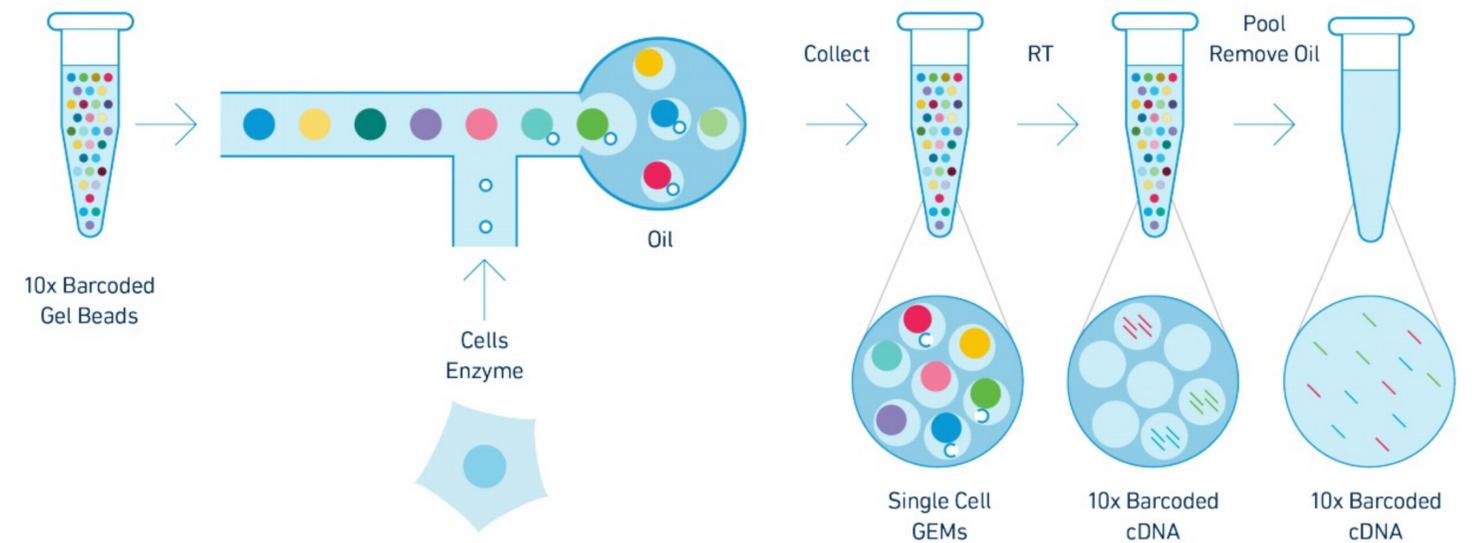


BD Rhapsody

Nanostring nCounter

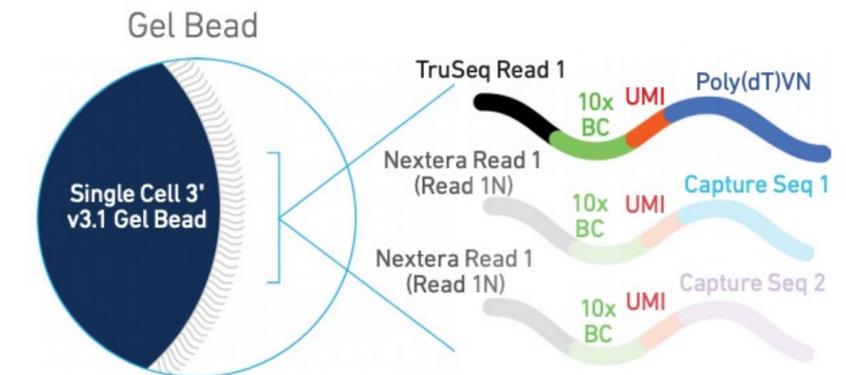


## 10x Genomics



## Applications:

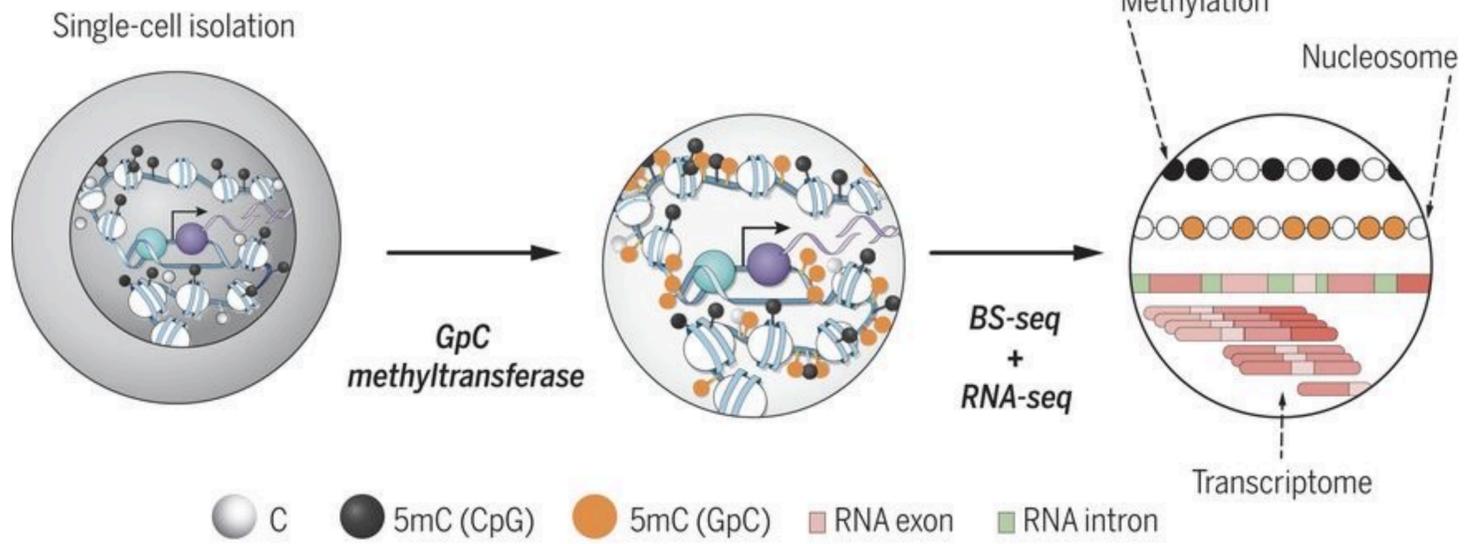
- Fixed RNA Profiling
- Gene Expression
- Nuclei Isolation
- ATAC
- Immune Profiling



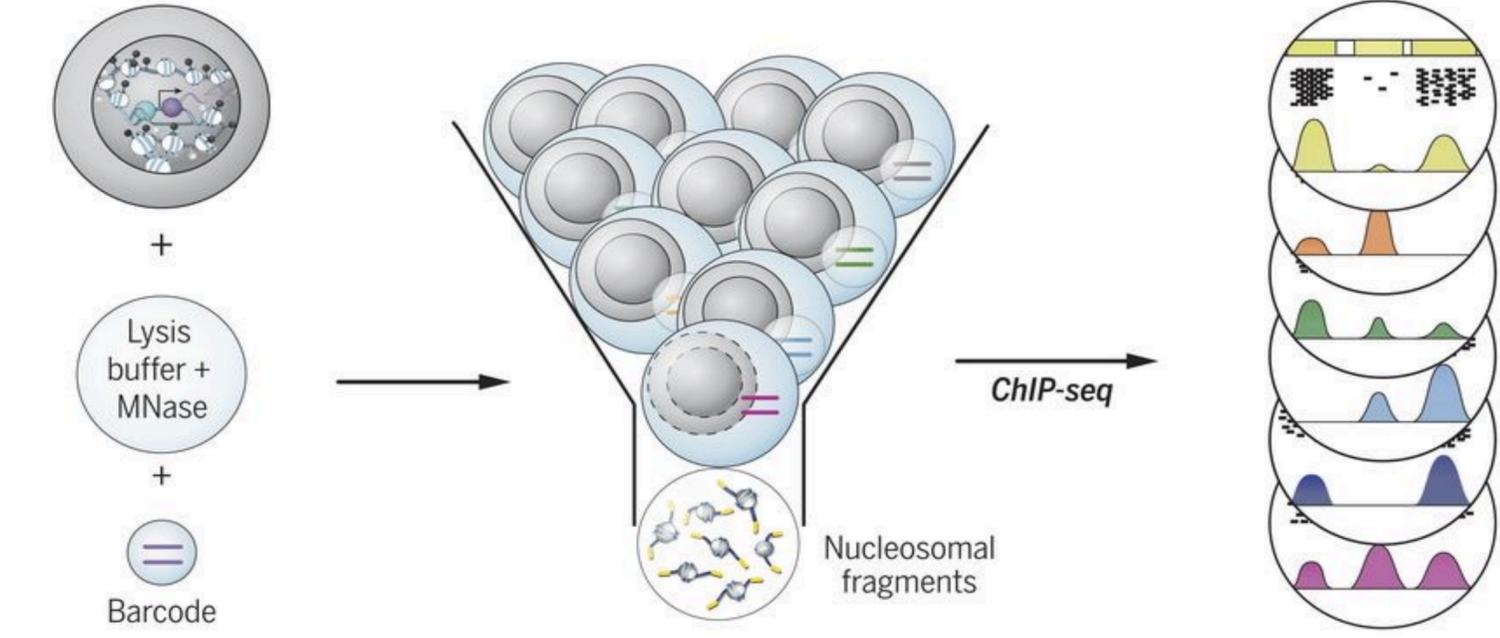
<https://www.10xgenomics.com/>

# Single Cell Sorting for Molecular Profiling

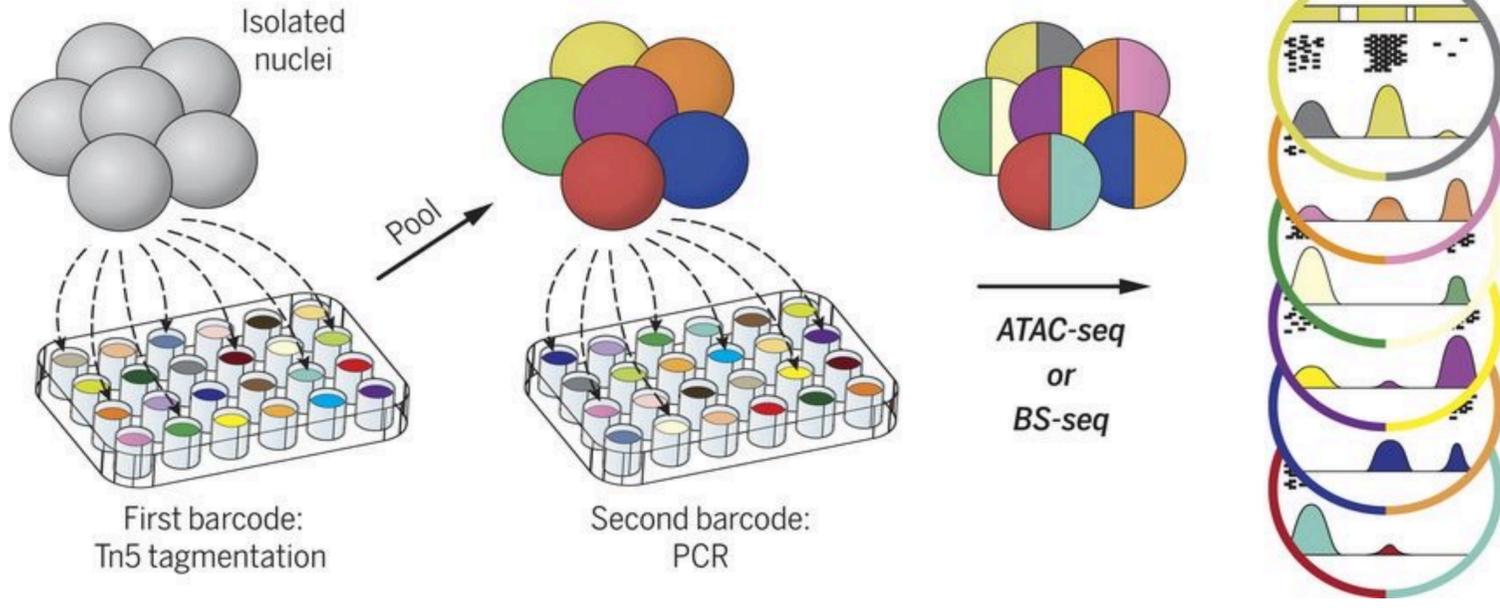
## Multi-omics: scNMT-seq



## Droplet barcoding



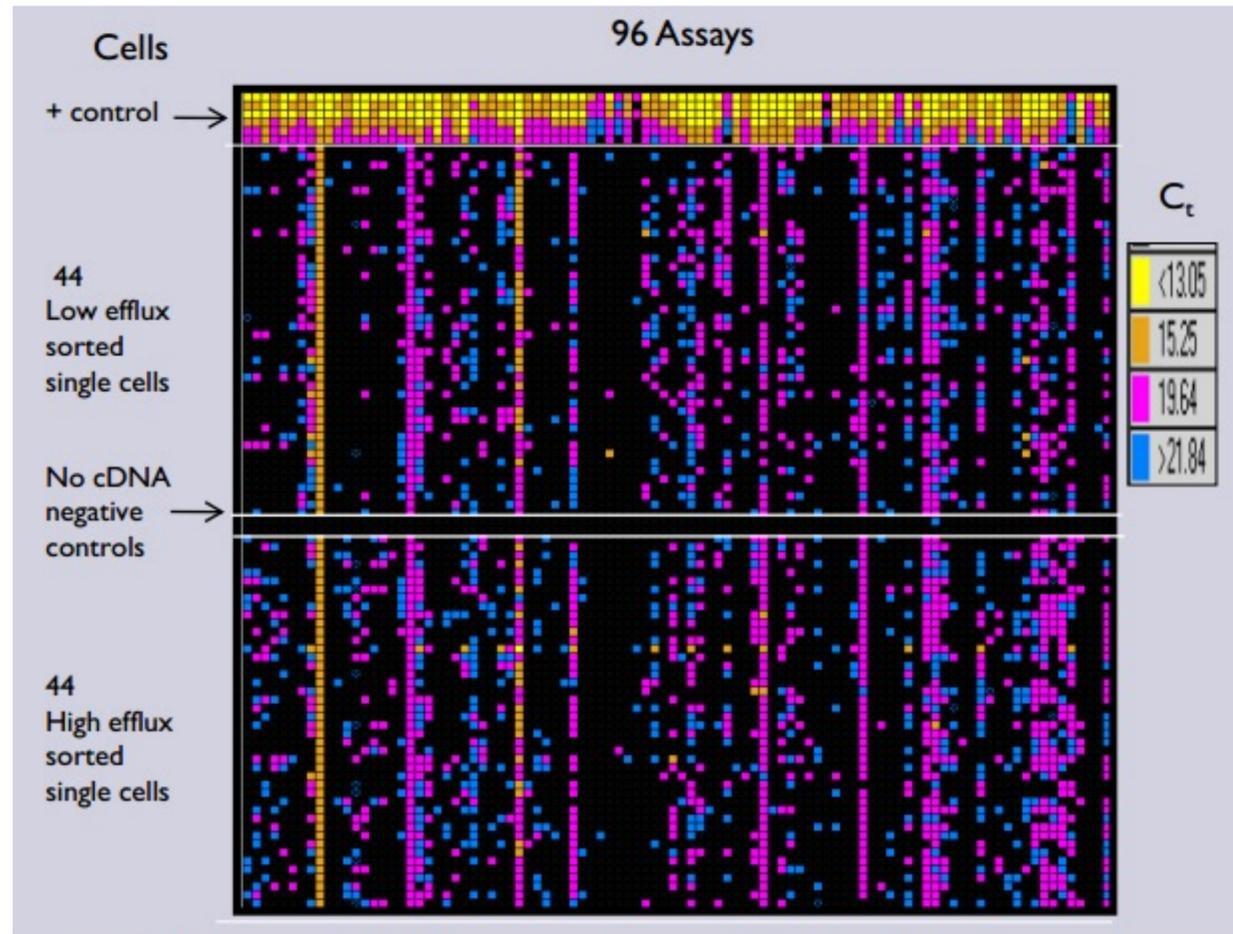
## Combinatorial barcoding



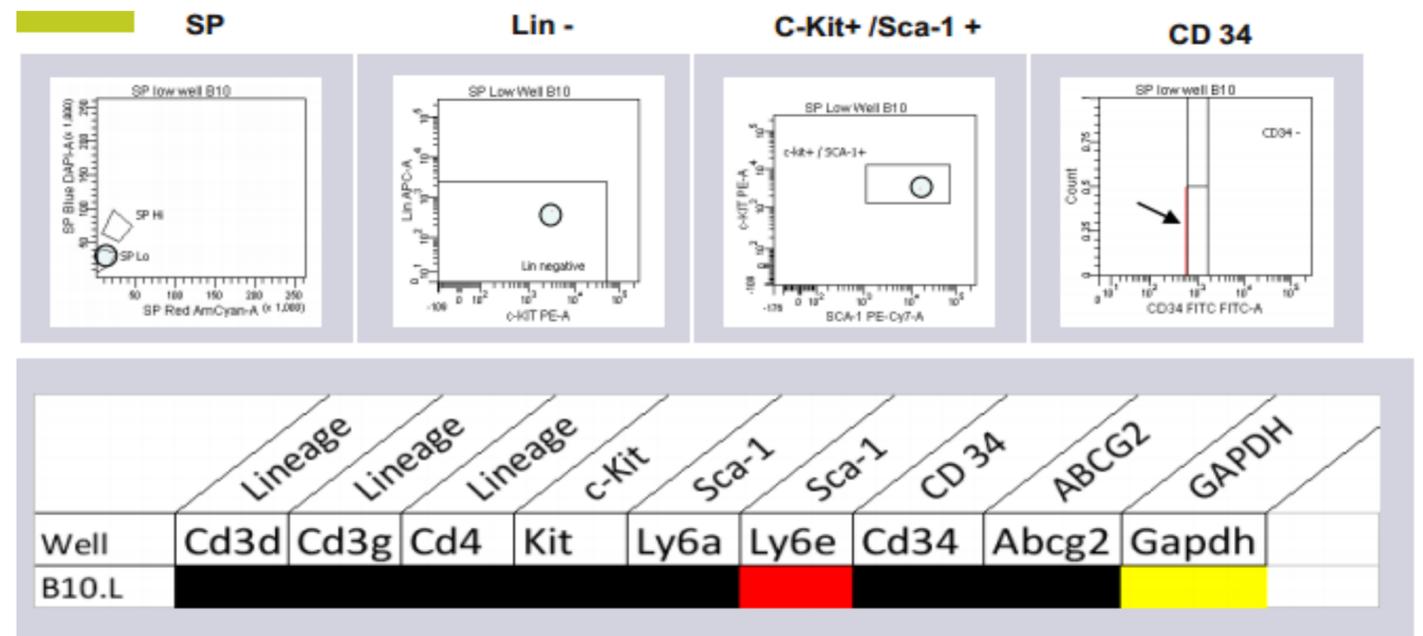
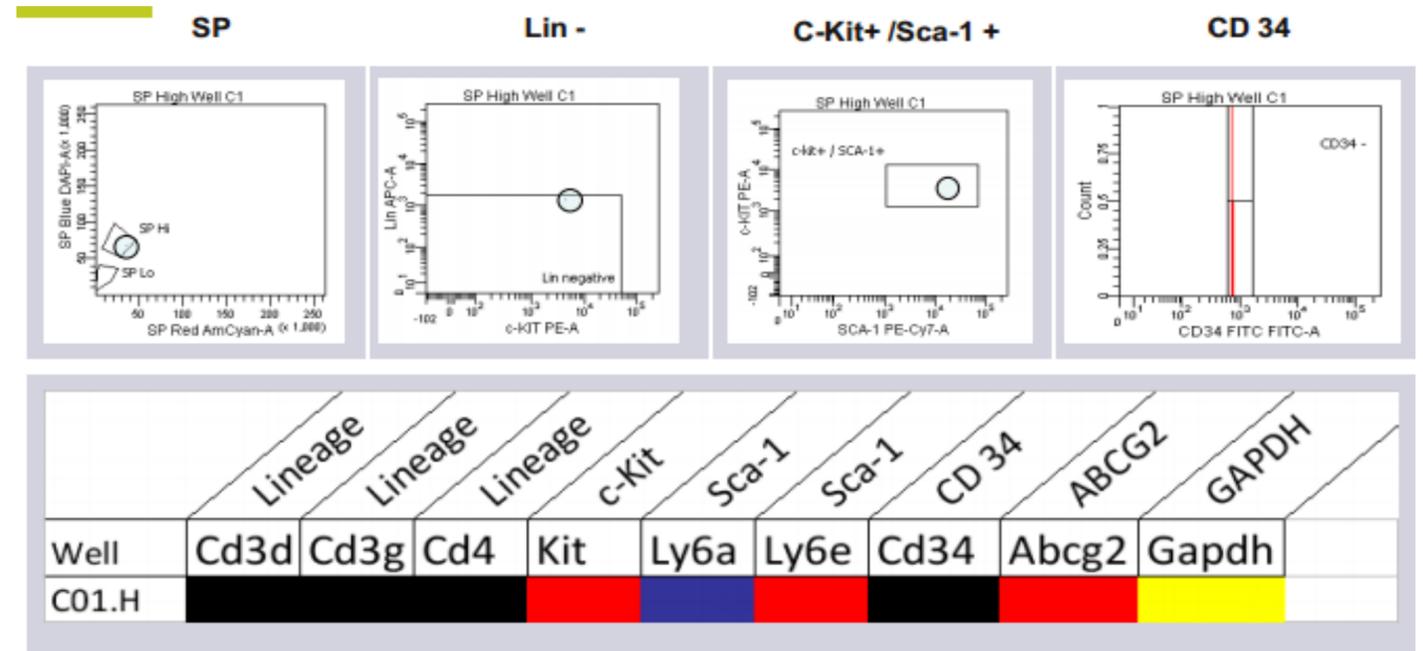
Gavin Kelsey et al. Science 2017;358:69-75

# Index Sorting single cells

Isolation of Mouse Hematopoietic Stem Cell Side Populations Using SPKLS and Post-Sort Confirmation Using Single-Cell Gene Expression



**Figure 9:** Ct heat map from 96 PCR assays, are shown on a 96.96 chip. Each point represents gene expression within a single cell. Some genes are more highly expressed in SP High than SP Low cell population.



[http://www.fluidigm.com/home/fluidigm/Posters/BD\\_FLDM\\_poster\\_Final\\_Red.pdf](http://www.fluidigm.com/home/fluidigm/Posters/BD_FLDM_poster_Final_Red.pdf)

# Check out the latest news/courses

<https://fccf.mskcc.org>



@flowMSKCC



flowMSKCC



flowMSKCC



<https://fccf.mskcc.org>

### Mission

The aim of the Flow Cytometry Core Facility at MSKCC is to provide advanced instrumentation as well as high-level technical and scientific expertise in multi-dimensional Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting, to facilitate science, improve the quality, and advance the scope of MSK research.

### Acknowledging the facility

All peer-reviewed publications by MSK faculty or employees must acknowledge the MSK Cancer Center Support Grant/Core Grant (P30 CA008748) when publishing work performed/assisted by FCCF.



# Flow Cytometry in a Nutshell

## Questions?