

# Blood Cell Counting Standardization

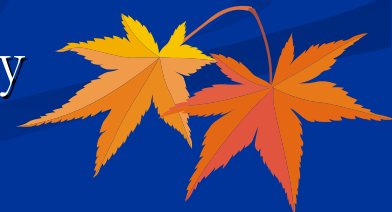
November 15, 2005

**Keiji FUJIMOTO**

Vice President, Dept. of Scientific Affairs

Systemex Corporation

Member of ICSH Expert Panel on Cytometry



# Contents

- Traceability of Blood Cell Counting
  - ICSH Reference Methods
- Reference Method for Red Blood Cell Counting
  - Measurement Principle
  - Traceability Chain
  - Estimation of Uncertainty in Measurement
- Present Situation of Standardization
  - 6 manufacturers' comparison study in Japan
- Summary

# List of Reference Methods(1/4)

## RBC & WBC

Reference method for the enumeration of erythrocytes and leucocytes

International Council for Standardization in Haematology; Prepared by the Expert Panel on Cytometry

- Clinical Laboratory Haematology, 16, 131-138 (1994)

Reference method for the enumeration of erythrocytes and leucocytes

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
STANDARDIZATION IN HAEMATOLOGY;  
PREPARED BY THE EXPERT PANEL ON  
CYTOMETRY

*Members: J.M. England (Chairman, UK), R.M. Rowan (Secretary, UK), O.W. van Assendelft (USA), B.S. Bull (USA), W.H. Coulter (USA), K. Fujimoto (Japan), W. Groner (USA), A.R. Jones (USA), J.A. Koepke (USA), S.M.-Lewis (UK), N. Tatsumi (Japan) & R.L. Verwilghen (Belgium). Consultant: C.E. McLaren (USA)*

Accepted for publication 14 January 1994

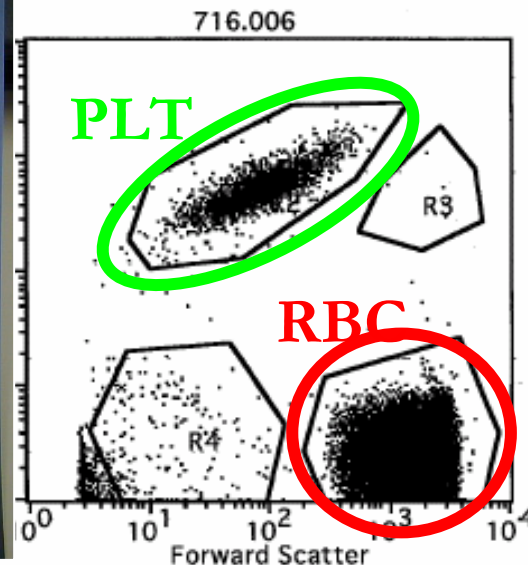
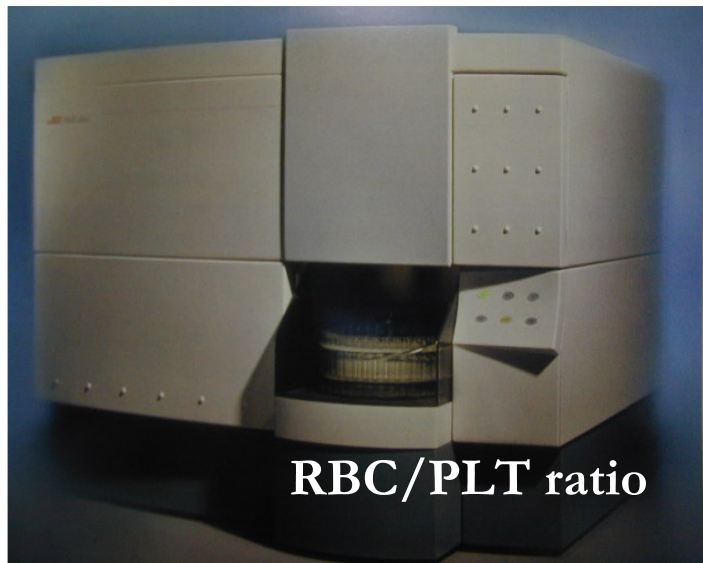
# List of Reference Methods(2/4)

## ✚ Platelet

### Platelet Counting by the RBC/Platelet Ratio Method A Reference Method ( CD41/61)

International Council for Standardization in Haematology Expert Panel on Cytometry and International Society of Laboratory Hematology Task Force on Platelet Counting

- American Journal of Clinical Pathology 115:460-464 (2001)



# List of Reference Methods(3/4)

## ✚ Hemoglobin

Recommendations for reference method for haemoglobinometry in human blood (ICSH standard 1995) and specifications for international haemoglobinocyanide standard (4<sup>th</sup> edition)

International Council for Standardization in Haematology: Expert Panel on Haemoglobinometry

- Clinical Laboratory Haematology, 16, 131-138 (1994)

Reference and Selected Procedures for the Quantitative Determination of Hemoglobin in Blood ;

Approved Standard – Third Edition

NCCLS H15-A3 (HiCN method)

>> registered in “List-I, Reference Procedures of JCTLM”



# List of Reference Methods(4/4)

## ✚ PCV (Hematocrit)

### Recommendations for Reference Method for the Packed Cell Volume (ICSH Standard 2001)

International Council for Standardization in Haematology: Expert Panel on Cytometry

- Laboratory Haematology 7, 148 -170 (2001)

### Procedure for Determining Packed Cell Volume by the Microhematocrit Method ;

Approved Standard – Third Edition

NCCLS H7-A3



# Contents

- Traceability for Blood Cell Counting
  - ICSH Reference Methods
- Reference Method for Red Cell Counting
  - Principles
  - Traceability Chain
  - Estimation of Uncertainty in Measurement
- Present Situation for standardization
  - 6 manufacturers' study in Japan
- Summary

## RBC & WBC

# Reference method for the enumeration of erythrocytes and leucocytes

International Council for Standardization in Haematology; Prepared by the Expert Panel on Cytometry

- Clinical Laboratory Haematology, 16, 131-138 (1994)

**Reference method for the enumeration of erythrocytes and leucocytes**

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
STANDARDIZATION IN HAEMATOLOGY;  
PREPARED BY THE EXPERT PANEL ON  
CYTOMETRY

*Members: J.M. England (Chairman, UK), R.M. Rowan (Secretary, UK), O.W. van Assendelft (USA), B.S. Bull (USA), W.H. Coulter (USA), K. Fujimoto (Japan), W. Groner (USA), A.R. Jones (USA), J.A. Koepke (USA), S.M.-Lewis (UK), N. Tatsumi (Japan) & R.L. Verwilghen (Belgium). Consultant: C.E. McLaren (USA)*

Accepted for publication 14 January 1994



# Instrument Specifications by ICSH

## + Measurement System

The probability of “re-circulation” of particles through the sensing zone must be low.

⇒ semi-automated single channel aperture-impedance particle counter

## + Volume displaced during the counting period

“within an accuracy of 1% traceable” to a national or international metrological standard

⇒ only achieved by “Mercury column”

thermal effects should not be greater than 0.1% per °C

## + Diameter of Orifice

80~100  $\mu$  m

## + Threshold setting

signal to noise ratio is greater than 100:1

# Specifications recommended by ICSH

## + Glassware

### Positive displacement pipetts

calibrated to an accuracy of  $\pm 0.5\%$ , validated by a process traceable to a primary metrological standard

### Volumetric Flasks : Grade A

borosilicate glass, each with a stated volume which has been tested by an appropriate national standard body

## + Counting Vials

a minimum volume of 10ml, sufficient height that the entry orifice of the electronic cell counter is at approx. half the depth of the fluid before counting commences. no adherence of cells

## + Diluent

sterile, non-toxic, buffered salt solution, tonicity:  $280 \pm 15$  mOsm, must not cause cell lysis nor alter cell volume by  $> 2\%$  over a 20 min period

# Analysis of Error (by ICSH protocol)

## + Maximum Permissible Bias

- RBC counting ; 2.0%
- WBC counting ; 4.0%

## + Sampling Error

- Poor Mixing, hemorheological effects
- Inaccuracy of Dilution

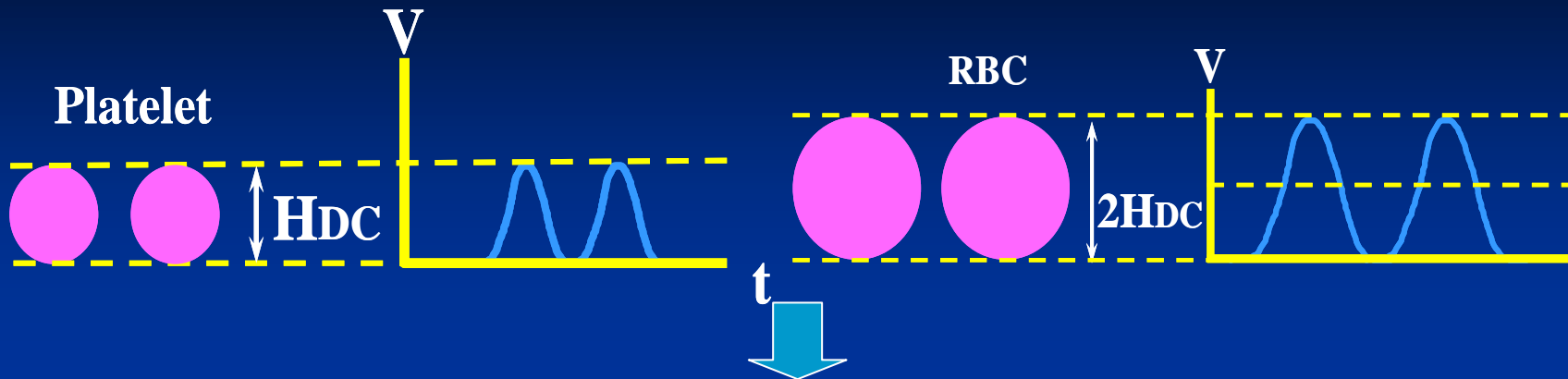
## + Transport Error

- Sedimentation, cell loss and/or Recirculation
- Inaccuracy of the displaced volume

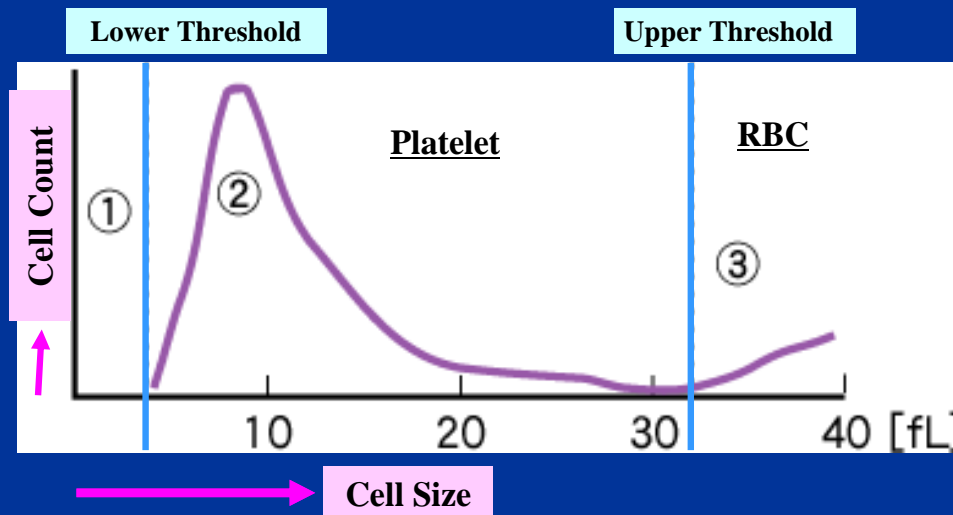
## + Counting Error

- Improper discrimination
- Inaccurate correction for coincidence loss
- Imprecision of reference cell count  $\leq 1\%$

# Electronic Cell Counting Method

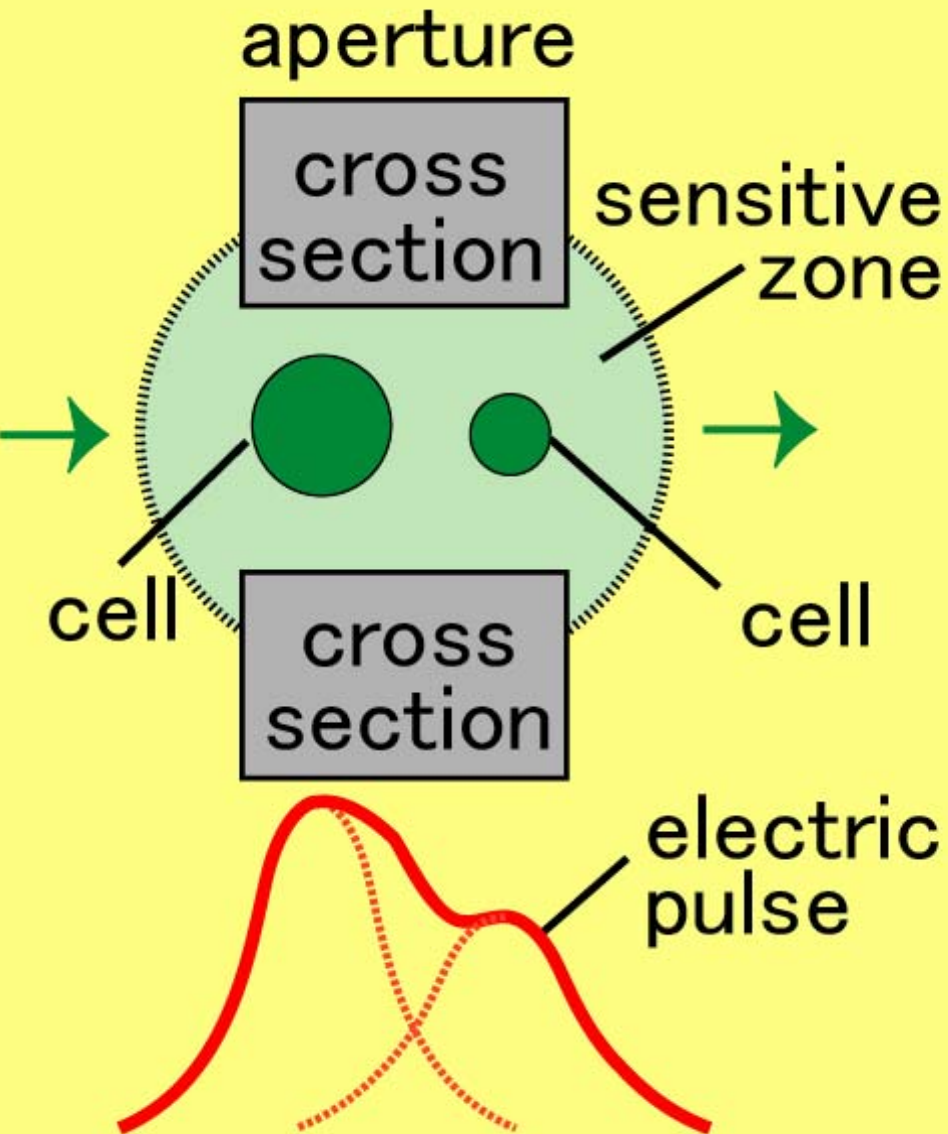


Histogram



- ★ Pulse size is proportional to Cell size.
- ★ Pulse count corresponds to Cell count.

# What is "coincidence"?



It's the **coincidence** that a couple of cells run through the aperture sensitive zone at a time.

A couple of cells are observed as a single **electric pulse** and then counted as a single cell, so one of these cells is miscounted.

# Hydraulic circuit

Aspiration

Valve

Diluent

Count window

086523

Detector body

Aperture

Sample (diluted blood)

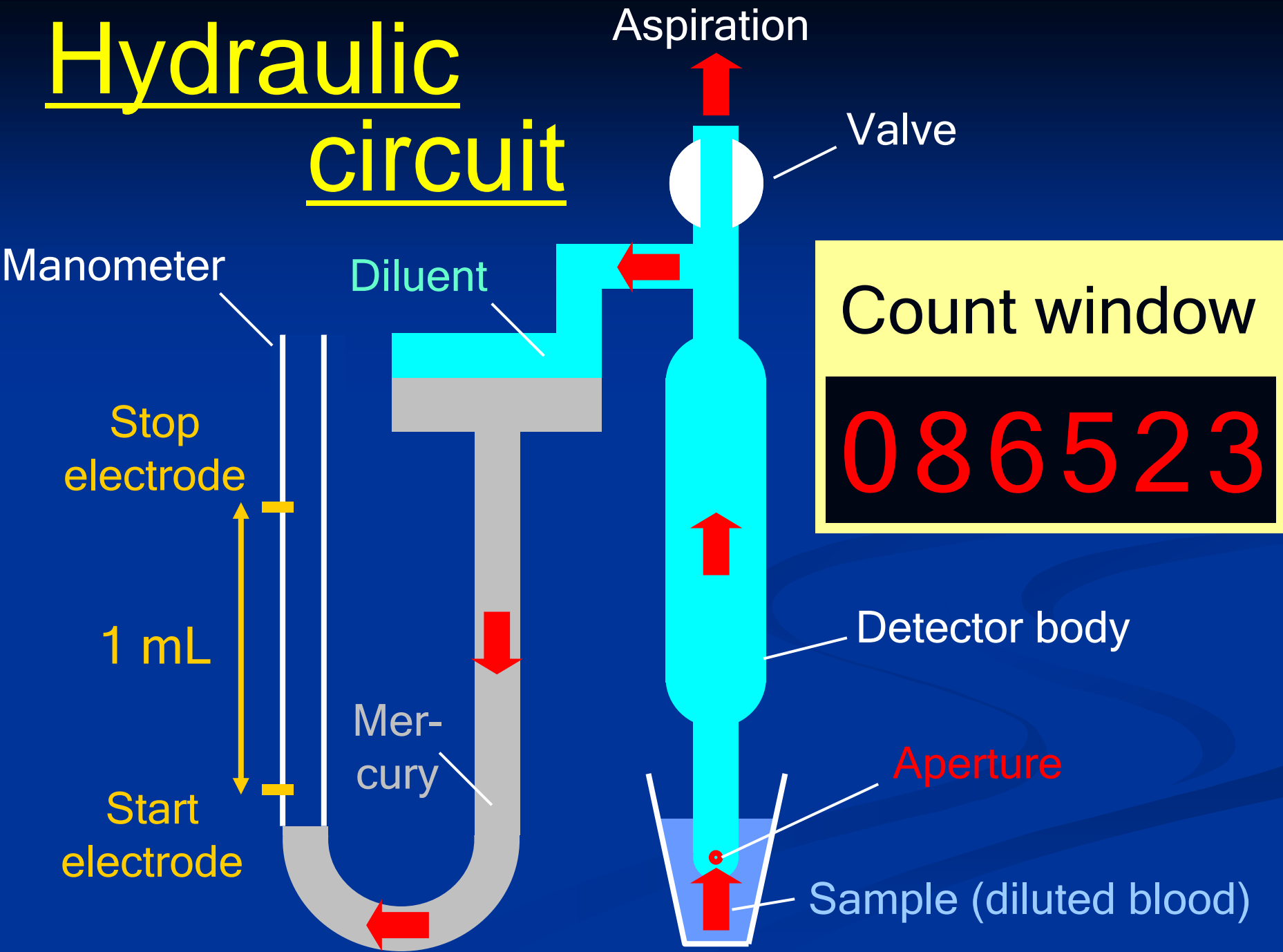
Manometer

Stop electrode

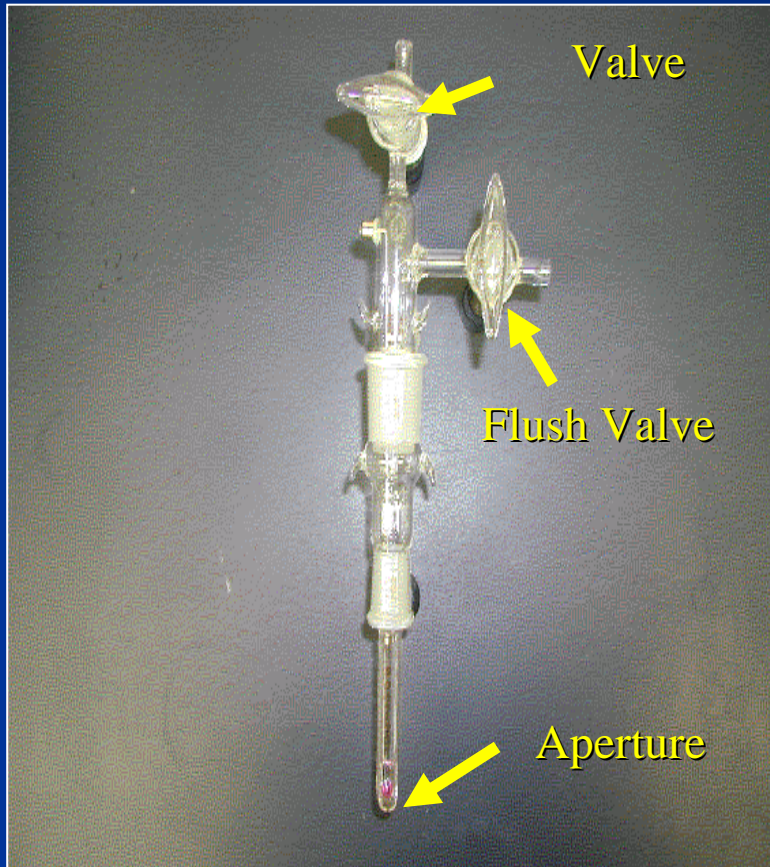
1 mL

Start electrode

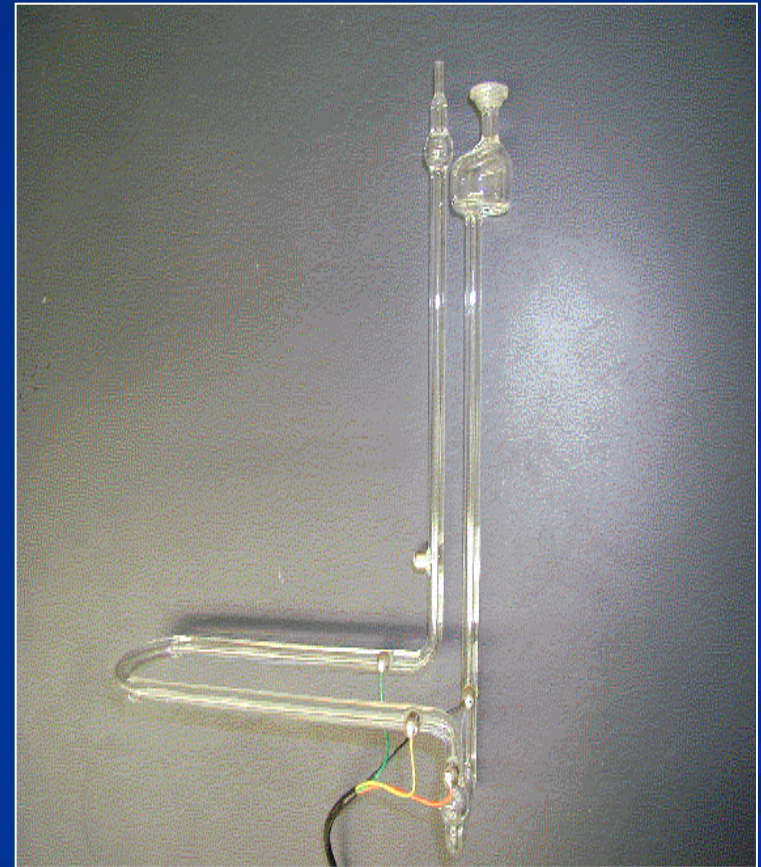
Mercury



# Quartz Glass Parts



**Detector Unit**



**Mercury Manometer**

# Manometer volume was certified by a neutral body



DER MINISTER  
FÜR WIRTSCHAFT UND VERKEHR  
DES LANDES SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

— Amt für das Eichwesen —

## Prüfbescheinigung

für eine Einrichtung zur Volumenbestimmung von vorverdünnten Blutproben als Bestandteil von Blutkörperchenzählgeräten

Hersteller : TOA Medical Electronics Co. Ltd.  
Kitano 314-2, Noguchi-Cho  
Khogawa-City  
Hyoogo Prefecture  
Japan

Fabr.-Nr. : 87

Antragsteller: "Sysmex" Toa Medical Electronics (Europe) GmbH,  
Tarpen 15 a, 2000 Hamburg 62

### Aufbau und Wirkungsweise der Einrichtung:

Nach dem Einschalten des Geräts wird Quecksilber im U-Rohr-Manometer durch eine Vakuumpumpe unter die Startelektrode gesaugt. Nach Betätigung des Startschalters läuft das Quecksilber über je eine im Glaskörper eingeschlossene Start- und Stop-Elektrode und saugt dabei Flüssigkeit über einen Rüssel an. Als Volumen gilt das vom Quecksilber geschaltete Teilstück zwischen den beiden Elektroden.

### Prüfeinrichtung

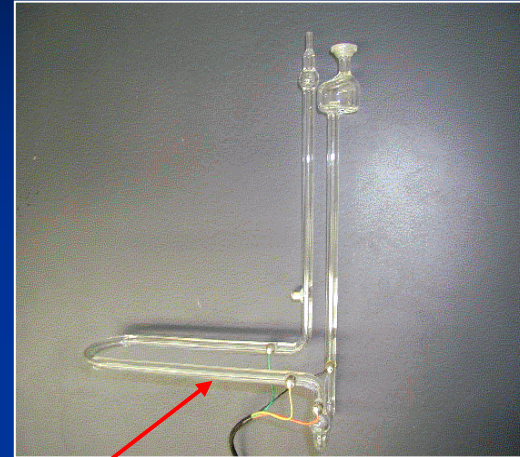
- Manometer-Prüfstand und Manometer-Steuer- u. Anzeigeelektronik SCC-1, TOA Medical Electronics, Japan
- Analysenwaage Typ AND ER-182 A, Japan mit integriertem Datenausgang
- Computer NEC PC 9801 F2
- Interface MI-1 zum Datenabruf von der Waage

### Meßergebnis

Das Volumen im Glasrohr zwischen der Start- und Stop-Elektrode beträgt bezogen auf die Bezugstemperatur von 20 °C,

$$V = 1,010 \text{ ml} \pm 0,004 \text{ ml}$$

Das Volumen ist der Mittelwert aus 30 Messungen, die angegebene Meßunsicherheit gilt für ein Vertrauensniveau von 95 %.  
Prüfgut: Destilliertes Wasser



Volume = 1.010 ml +/- 0.004 mL

### Bezeichnungen und Stempelstellen:

Auf dem Glaskörper ist die Fabr.-nr. eingätzt. Weitere Kennzeichen wurden nicht aufgebracht.

### Hinweis:

Das Gerät ist eichamtlich sondergeprüft.

Es darf nicht für Messungen nach § 3 des Eichgesetzes verwendet oder bereit gehalten werden (Gesetz über das Meß- und Eichwesen -Eichgesetz- in der Fassung der Bekanntmachung vom 22. Februar 1985 -Bundesgesetzblatt I Seite 410-).

Die Einrichtung muß an das Hauptgerät so eingebaut, angebaut oder angeschlossen werden, daß Rückwirkungen auf die Meßsicherheit vernachlässigbar klein sind und die ordnungsgemäße Verwendung und Wirksamkeit des Gesamtgeräts nicht beeinträchtigt wird.

Prüfbescheinigungen ohne Unterschrift und ohne Dienststempel haben keine Gültigkeit. Prüfbescheinigungen dürfen nur unverändert weiterverbreitet werden. Auszüge oder Änderungen bedürfen der Genehmigung des Amtes für das Eichwesen in Kiel.



Y. A. des  
Langniß

Prüfer:

Florschütz

Kiel, den 21. März 1988

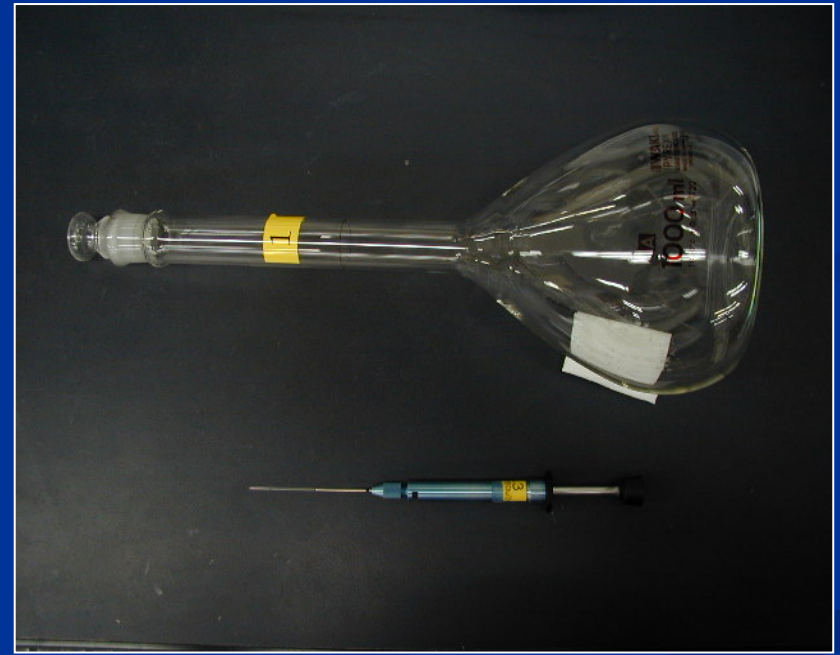


# Reference Counter & Macro-dilution

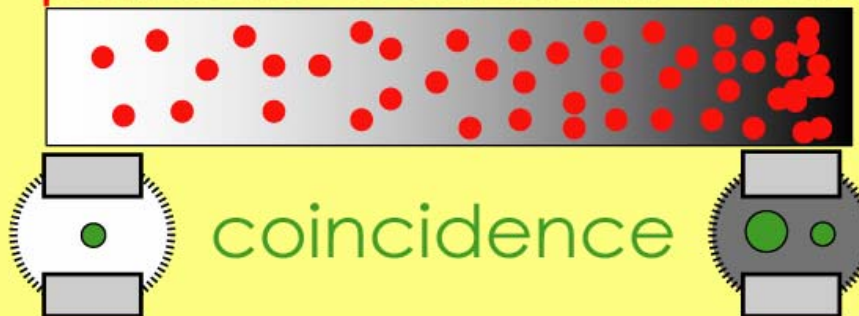
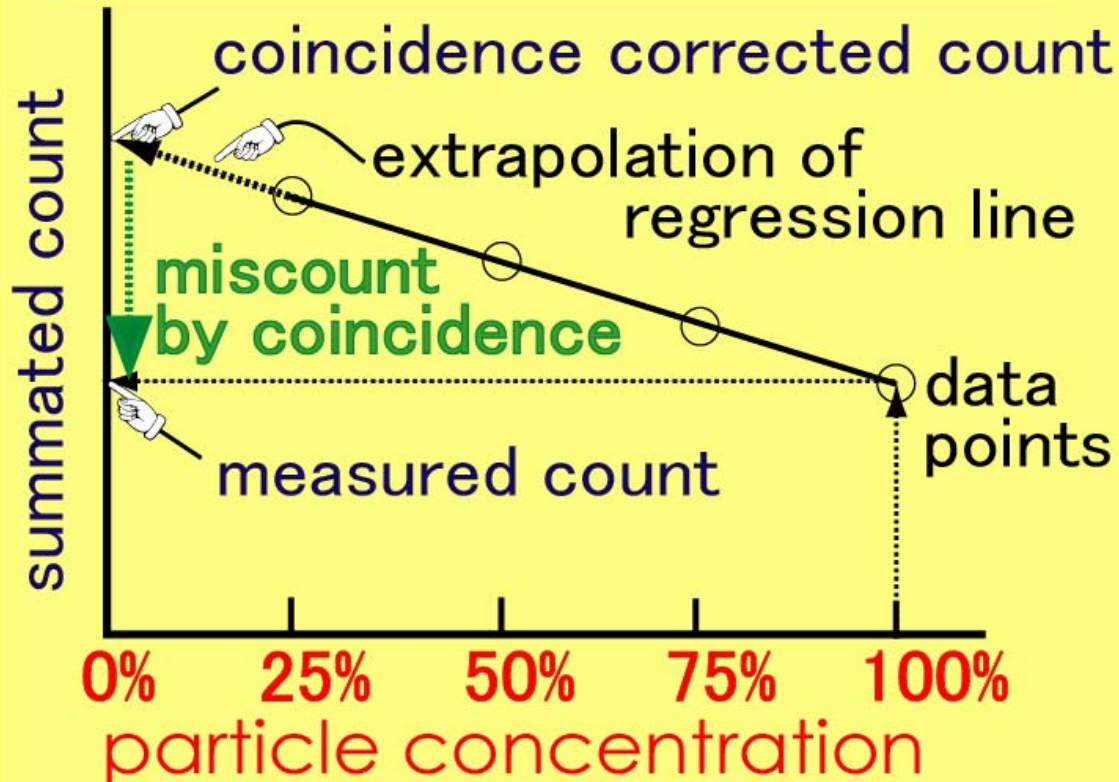
Reference Counter



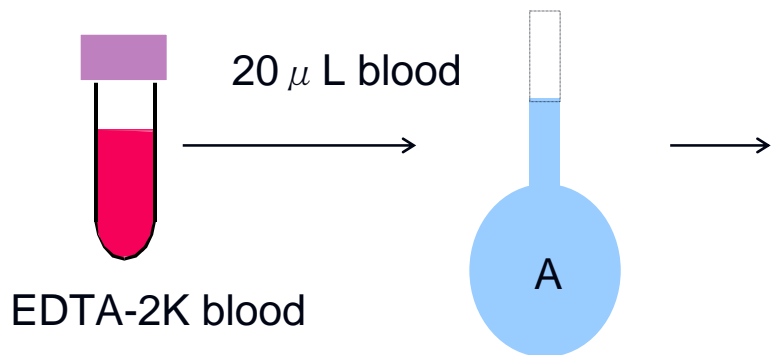
Preparing 50,000-fold dilution



# Extrapolation of the regression line for the coincidence correction



# RBC Reference Method - Macro-dilution-



	Ratio	(A)	Diluent	DilRatio	# of counts
(A)	1.0000	100m l	0m l	50,001	3
(B)	0.7507	75m l	25m l	66,606	4
(C)	0.5010	50m l	50m l	99,802	6
(D)	0.2507	25m l	75m l	199,446	12

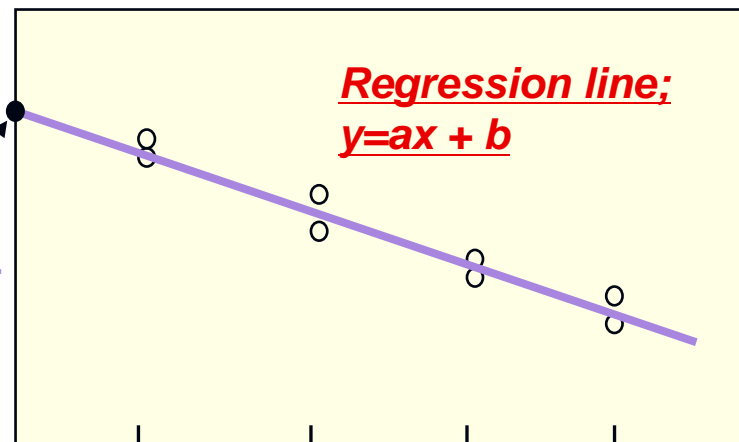
1000ml Reagent  
(50,001-fold  
dilution)

**RBC True Value**

$\frac{\text{Yaxis} / 3}{\text{Certified Manometer volume } (\mu \text{ l})} \times 50001(\text{fold})$

Summated  
Count

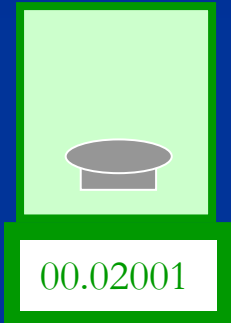
Y-axis(b) ;  
Coincidence-  
corrected  
count



0.2507    0.5010    0.7507    1.0000

# Uncertainty of RBC count

Precision  
Balance



$u_B$

Micro-  
Dispenser



$u_D$

Flask



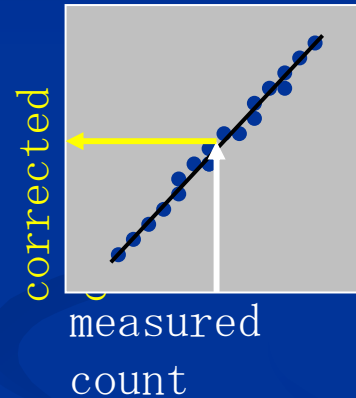
$u_F$

Mano-  
meter



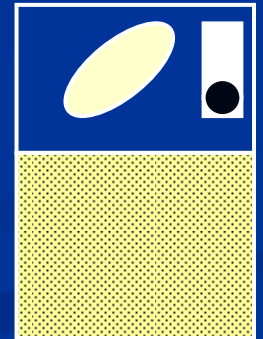
$u_M$

Coincidence  
Correction



$u_{CC}$

Reference  
Counter



$u_R$

$$u_C^2 = u_B^2 + u_D^2 + u_F^2 + u_M^2 + u_{CC}^2 + u_R^2$$

# RBC count = 4.728 +/- 0.057 ( x 10<sup>12</sup>/L ), k = 2

code	factor of uncertainty	value of the factor	value of the unc.	type	probability distribution	divisor	standard unc.	conversion coefficient	std. unc. in required unit
u <sub>B</sub>	calibration of balance	20 mg	0.130 mg	B	normal	2	0.065 mg	0.239 x 10 <sup>15</sup> /g	0.0155 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>D</sub>	repeatability of dispensing	20.12 uL	0.042 uL	A	—	1	0.042 uL	0.238 x 10 <sup>18</sup> /L <sup>2</sup>	0.0100 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>F</sub>	volume of flask	1000 mL	0.3 mL	B	rectangular	1.73	0.173 mL	0.005 x 10 <sup>15</sup> /L <sup>2</sup>	0.0008 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>M</sub>	volume of manometer	1.010 mL	0.004 mL	B	normal	2	0.002 mL	4.735 x 10 <sup>15</sup> /L <sup>2</sup>	0.0095 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>CC</sub>	coincidence correction	110.2 x 10 <sup>3</sup> <sub>count</sub>	0.856 x 10 <sup>3</sup> <sub>count</sub>	B	normal	2	0.428 x 10 <sup>3</sup> <sub>count</sub>	0.043 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	0.0186 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>R</sub>	repeatability of measuring	4.782 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L	0.005 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L	A	—	1	0.005 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L	1 —	0.0050 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>c</sub>	combined std. uncertainty				normal				0.0283 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
U	expanded uncertainty				normal (k = 2)				0.057 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L

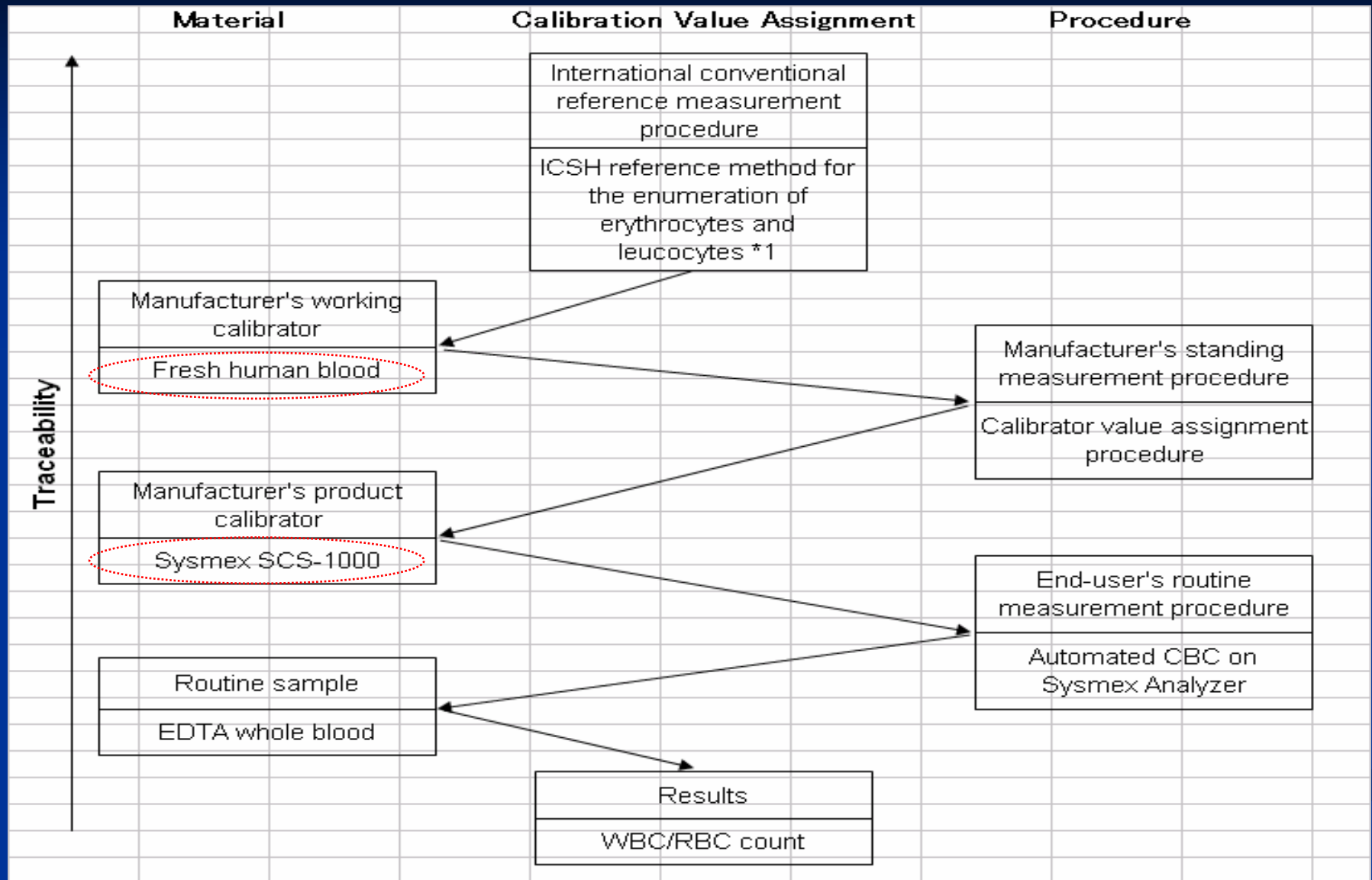
# RBC count = 4.728 +/- 0.057 ( x 10<sup>12</sup>/L ), k = 2

code	factor of uncertainty	value of the factor	value of the unc.	type	probability distribution	divisor	standard unc.	conversion coefficient	std. unc. in required unit
u <sub>B</sub>	calibration of balance	20 mg	0.130 mg	B	normal	2	0.065 mg	0.239 x 10 <sup>15</sup> /g	0.0155 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>D</sub>	repeatability of dispensing volume	20.12 uL	0.042 uL	A	—	1	0.042 uL	0.238 x 10 <sup>18</sup> /L <sup>2</sup>	0.0100 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>F</sub>	repeatability of dispensing volume	1000	0.3	B	rectangular	1.73	0.173 mL	0.005 x 10 <sup>15</sup> /L <sup>2</sup>	0.0008 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>M</sub>	reference counter	10 <sup>3</sup> count	10 <sup>3</sup> count	B	normal	2	0.002	4.735	0.0095 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>CC</sub>	correction	10 <sup>3</sup> count	10 <sup>3</sup> count	B	normal	2	0.002	4.735	0.0095 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>R</sub>	repeatability of measuring combined std. uncertainty	4.782 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L	0.005 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L	A	normal	1	0.005 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L	0.005 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L	0.0050 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
u <sub>c</sub>	combined std. uncertainty				normal				0.0283 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L
U	expanded uncertainty				normal (k = 2)				0.057 x 10 <sup>12</sup> /L

Measurand : Mean of 10 times measurements by the reference counter<sup>A</sup>

Expanded uncertainty : U<sub>c</sub> is doubled to express 95 % confidence interval of measurand

# Traceability Chain for RBC count calibration



\* *ISO 17511:2003* (Cases with international conventional reference measurement procedure (which is not primary) but no international conventional calibrator and without metrological traceability to SI)

# Uncertainty in R B C count on SCS-1000

Precision balance

Micro-dispenser

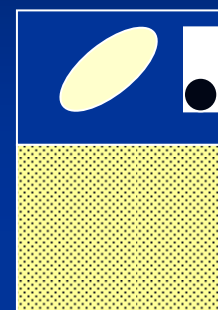
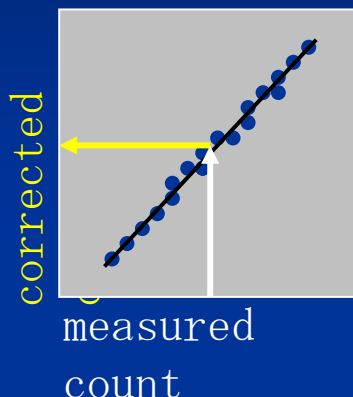
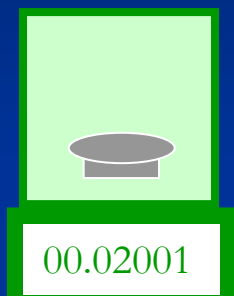
Flask

Mano-  
meter

Coincidence  
correction

Reference  
counter

Flesh  
blood



$$u_c^2 = u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 + \dots + u_n^2$$

Flesh  
blood

Standard analyzers  
Kobe

Standard analyzers

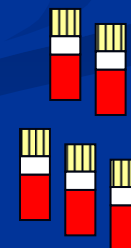
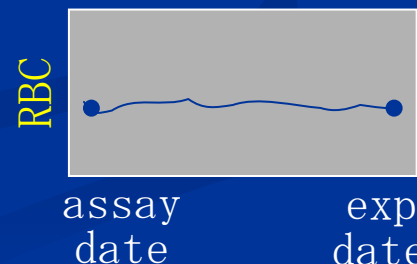
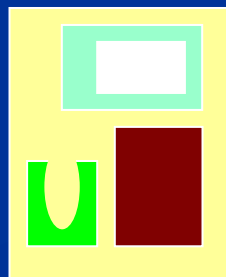
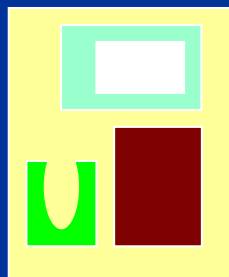
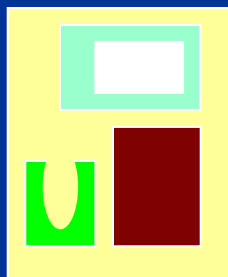
Ono

kakogawa

SCS-  
1000

Instability

Vial to  
Vial





# Traceability & Uncertainty for Calibrator



## Traceability and Uncertainty SCS-1000 Sysmex Calibrator System XE-2100, Automated Hematology Analyzer

LOT NO: 51580525      Traceability      Uncertainty  
 EXP. DATE: 11-Jul-05      June 07, 2005

Paramter	Reference Method	Reference Method	Assigned Value	Uncertainty*	Unit
WBC	*1	-	6.721	0.089	10 <sup>9</sup> /L
RBC	*1	-	4.785	0.062	10 <sup>12</sup> /L
PLT	*2	-	209.9	14.4	10 <sup>9</sup> /L
HGB	*3, *4	-	14.76	0.11	g / dL
HCT	*5, *6	-	42.17	0.85	%

\* : This uncertainty (expanded undertainty: k=2 was calculated in accordance with the "Guide to the expression of Uncertainty in Measurement" (GUM: 1993).

\*1: ICSH Expert Panel on Cytometry, Clinical Laboratory Haematology, 16, 131-138, 1994  
 "Reference method for the enumeration of erythrocytes and leucocytes"

\*2: ICSH Expert Panel on Cytometry and International Society of Laboratory Hematology Task Force on Platelet Counting,  
 American Journal of Clinical Pathology, 115, 460-464, 2001  
 "Platelet Counting by the RBC/Platelet Ratio method – A reference method"

\*3: NCCLS, H15-A3  
 "Reference and selected procedures for the quantitative determination of hemoglobin in blood – 3rd edition; Approved standard"

\*4: Journal of Clinical Pathology, 49, 271-274, 1996  
 "Recommendation for reference method for haemoglobinometry in human blood (ICSH standard 1995) and

\*5: NCCLS H7-A3  
 "Procedure for Determining Packed Cell Volume by the Microhematcrit Method – 3rd edition; Approved Standard"

\*6: Laboratory Hematology, 7, 148-170, 2001  
 "Recommendations for reference method for the packed cell volume (ICSH Standard 2001)"

# Contents

- Traceability for Blood Cell Counting
  - ICSH Reference Methods
- Reference Method for Red Cell Counting
  - Principles
  - Traceability Chain
  - Estimation of Uncertainty in Measurement
- Present Situation for standardization
  - 6 manufacturers' study in Japan
- Summary

# 6 Manufacturers' Comparison Study in Japan

## ■ Purpose:

To evaluate hematological values obtained with Standard Automated Hematology Analyzers of 6 manufactures.

## ■ Method:

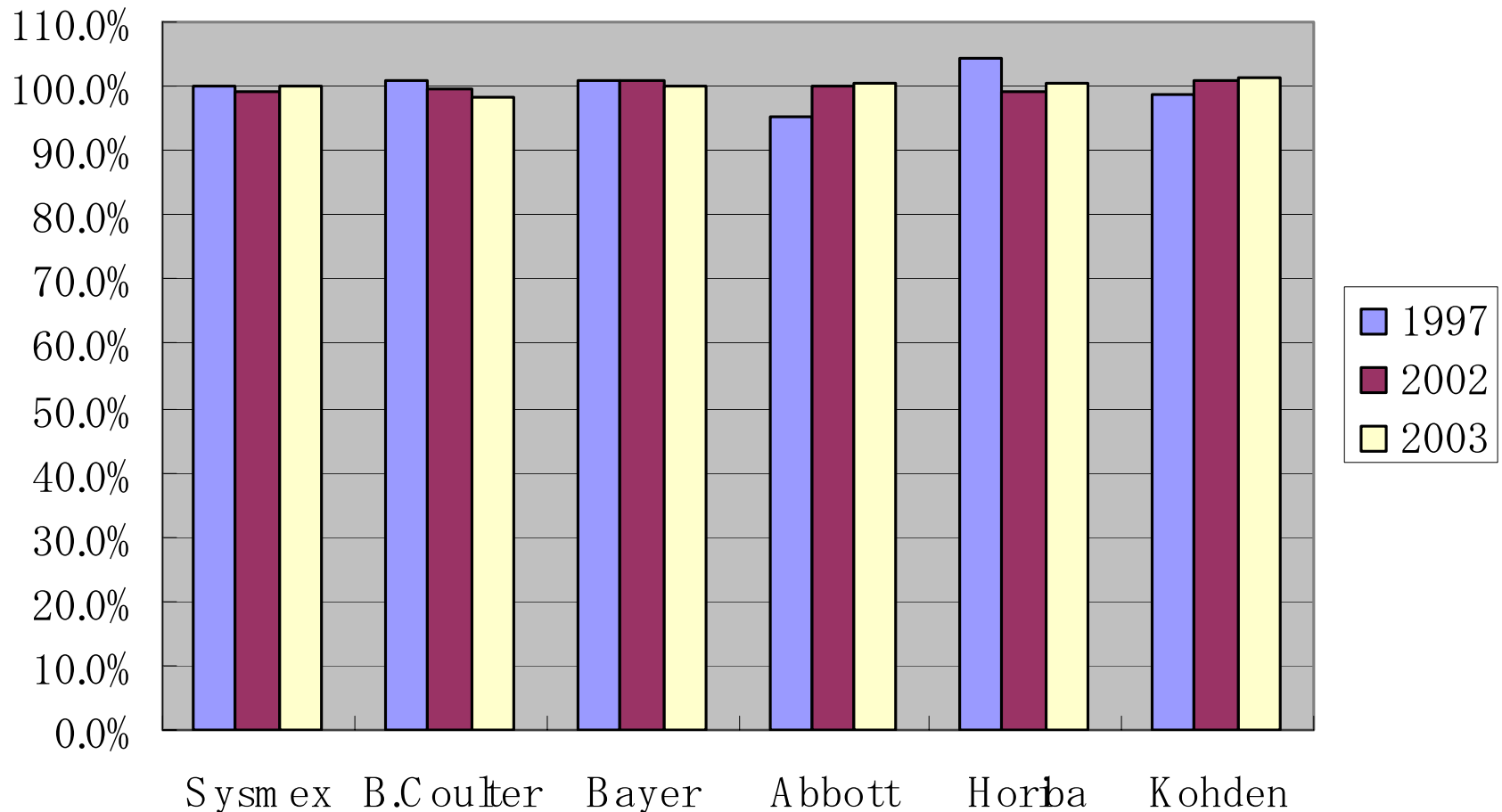
Prepare fresh whole blood samples from 3 healthy doners.

Measure 3 samples on standard automated analyzers of each manufacture at the same time within 6 hours after drawing.

Compare each data obtained by each manufacture.

This study was done in 1991, 1997, 2002 ,2003 and 2005  
(still under investigation).

# Difference among 6 manufactures for RBC

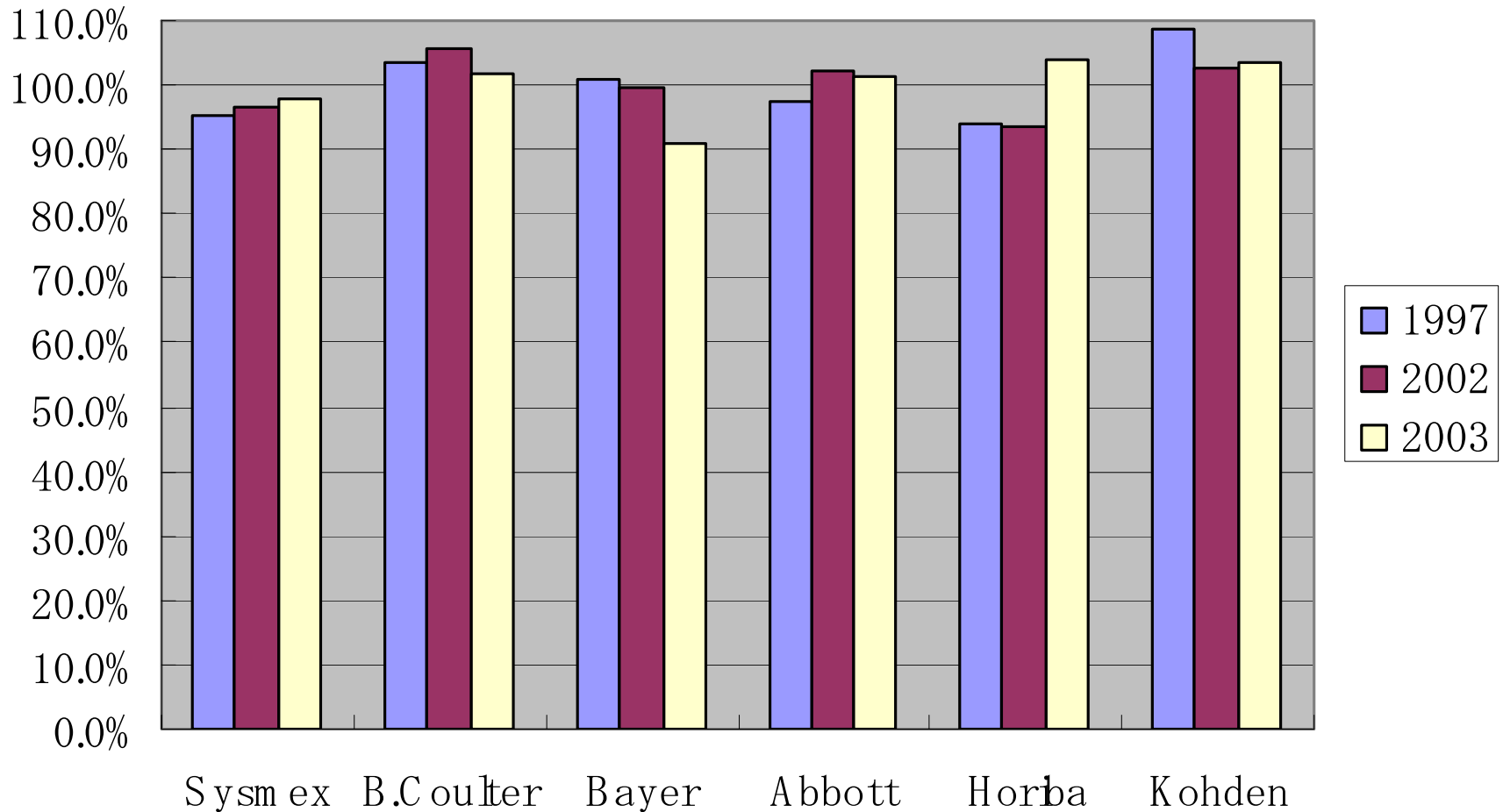


\* 100% represents mean of all 6 manufacturers' data.

<RBC >

6 manufactures data showed well-harmonized (within +/- 1.5%) in 2003 study

# Difference among 6 manufactures for WBC

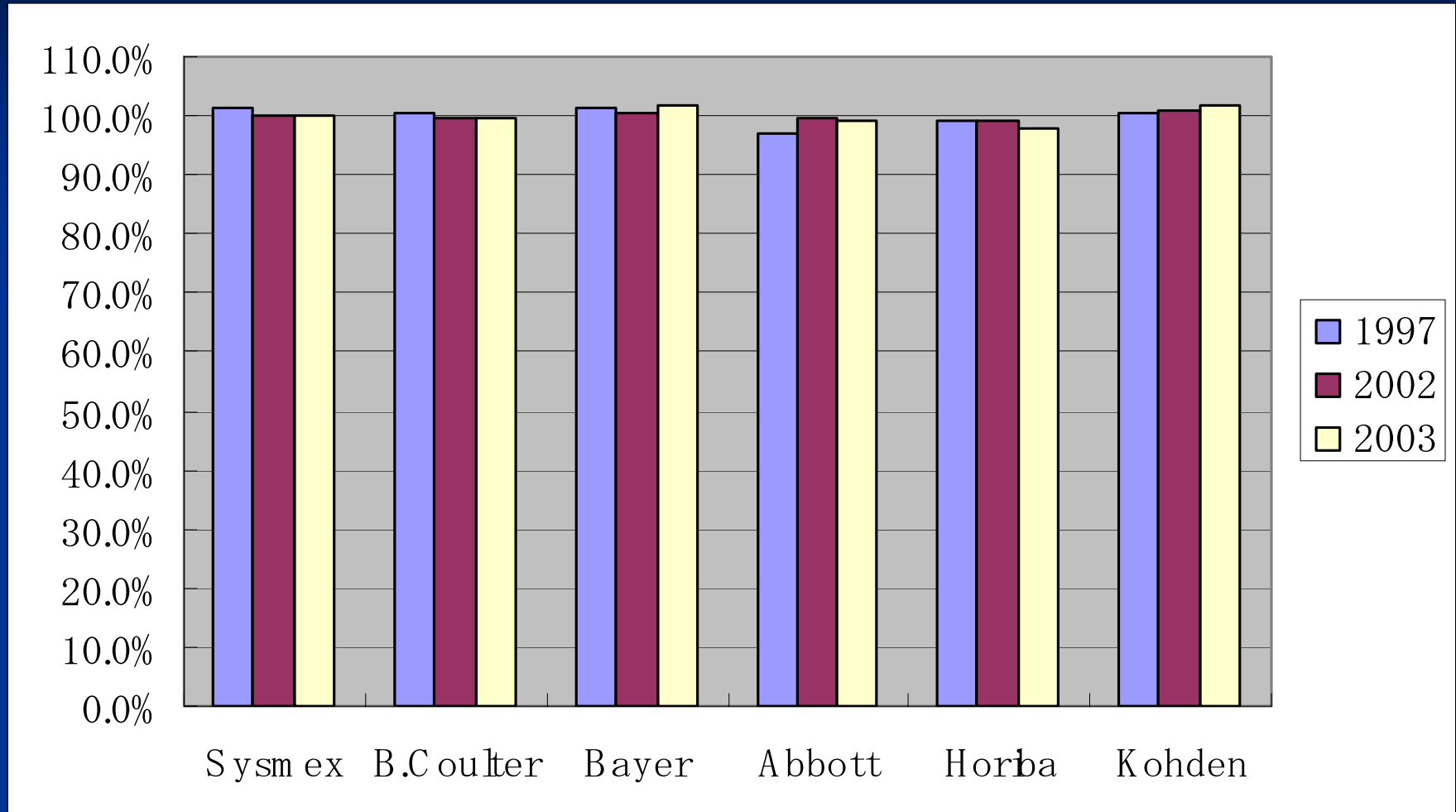


\* 100% represents mean of all 6 manufacturers' data.

<WBC >

6 manufactures data showed wide variation (> +/- 5%) in 2003 study.

# Difference among 6 manufactures for HGB

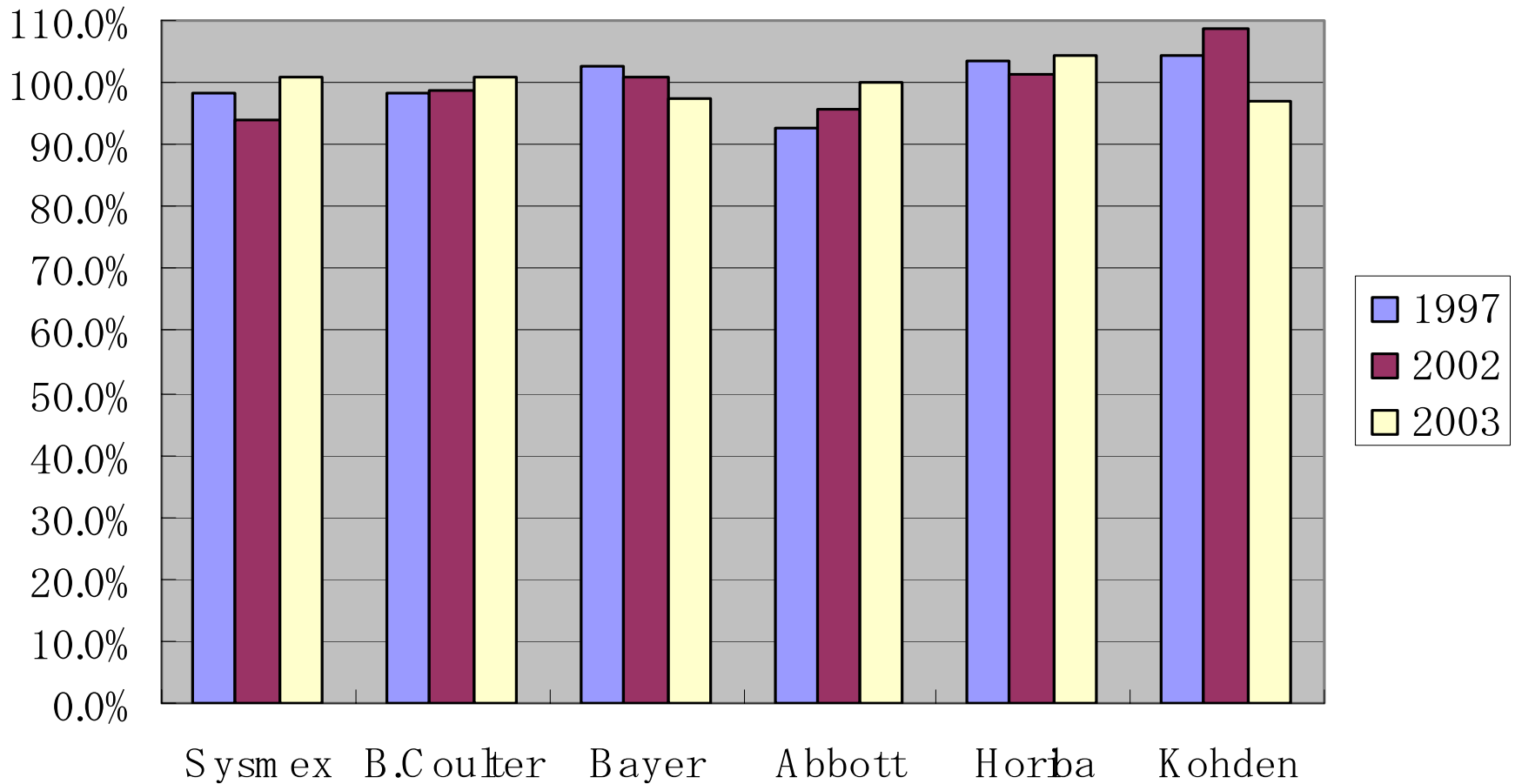


\* 100% represents mean of all 6 manufacturers' data.

<HGB >

6 manufactures data showed well-harmonized (within +/- 1.5%) in 2003 study.

# Difference among 6 manufactures for PLT

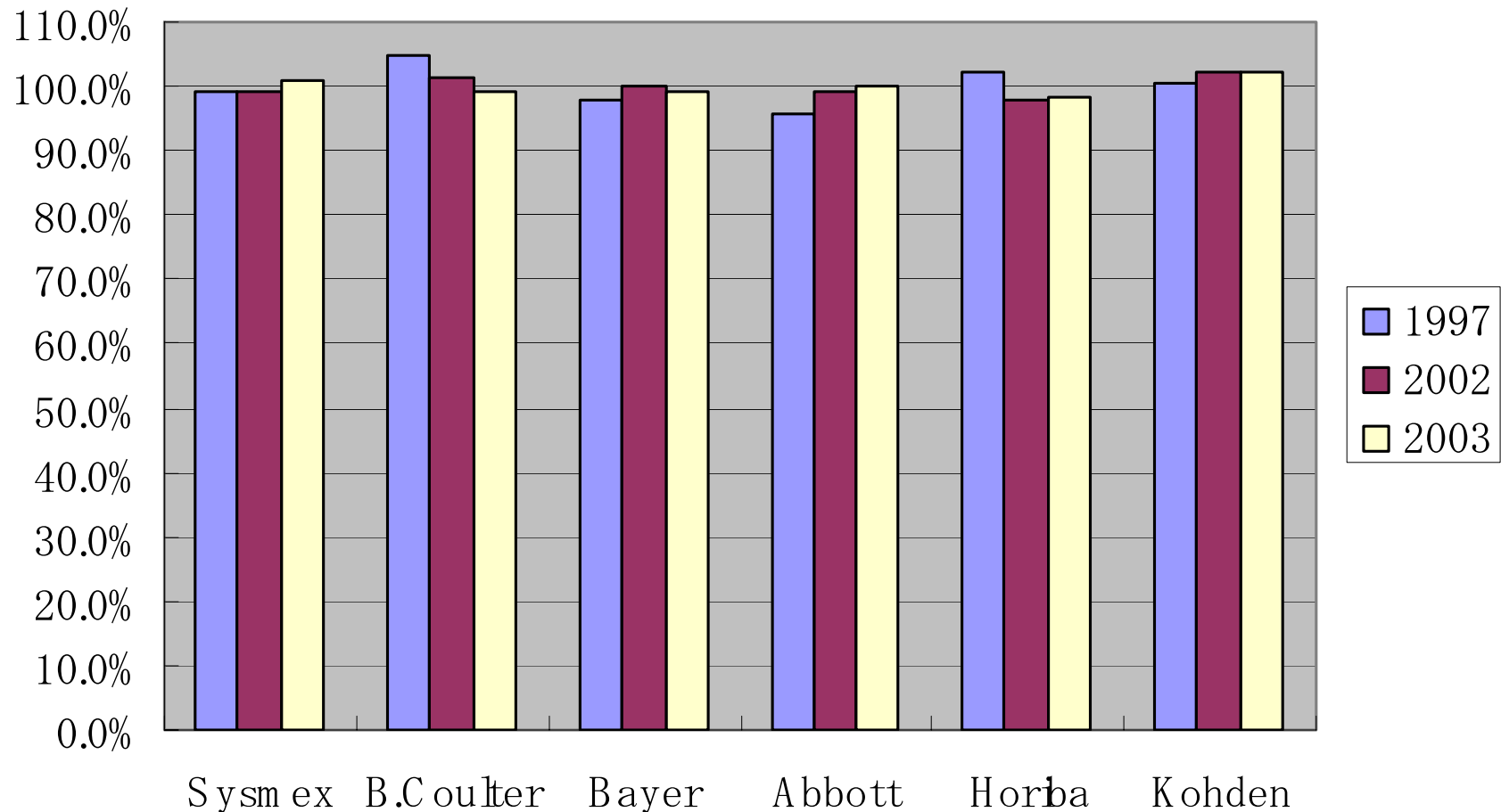


\* 100% represents mean of all 6 manufacturers' data.

<PLT >

6 manufactures data showed wide variation (> +/- 5%) in 2003 study.

# Difference among 6 manufactures for HCT



\* 100% represents mean of all 6 manufactures' data.

<HCT>

6 manufactures data showed well-harmonized (within +/- 2%) in 2003 study.



# Summary

- Reference Method and Traceability has been established by using ICSH recommended protocol, which each manufacturers agreed.
- Discrepancy of fresh whole blood data among major manufacturers has been less than  $\pm 1\%$  for RBC and Hgb.
- Announcement of Uncertainty for Calibrator is ready for end-users.

Thank you for your attention !

