

#### Summary:

The Flow cytometry forum established in 2009 meets 2-3 times per year. Its members include representatives from 20 Israeli hospitals,

#### Aims of the forum:

- To create an atmosphere of cooperation between the members of the forum that will encourage consultations about difficult cases.
- To present unusual or rare cases
- To exchange information
- To learn new methods and applications
- To encourage quality assurance, building validation protocols and exchange of controls between the laboratories

#### The meetings include:

##### A main lecture dealing with:

- New instruments updates
- New applications
- Updates and summaries of international meetings (ie ESCCA European Society for Clinical Cell Cytometry)
- Educational sessions ( cell populations, MRD, etc)

##### Discussion of technical problems:

- Technical problems connected to the work
- Reagent quality, prices etc
- QC

##### Case presentations:

- At each session 4-5 hospitals present interesting / challenging cases for discussion and exchange of ideas.

#### Accomplishments of the forum:

- The forum has fostered excellent relationships between its members in Israel facilitating learning, consultations and discussions in working groups by mail and by phone.
- A clinical flow cytometry course was given within the framework of the forum. The course had 10 meetings of 4 academic hours and included the subjects associated with clinical flow cytometry given by the most experienced flow cytometrists in Israel. Reviews of the course were excellent. The course was officially recognized as ongoing education and certification of participation were issued.
- Lectures and recommendations were given on the subject of validation and samples containing rare antigens were shared among the members.

#### Future aims:

- Set up a validation committee. Propose controls for rare antigens
- Improve the laboratory computer program to make it more compatible for flow cytometry data entry.