

Minutes of FlowCore Users Group Meeting October 01, 2009

AF – Andrew Fryga
DE – Darren Ellemor
KY – Karen Yuen
JD – Jarrod Dudakov
GD – Grant Drummond
NS – Natalie Seach
AR – Alex Rizzitelli
SS – Samy Sakkal

Introduction

- AF thanks users for attending
- Customer Satisfaction surveys are handed out to attendees, who are also encouraged to take some back to be filled out by any FlowCore users unable to attend the meeting.
- Users are reminded that they can keep up to date with FlowCore developments by referring to the FlowCore website, Twitterfeed, and previous FUGM minutes.
- AF announces DE's resignation from FlowCore, his new position in Singapore, and also thanks DE for his invaluable contributions during the conception and establishment of the FlowCore facility.

Upcoming Events

- AF announces the upcoming AFCG (Australian Flow Cytometry Group) conference; to be held in Brisbane in November, and lets users know that it is a great resource to learn more about flow cytometry applications, and that they are welcome to register and attend.
- More information can be found on the AFCG website: www.afcg.org.au
- AF announces a presentation: '**Analysis of Signal Transduction Pathways using Flow Cytometry.**' To be given by Vincent Shankey, ph.D, Advanced Technology Group, Beckman Coulter.
- This presentation will be held in the S1 Lecture theatre, Building 25, on 06/11/09. Email enquiries@flowcore.com.au for more information.

Sorter Setup / Booking Discussion

- AF presents an analysis of Influx and Diva current usage.
- Users were thanked for booking responsibly.
- The target for monthly sorting hours has been met several times in recent months, and the facility is getting busier.

JD – Is it a good or bad thing that the lab is running at / near capacity?

AF – It's a good thing; the lab is not consistently running at capacity yet, but it indicated the possibility of getting another sorter, which would need to be discussed by the committee.

GD – Is the sorting load cyclical?

AF – Yes. January to March is quieter, whereas May through to November is busy.

DE – It's likely that the usage will trend upwards as we recruit new users.

- Influx 1 is the most often booked sorter, exceeding its target hours.
- Influx 2 is meeting its target hours.
- Diva is consistently under-booked; there is much time available particularly in the mornings.
- AF begins discussion about the Influx 'Standard Setup'
- Statistical review of bookings / usage reveal that standard setup is only used 50% of the time.
- AF proposes alternative systems for catering machines to individual clients needs:
 - No standard setup (every booking must factor in some recalibration time.)
 - Keep standard set up (some users will need to allow for recalibrations)
- Users are notified that most 'nozzle changing' will occur at the END of their sort if they have a non-standard set up. Particularly if they are the first booking of the day.
- FlowCores #1 priority is to provide flexibility to all users.

JD – Would the overbooking of Influx 1 be solved with the addition of a violet laser on Influx 2?

AF – Yes, that would help, I have a quote for \$30K but this out of date. With BD as the new owner this price may now be double.

- Many clients are opting for the gentler '100um, 20psi' set up for their sorts, therefore this may become a new standard setup; to replace the '90um 30psi' standard.
- AF highlighted the need for users to consider whether they need the violet or UV laser for their sorts, when they are booking the Influx 1.
- Statistical review of bookings indicate 46% of Influx 1 bookings do not require either of these lasers.
- Users are urged to book the Influx 2 if it is available and they do not require the UV or violet laser, to ensure Influx 1 is available for users whom do.
- Users who book Influx 1 not requiring UV or violet lasers will be emailed; urging them to rethink their booking / choice of sorter.

- DE explained that the presence of the hood on the Influx 1 does not make the sorts more sterile. All machines are equally capable of performing sterile sorts. The hood is to protect operators from biohazardous materials / aerosols.

NS – Will all users (unable to attend FUGM) be informed about the issue of overbooking / unnecessary booking of Influx 1?

AF – Yes; the minutes will be sent to all users.

NS – Are the performances of the Influx 1 and 2 comparable?

AF – Yes, both machines are identical, and give identical levels of fluorescence detection.

GD – Will there be a reminder on the bookings page about considering whether users require UV or violet laser?

DE – Yes. There will be a small blurb on the bookings page, and a link to the 'Equipment and Services' page on the FlowCore website.

OHS

- FlowCore is a PC2 facility.
- All users are required to wear lab coats and gloves when working in the FlowCore facility. These are provided by FlowCore.
- Cells are to be transported appropriately in capped tubes and closed eskies.

General

- AF notified users that Chris Siatskas is close to completion of fruit reporter protein production.
- These proteins will be characterised across all FlowCore machines, and the results will be presented to users.
- KY presents several assays that may be useful for users when designing experiments.
 - Proliferation Assays
 - Bead Arrays
 - Live / Dead staining kits
- Detailed slides of Karens presentation are available on the FlowCore website under 'Equipment and Services'; 'Education and Training'.

AR – When performing proliferation assays with GFP cells, Cell Tracker Orange is a good 'red fluorescing' alternative to CFSE.

DE – Bead Array assays require particular care during initial set up, but results are very rewarding.

Discussion

- AF notifies users that the FC500 is no longer available for bookings.

SS – Is there a data update?

DE – An email will be sent out soon.

AR – Is the booking 24 hour lockout absolutely necessary?

AF – Yes. It is there to prevent users making ‘speculative bookings’; taking up more time than they require, therefore preventing other users from booking. It is a standard system across all flow cytometry facilities.

NS – Is there a way users can be notified of last minute cancellations?

AF – Possibility of using the Twitterfeed.

DE – It’s a good idea, but there are many cancellations just outside of the 24 hour lockout window that FlowCore is not aware of. FlowCore is trying to avoid spamming users with emails.

DE – Email enquiries@flowcore.com if you cancel a booking a day or 2 before, therefore we can notify users of the vacant timeslot via our Twitterfeed.

AF – This is not going to happen. FlowCore will not be managing the user’s cancellations. Users need to explore this further.

DE – Cancellations within the 24 hour lockout window may be taken over (and therefore paid for) by another user without any costs to the cancelling user.

DE – After the meeting, Darren announced he is working on a new on line booking system that will address this issue.

Attendees:

Monica Prakash
Slobodanka Stojkovic
Alex Rizzitelli
Natalie Seach
George Zhou
Florian Wiede
Jarrod Dudakov
Eva Nievergall
Ivan Betoncello
Guillaume Morin
Grant Drummond
Samy Sakkal
Rosa McCarty
Vanta Jokubaitis
Rachel De Las Heras

- Apologies to any attendees missed!