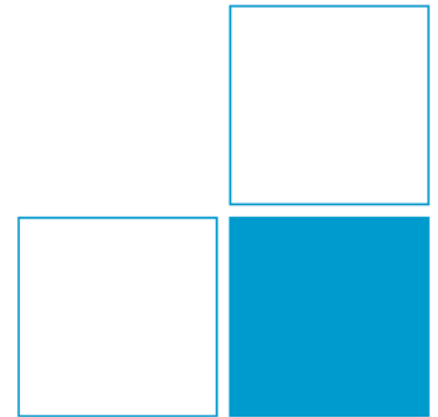


Metrological traceability in cell concentration determination

Jörg Neukammer

Working Group "Flow Cytometry and Microscopy"

*Reliable support of diagnosis in Medicine,
e.g. Haematology, Oncology, Virology*



Z. ges. exp. Med. 151, 331—349 (1969)



Die elektronische Volumenbestimmung von Blutkörperchen und ihre Fehlerquellen

R. THOM, A. HAMPE und G. SAUERBREY

Medizinische Klinik und Poliklinik der Freien Universität Berlin (Klinikum Westend)
und Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Institut Berlin

Eingegangen am 23. September 1969

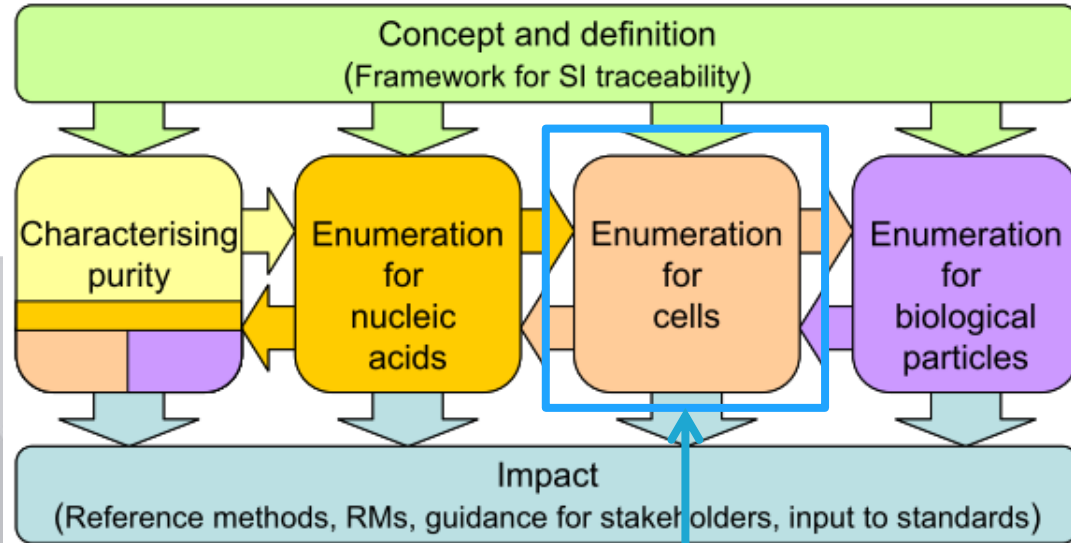
- Inter-laboratory (about 75 laboratories)
comparisons started 1985 on a voluntary basis
- Evaluation based on instrument specific (consensus) target values
- ⇒ Request for reference measurement procedures

Cell counting in flow: Dilution series as “gold standard”



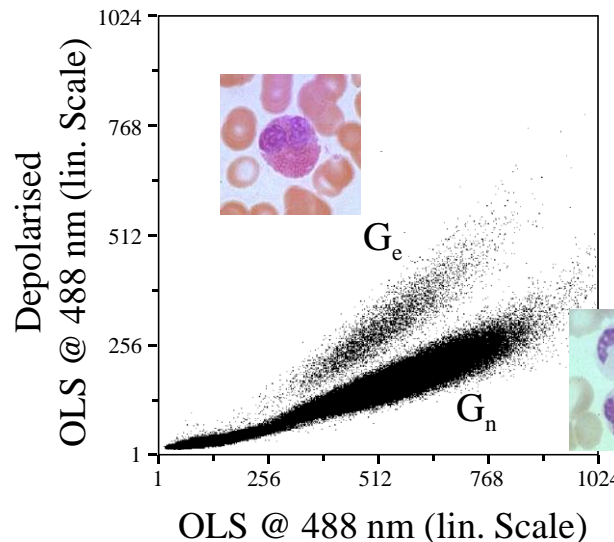
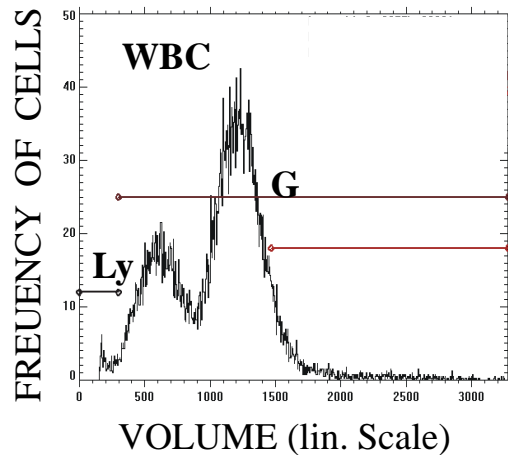
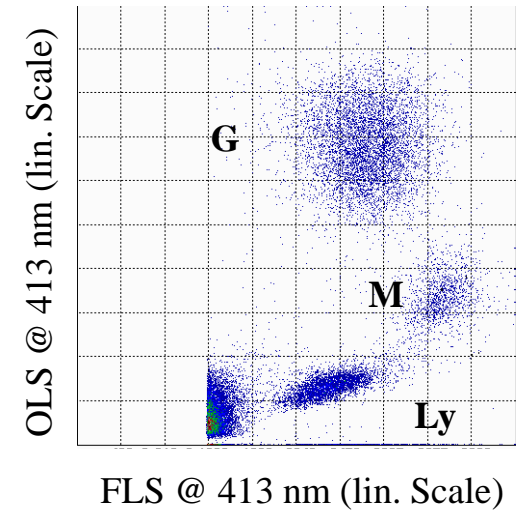
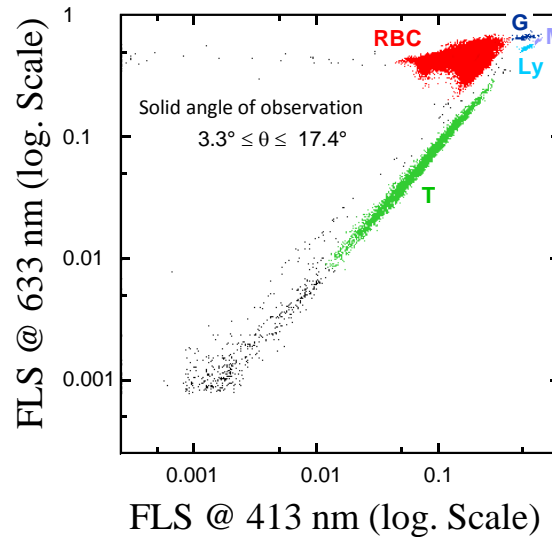
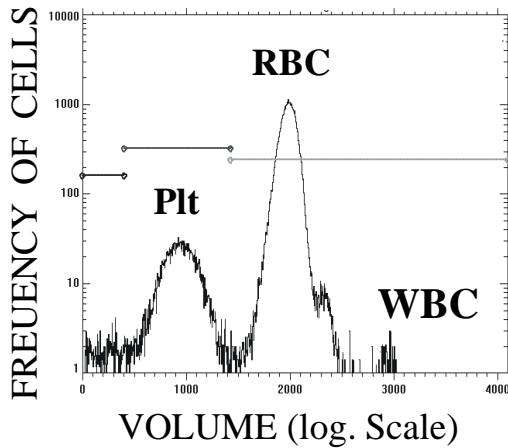
- Moldavan A. Photo-electric technique for the counting of microscopical cells. *Science* 1934;80:188 – 9.
- Lagercrantz C. Photo-electric counting of individual microscopic plant and animal cells. *Nature* 1948;161:25 – 6.
- Crossland-Taylor PJ. A device for counting small particles suspended in a fluid through a tube. *Nature* 1953;171:37 – 8.
- **Coulter WH.** Means for counting particles suspended in a fluid. United States Patent. October 20, 1953; 2,656,508.
- Wales M, Wilson JN. **Theory of coincidence** in Coulter particle counter. *Rev Sci Instrum* 1961;32:1132 – 6.
- Strackee J. Coincidence loss in bloodcounters. *Med Biol Eng Comput* 1966;4:97 – 9.
- Dittrich W, Göhde W. **Impulsfluorometrie** bei Einzelzellen in Suspensionen. *Zeitschr Naturforsch* 1969;24b:360 – 1.
- Bader H, Gordon HR, Brown OB. Theory of coincidence counts and simple practical methods of coincidence count correction for optical and resistive pulse particle counters. *Rev Sci Instrum* 1972;43:1407 – 12.
- Helleman PW. Chemical and physical aspects of electronic cell counting. In: Izyk G, Lewis SM, Path MR, editors. *Modern concepts in hematology*. New York: Academic Press Inc, 1972: 164–90.
- Lewis SM, England JM, Kubota F. Coincidence correction in red blood cell counting. *Phys Med Biol* 1989;34:1239 – 46.
- Helleman PW. Letter to the Editor: More about coincidence loss and reference methods. *Phys Med Biol* 1990;35:1159 – 62.

Traceability (to SI units) for biologically relevant molecules and entities



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

Flow Cytometric Differentiation of Blood Cells



- RBC:** Red Blood Cells
- Plt:** Platelets
- WBC:** White Blood Cells
 - G:** Granulocytes
 - Ly:** Lymphocytes
 - M:** Monocytes
- FLS:** Forward Light Scatter
- OLS:** Orthogonal Light Scatter

Cell counting in the Working Group “Flow Cytometry and Microscopy”



Determination of reference values

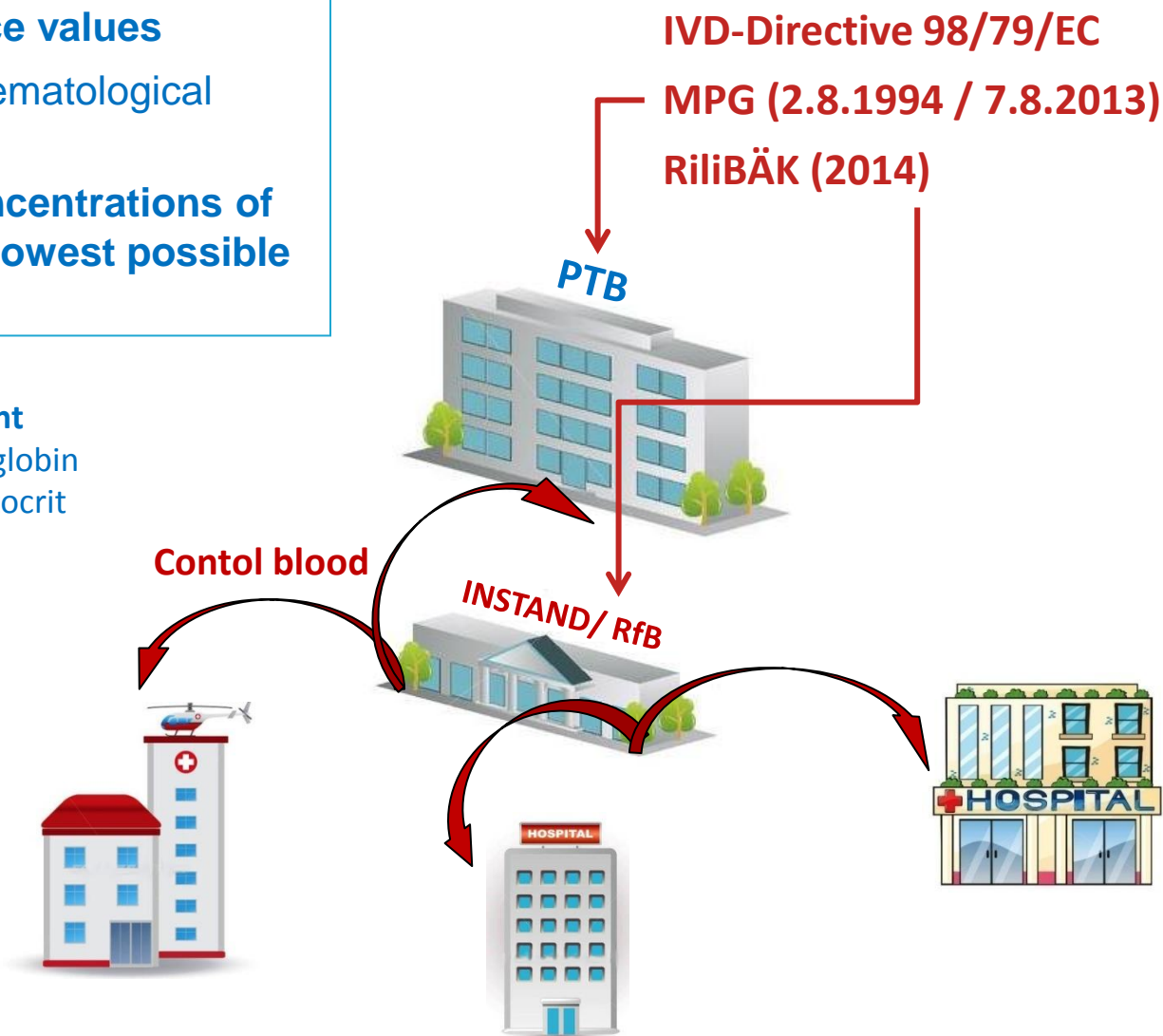
for quality assurance of haematological laboratories in Germany

Aim: Measurement of concentrations of blood cells with the lowest possible uncertainties

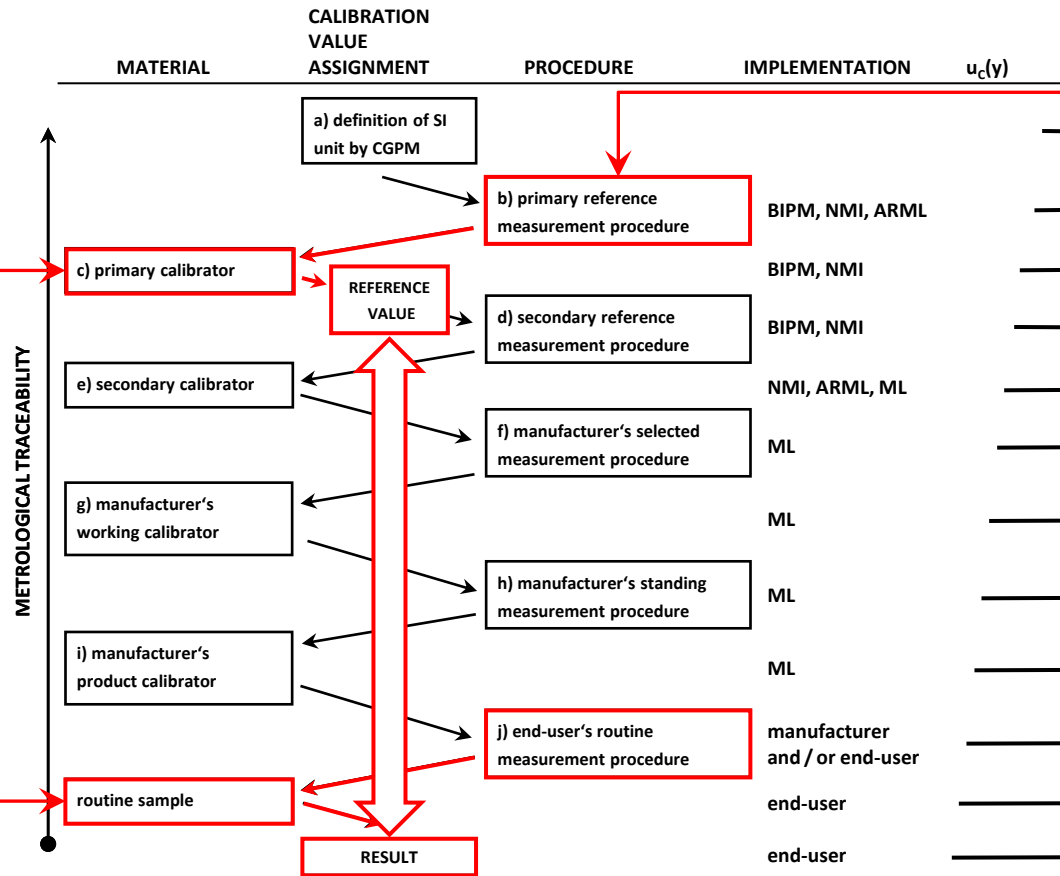
CBC: Complete Blood Count

Erythrocytes	Haemoglobin
Thrombocytes	Haematocrit
Leucocytes	

German Medical Scientific Associations:



Complete Blood Count: Validation of traceability of results by round robin tests



development of reference instruments & reference measurement procedures @ PTB

round robin tests using control blood

RfB INSTAND

disadvantage: routine instruments are calibrated to provide reliable results for fresh blood, control blood does not mimic properties of fresh blood sufficiently

METROLOGICAL TRACEABILITY

Extensive calibration hierarchy and metrological traceability to SI

EN ISO 17511 (2003): In vitro diagnostic medical devices

Measurement of quantities in biological samples – Metrological traceability of values assigned to calibrators and control materials

EQUALIS uses fresh samples !

Requirements for internal and external quality assurance



Guideline of the German Medical Association on
Quality Assurance in Medical Laboratory Examinations – Rili-BAEK
(J Lab Med 2015; 39(1): 26–69, Table B1a)

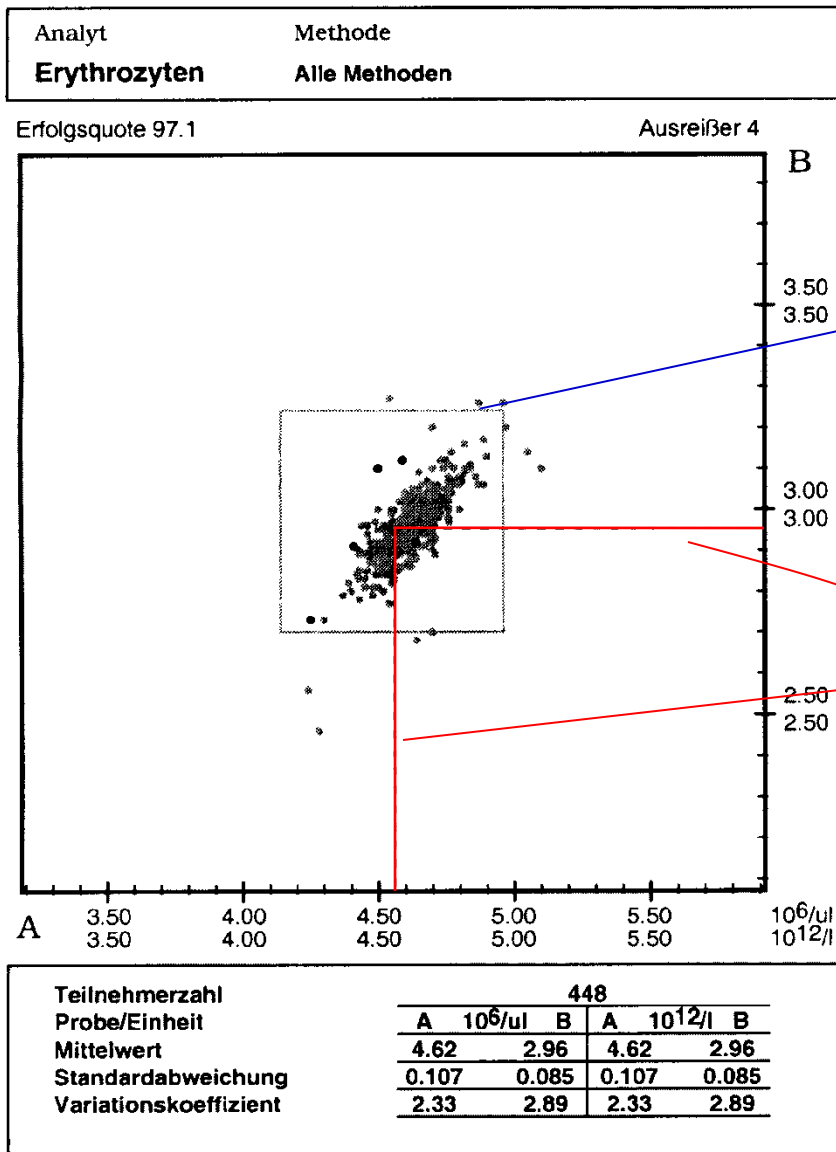
no.	Analyte	Quantity	Acceptable relative deviation of a single result or of the relative root mean square	Acceptable relative deviation in interlaboratory tests	range of measurement			Type of target value
					from	to	unit	
20	erythrocytes	cell concentration	4%	8%	1,5	7	1/pL	RMV
27	haematocrit	volume ratio	5%	9%	10	60	%	STV
28	haemoglobin	mass ratio	4%	6%	20	200	g/L	RMV
40	leucocytes	cell concentration	6.5%	18%	2	30	1/nL	RMV
56	thrombocytes	cell concentration	7.5% 8.5% 13.5%	13% 15% 18%	>300 >150 40	700 300 150	1/nL 1/nL 1/nL	STV

external quality assurance

Participation mandatory since 2002

RMV = reference method value, STV = target value specific for the particular test method

Erythrocyte concentration of all participants

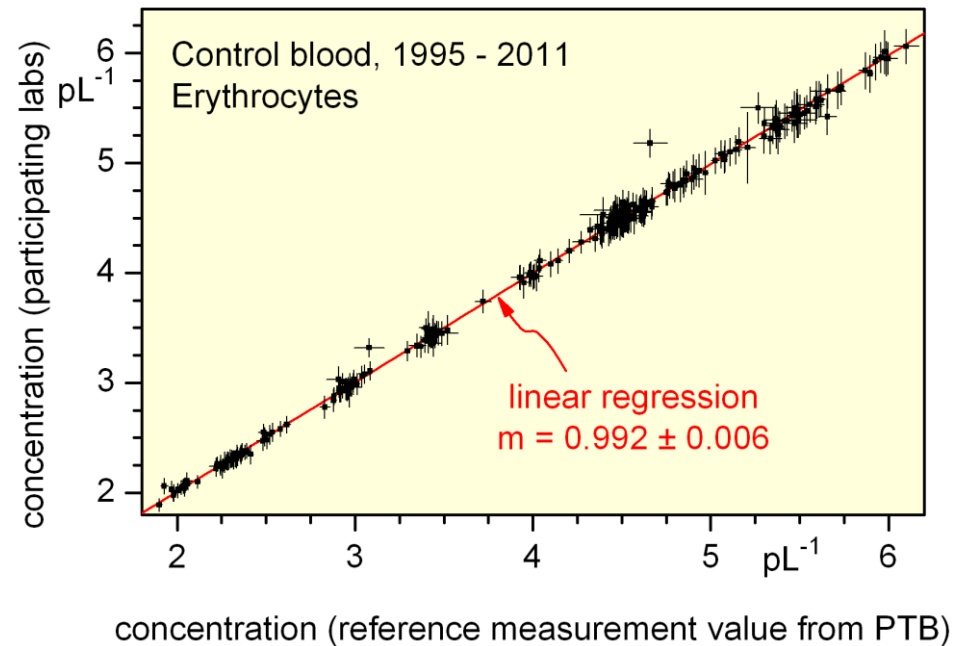
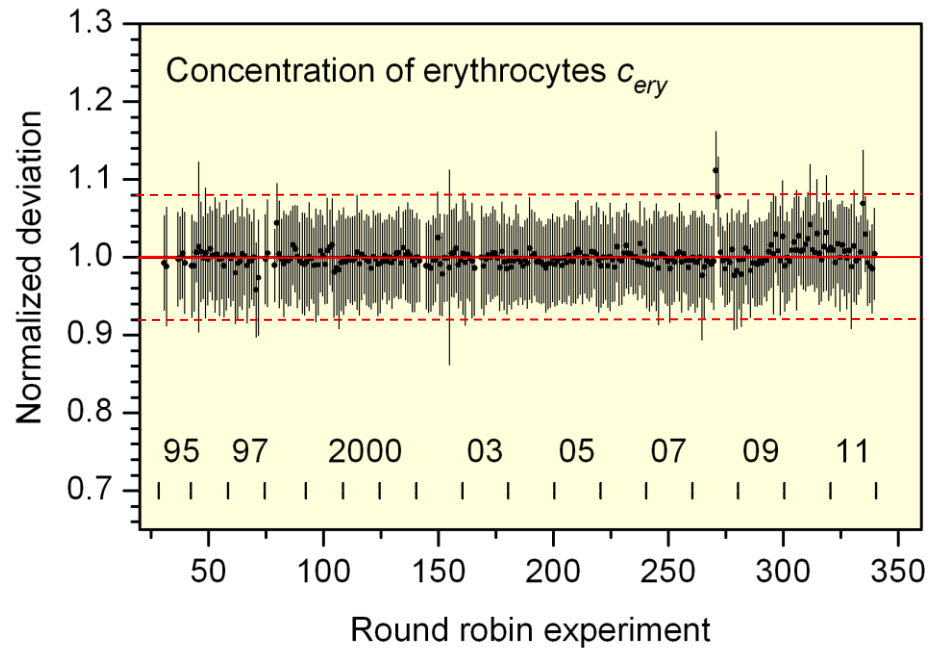


Youden – Diagram

Evaluation limits according to RiLiBÄK
(± 8%)

PTB reference values
 $U(C_{ery}) = (\pm 0,8\%)$

External quality assurance since 1995: Erythrocyte concentrations



— normalized reference measurement values (PTB)

- - - acceptable deviations in interlaboratory tests (RiLiBÄK)

• mean of collective and standard deviation

Concentration C of primary sample

$$C = \frac{N}{V}$$

Recorded concentration C of analytical suspension

$$C_{ri,j} = \frac{N_{ri,j}}{V_{i,j} \cdot \phi_i}$$

Coincidence correction by dilution series $\Rightarrow N$

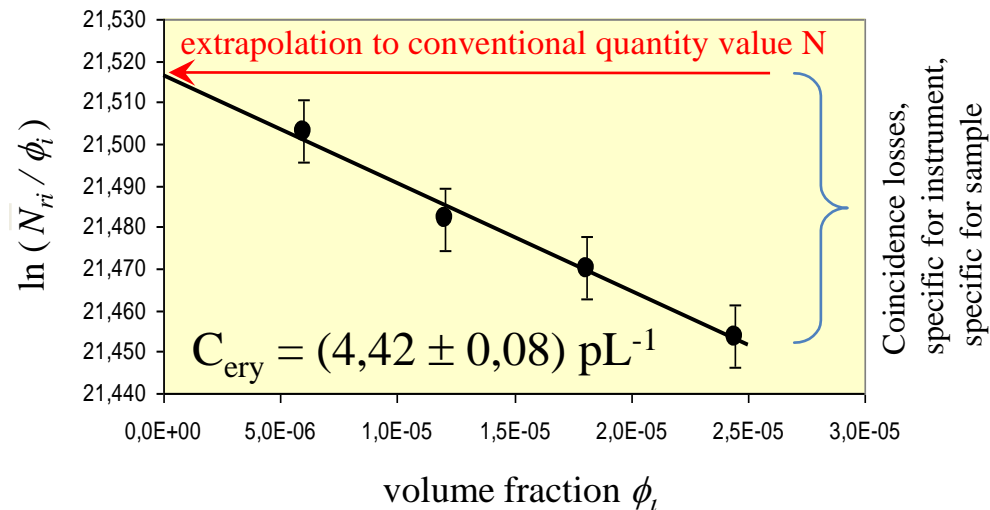
$$\ln \frac{\bar{N}_{ri}}{\phi_i} = \ln N - \phi_i \cdot N \cdot p$$

Determination of volume and density

V, ϕ_i gravimetrical measurement of volume V and volume fraction ϕ_i
 ρ density measurement using the mechanical oscillator method

Definition of symbols

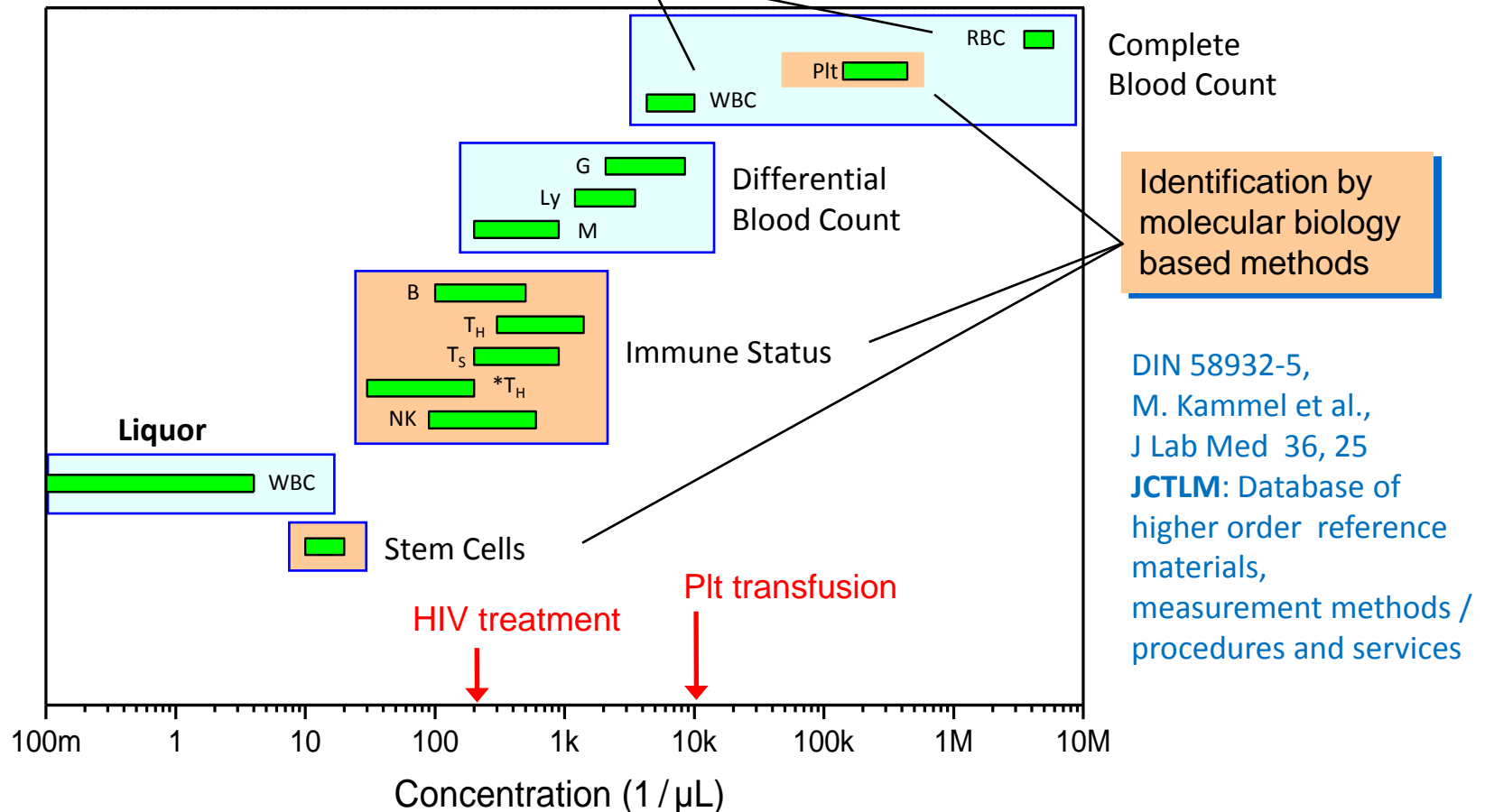
N conventional quantity value of the number of particles
 V volume of primary sample derived from $V_{i,j}$
 $N_{ri,j}$ recorded number of events
 $V_{i,j}$ volume of analytical solution i , repeat measurement j
 ϕ_i volume fraction of primary sample in the analytical solution i
 p coincidence parameter



Control of influence quantities

adhesion: determination of concentration immediately and 30 min after preparation
agglomeration: analysis of pulse height distributions, scatter plots, integrated dead time
sedimentation: stirring during measurement, time dependence of $N_{ri,j}$
carry over: background determination between different series of measurements
RBC ghosts: different methods (impedance change, FLS, mAb-staining)
lysis: comparison experiments using various reagents

Reference Procedures (DIN 58932-3, DIN 58932-4, **DIN 58932-5**)



Flow cytometry:

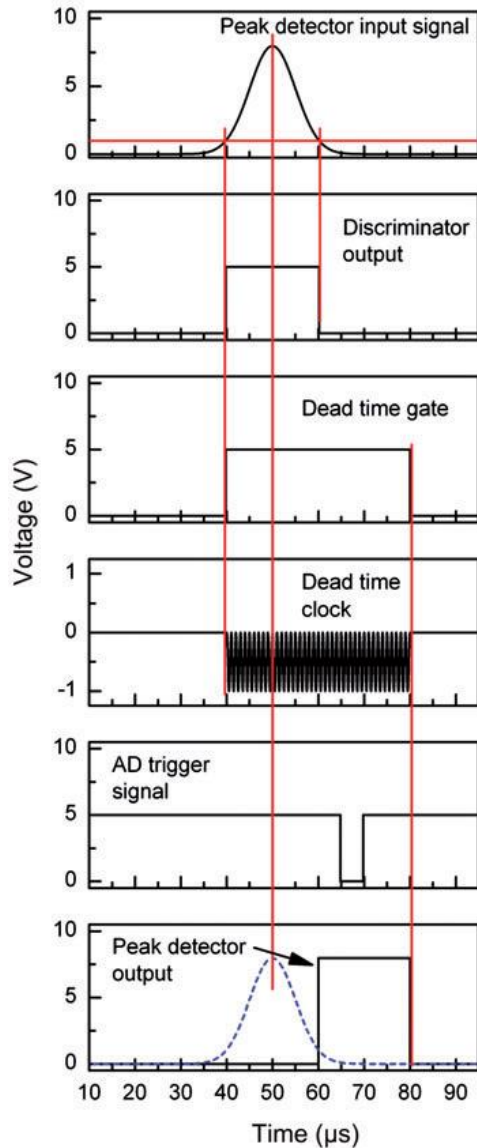
Identification - Counting – Sorting

Validation of target cells:

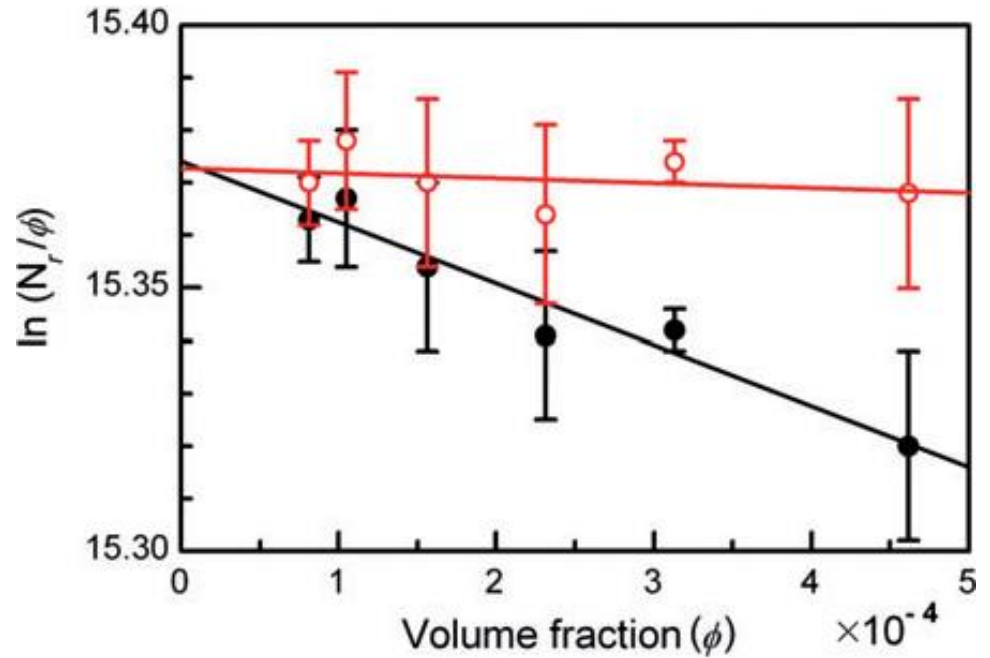
Microscopy (Morphology, Localization of mAb,...)

Nucleic acid amplification (NAAT), e.g. qPCR, isothermal NAAT

Pulse widths measurements to quantify coincidence loss

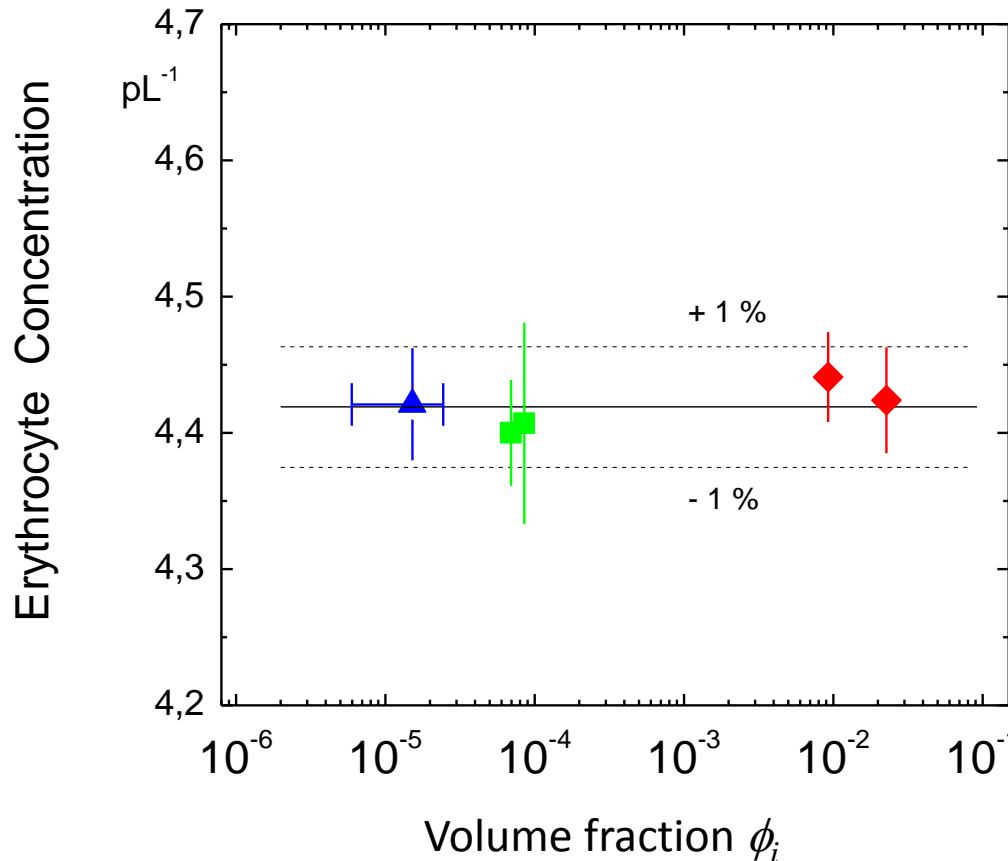


$$(N) \approx \frac{N_{ri}}{\phi_i} \frac{1}{1 - (N_{ri} \tau / t)}$$



M. Kammel et al., J Lab Med 36, 25 (2012)

Comparison of Different Reference Instruments Using Integrated Pulse Width Measurement



Laser flow cytometer

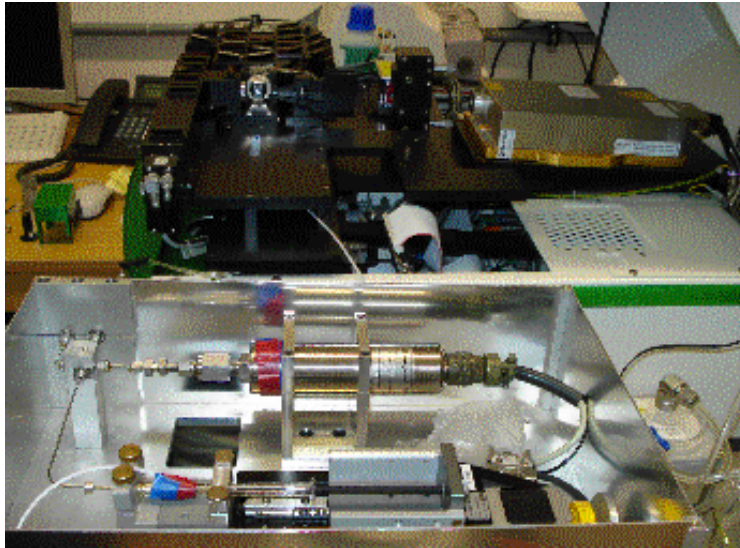
Impedance based flow cytometer, hydrodynamic focussing

Impedance based flow cytometer, no hydrodynamic focussing (Coulter ZM, Bonn)

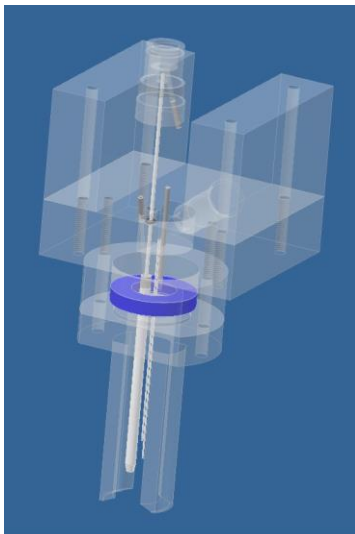
Result: Good agreement between different techniques for cell detection

Conclusion: Concentration is obtained from a single measurement,
Dilution series serves as independent control,
Method is suited as primary reference procedure

Modification of commercial instruments to allow application of primary procedure



- direct volume measurement by motor driven, gravimetrically calibrated syringe & high accuracy pressure determination
- new hard & software for control of measurement and data acquisition



- direct injection of sample in flow cell



Modification of commercial instruments to allow application of primary procedure



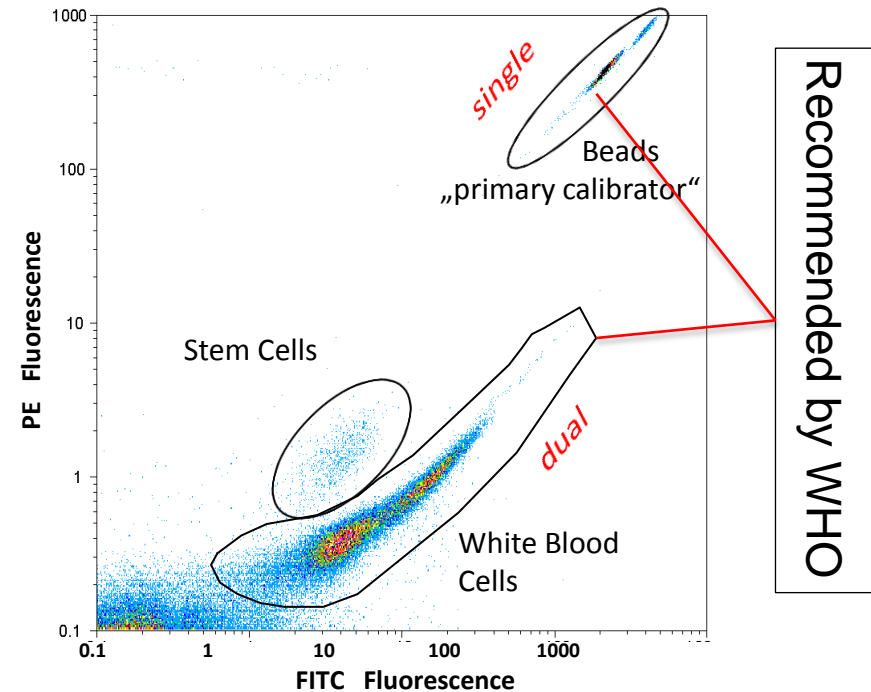
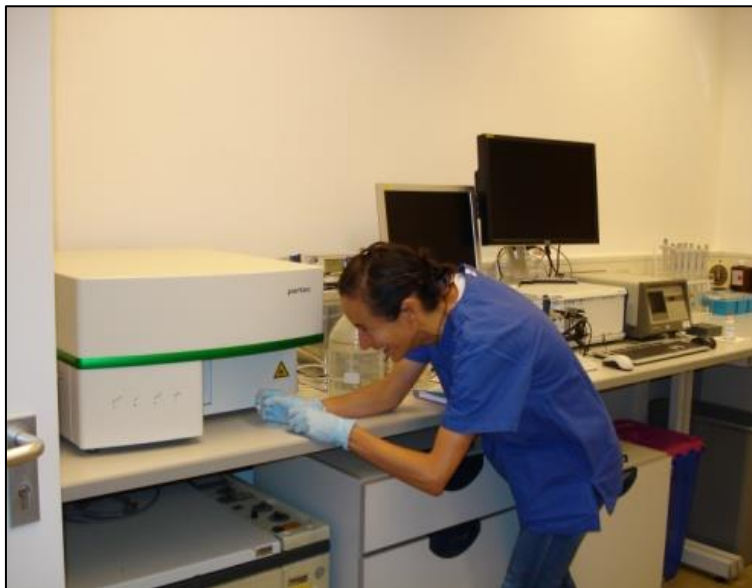
TÜBİTAK



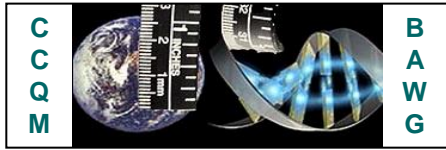
IN STAND

Determination of reference values for stem cell concentrations

Partec / PTB-reference instrument
@ Klinikum Karlsruhe*



Secondary reference measurement procedure: Relative enumeration of lyophilised CD4⁺ cells



CCQM Pilot Study 102:

Surface (pre-) labelled lyophilised cells for inter-laboratory comparison

Stebbing R.¹, Sutherland J.¹, Wang L.², & Neukammer J.³

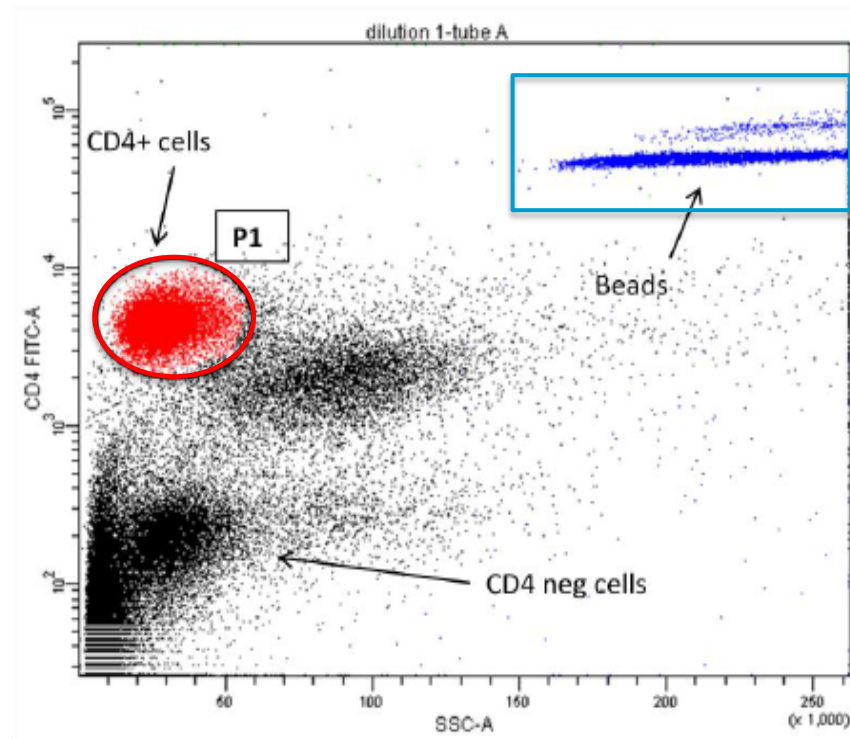
¹ NIBSC (United Kingdom), ² NIST (U.S.A.), ³ PTB (Germany)



SLL

+ 1mL Reinstwasser

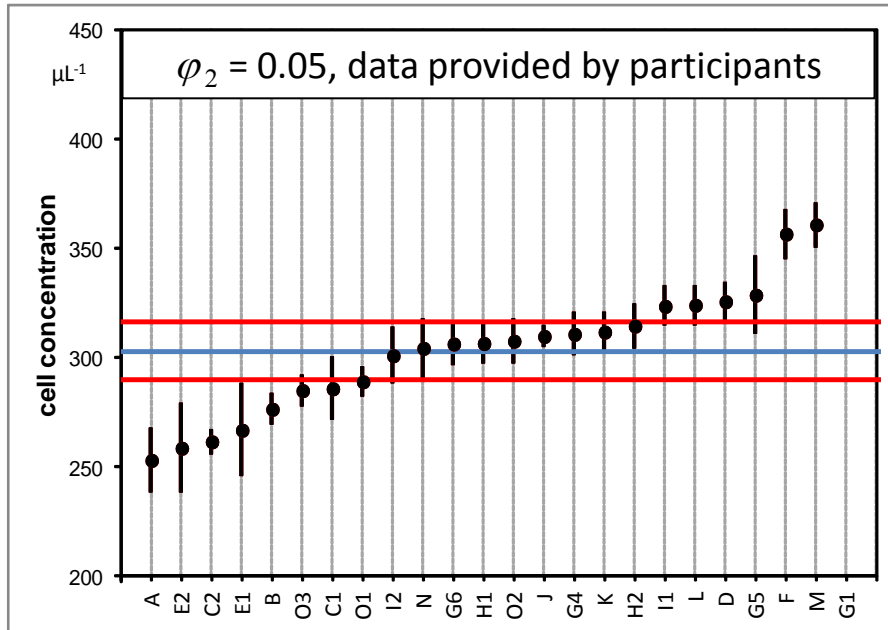
- 1) Entnahme 200 μ L in TruCount R hrchen + 800 μ L Isoton \Rightarrow 1: 5
- 2) Entnahme 50 μ L in TruCount R hrchen + 950 μ L Isoton \Rightarrow 1: 20



Reference value for bead number assigned by PTB

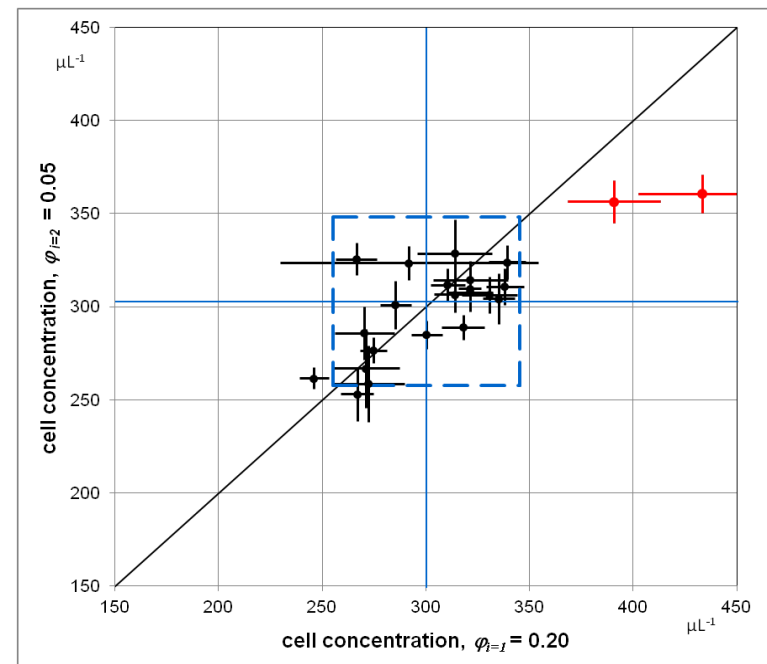
$u(N) \approx 7\%$, vial to vial variation

Results of CCQM Pilot study 102: Relative enumeration of lyophilised CD4⁺ cells



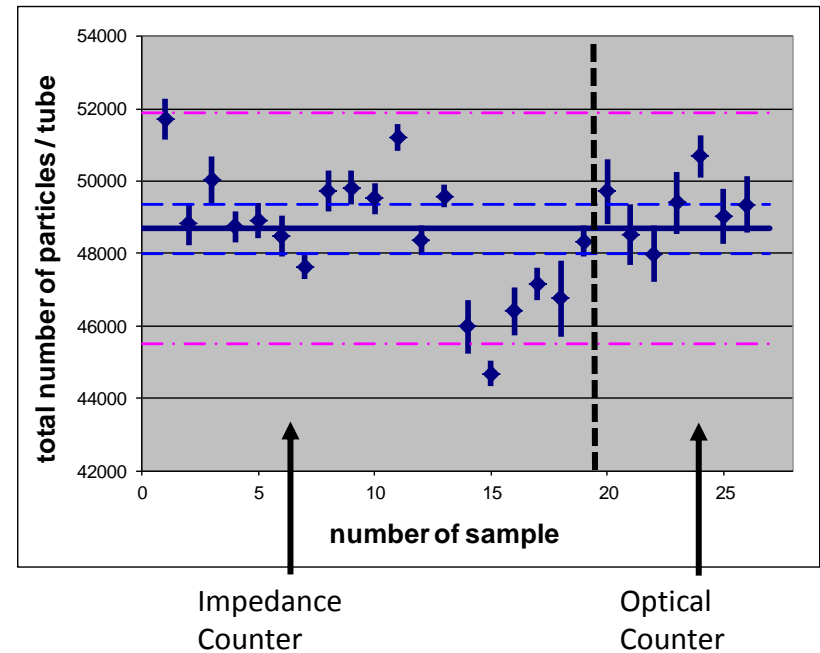
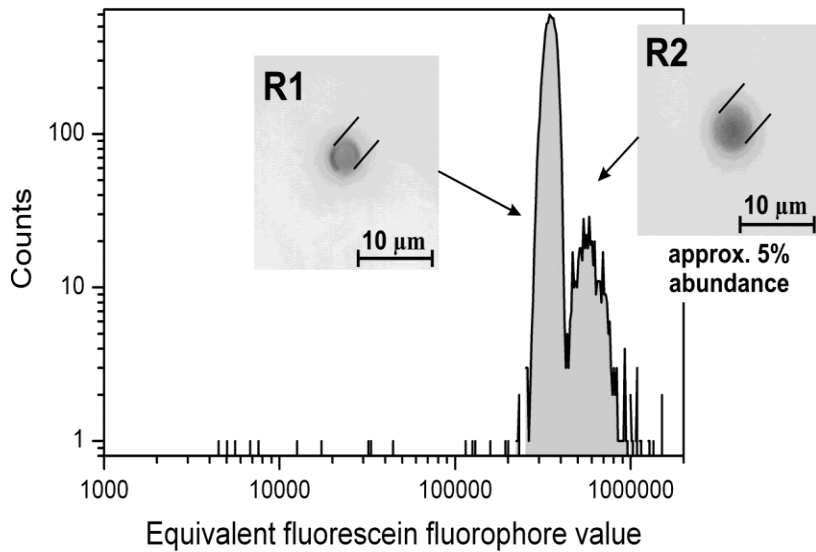
- Participants average for
 - dilution 1: $(300 \pm 44) \mu\text{L}^{-1}$ (level of
 - dilution 2: $(303 \pm 48) \mu\text{L}^{-1}$ confidence $\approx 95\%$)
- Target value (NIBSC preparation) $\approx 300 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$
- Reference and routine protocols were used
 - no instrumental / procedure dependent clusters
 - no effect of dilution factor observed

⇒ Acceptable deviation in ring trials: 15% - 20%



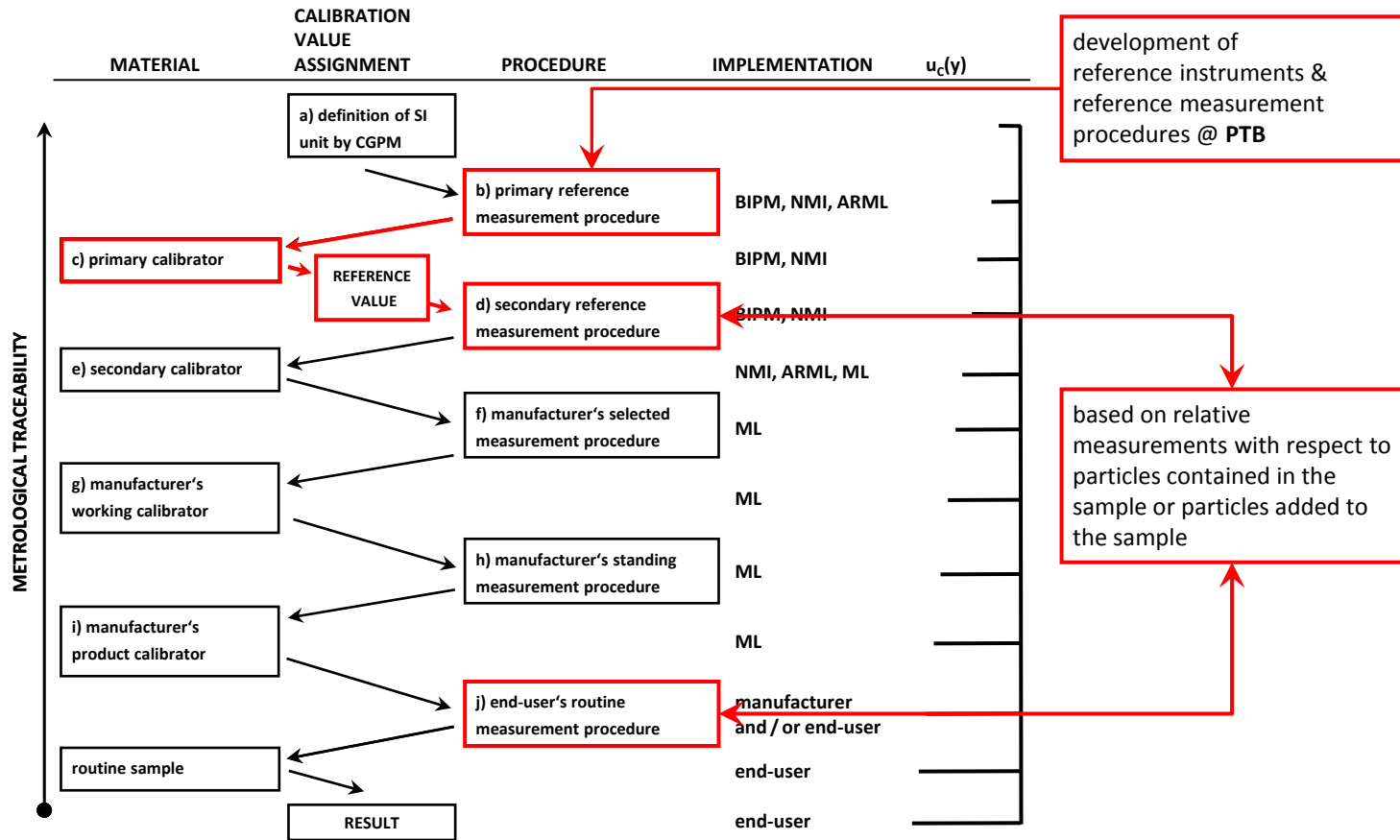
blue rectangle: $\pm 15\%$

Characterisation of calibrators: TruCount, Flow Count, Flow Check,



instruments	value specified by manufacturer	weighted mean value	expansion factor	uncertainty of mean value	
		$\langle N_n \rangle$		$k u(\langle N_n \rangle)$	$k u_{rel}(\langle N_n \rangle)$
optical and impedance reference counters	51511	48660	2.04	627	1.3 %
				uncertainty for single vial measurement	
				$\sqrt{32} k u(\langle N_n \rangle)$	$\sqrt{32} k u_{rel}(\langle N_n \rangle)$
				3544	7.3 %

Assignment of reference values to primary calibrators



Extensive calibration hierarchy and metrological traceability to SI

EN ISO 17511 (2003): In vitro diagnostic medical devices

Measurement of quantities in biological samples – Metrological traceability of values assigned to calibrators and control materials

DIN 58931 Determination of **haemoglobin concentration** in blood - Reference method, August 2010 ⇒ PNWI CEN TC 140 (77% agreed, but experts are needed!)

Haematology — Determination of the concentration of blood corpuscles in blood

DIN 58932-1 Blood collection, sample preparation, biological influence quantities, interference factors, April 2012

DIN 58932-2 Characteristic quantities for erythrocytes (erythrocyte indices), June 1998

DIN 58932-3 Determination of the concentration of **erythrocytes**, Reference method (in German), Comments by February 2016
<http://www.din.de/de/mitwirken/normenausschuesse/named>

DIN 58932-4 Reference procedure for the determination of the concentration of **leukocytes**, July 2003

DIN 58932-5 5: Reference method for the determination of the concentration of **platelets**, May 2007

DIN 58932-6 Reference method for the determination of the concentrations
CD4 positive cells

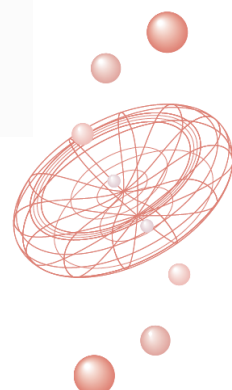
DIN 58932-7 Determination of blood cell concentrations by **relative enumeration**

DIN 58933-1 Procedure for determining the volume fraction of erythrocytes (**packed cell volume**) in blood - Part 1: Reference method based on centrifugation (in German), January 1995



REVIEW

ARTICLE



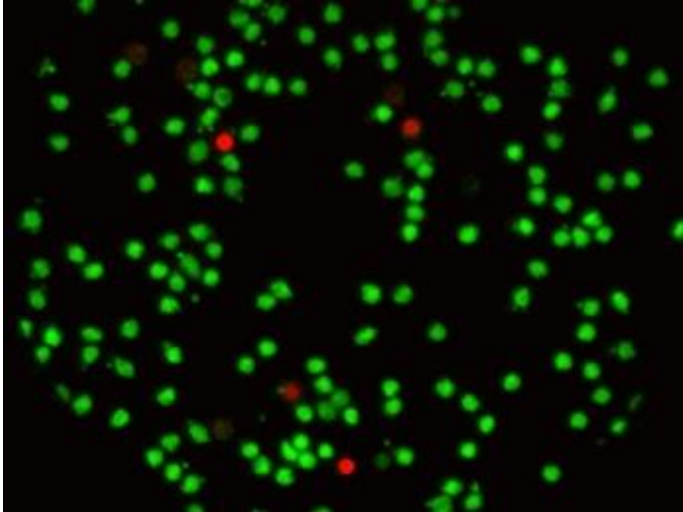
The Reference Measurement Procedure for Erythrocyte Enumeration

Etsuro SHINKAI, Atsushi SHIRAKAMI and Keiji FUJIMOTO

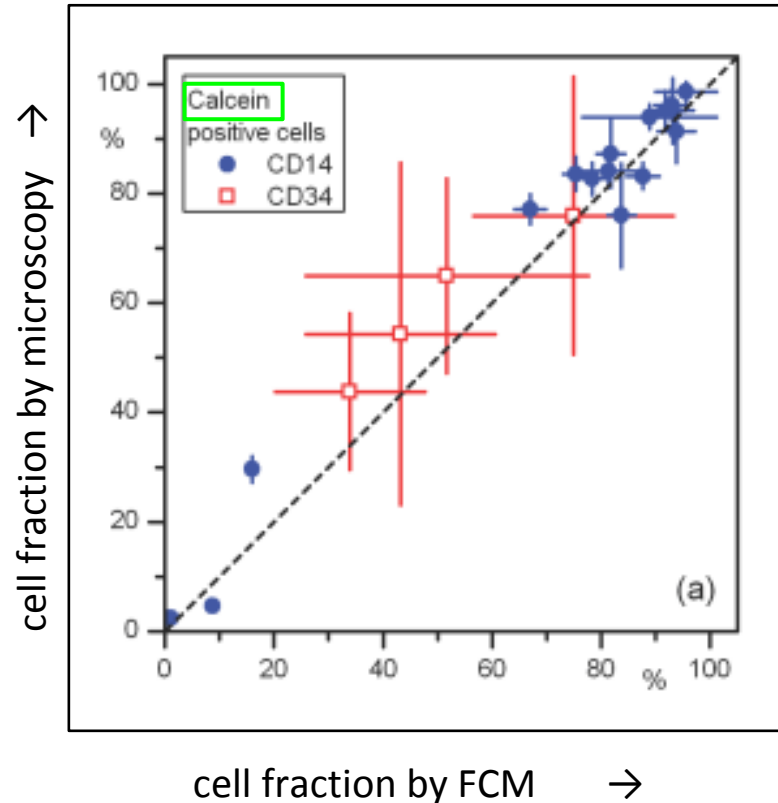
Scientific Affairs, Sysmex Corporation, 1-3-2 Murotani, Nishi-ku, Kobe, 651-2241, Japan

Annex A. ISO/TC276/WG3 Work Programme Status

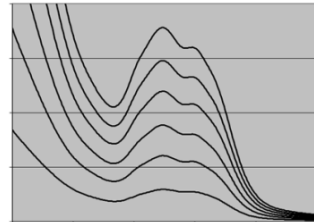
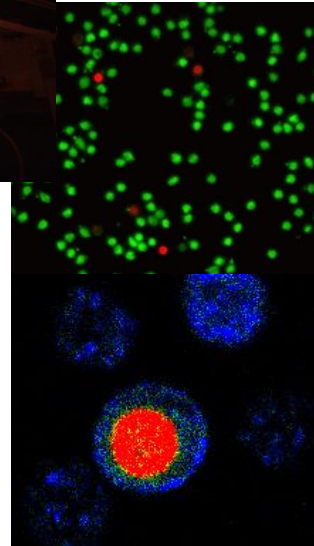
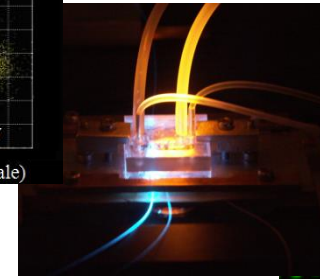
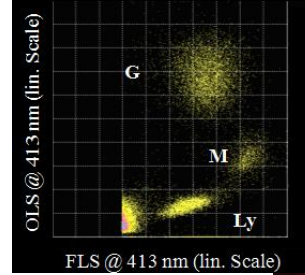
Project #	Project Title	Stage Date	Target IS Date	Stage	Reference	Comments	WG	Lead Author(s)	Secretary
ISO/NP 20391-1	<i>Biotechnology - Cell Counting – Part 1. General Guidance on Cell Counting Methods</i>	7-Aug-2015	7-Aug-2018	10.99	WG3/N6,N20,N22, N32, N58 TC276/N81, N123	WG3/N29, N36, N47, N70	3	Lin-Gibson, Sarkar (US)	Allocca
ISO/NP 20391-2	<i>Biotechnology - Cell Counting – Part 2. Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis to Quantify Counting Method Performance</i>	7-Aug-2015	7-Aug-2018	10.99	TC276/N82, N122 WG3/N21, N22, N32, N33, N34, N35, N45, N46,	WG3/N30, , N37, N38, N48	3	Lin-Gibson, Sarkar (US)	Allocca
	<i>Cell Characterization Strategy: Characterization of Cells – Guide for Cell Measurement Methods</i>			-----	WG3/N41, N60		3	Heki-san (Japan)	Allocca
	<i>Characterization of Cells – Best Practice to Design Cell Measurement Methods</i>			-----			3	Lin-Gibson (US)	Allocca
	<i>Characterization of Cells – Cell Measurement Process</i>			-----	WG3/N59		3	Heki-san (Japan)	Allocca
	<i>Analytical Methods for Mesenchymal Stem Cells</i>			-----			3		Allocca



live (calcein)



Kumrow et al., Cytometry 83A (2013)



Thank you for your attention

Working Group „Flow Cytometry and Microscopy“

Andreas Kummrow, Klaus Witt, Manuela John, Susanne Dehnad, Stefan Reitz, Marcin Frankowski, Martin Kammel, Nicole Bock, Martin Hussels, Peter Simon, Matthias Grywnow

joerg.neukammer@ptb.de

