

Autofluorescence Fluorescence associated WITH the Cell, usually caused by components and chemicals within the cell structure itself.

Compensation An electronic calculation that removes signal overlap that the optical system cannot remove. Fluorescence compensation works for specific pairs of fluorescent parameters

%CV Percent coefficient of variation is a measure of peak distribution. The percent coefficient of variation is the standard deviation of the peak divided by the mean channel number of the peak, times 100.

Dot Plot A two parameter data graph used for acquisition and analysis. Each dot on the display represents one event that the flow cytometer analyzed.

Doublet Two particles stuck together, which a flow cytometer records as one larger event. Particles may also occur in triplets and higher associations.

Event A unit of data representing one particle or cell. An event has a relative intensity value and channel number for each parameter.

Flow cytometry standard (FCS 2.0 or 3.0) File format - format used to save flow cytometry data. Includes identifying information about the sample in the "header" and measurement information for each cell or event analyzed. The header is in text format while the measurement information is in binary format.

Forward Scatter (FSC) A parameter measuring light scattered less than 10 degrees as a cell passes through the laser beam. The FSC measurement is related to cell size.

Histogram A data plot of a single parameter. This displays either the relative fluorescence intensity value or the channel number on the x axis and the number of events on the y axis.

Parameter A measurement of light intensity, either scattered or emitted fluorescence, from a particle as it passes through a laser beam.

Photomultiplier A photodetector, with adjustable voltage, that translates optical tube (PMT) signals into electrical current. Increasing the PMT voltage, increases the output signal for a given amount of light.

Side Scatter (SSC) Also called 90° scatter or right angle scatter. Light scattered at a 90° degree angle as a cell passes through the laser beam. This measurement is related to the internal granularity or complexity of a particle.

Singlet A single particle (cell or nucleus), which a flow cytometer records as one event.

Threshold The lowest channel number for a selected parameter for which an event may be recorded. The flow cytometer sends to the computer only events above the threshold level.