

# Flow Informatics and Computational Cytometry Society (FICCS) Development Conference Call Summary

## Attendees:

BCCRC: Ryan Brinkman  
FCCC: Michael Ochs  
UT Southwestern: Richard Scheuermann, Jamie Lee, Yu Qian (Max), Jennifer Cai  
UM: Peter Wilkinson

**February 21, 2007, 10:30am PST**

## Summary:

- 1) **FICCS3**: Jamie will be presenting the UT Southwestern database efforts and use case for an open database infrastructure.
- 2) **Ontology for Biomedical Investigations**: The NIH-funded effort will continue to develop the ontology for flow cytometry experiments.
- 3) **MIFlowCyt**: Manufacturer Catalog # will be added as a requirement (shall). Lot number will remain as an optional (should) term.
- 4) **ACS**:
  - a. **Overhead of ACS vs. FCS**

There was a concern that data recording should continue to occur in real-time. Michael will investigate the processing requirements for converting from machine ticks to seconds to comply with the proposed ACS file format. This could be included in the proposal in a similar manner as the already included performance test of byte flipping, which seemed reasonable.
  - b. Instrumentation details

There was concern expressed regarding possible difficulties in keeping track of multiple files for each experiment (ACS data file plus metadata files), though there was support for the immutable nature of the proposed ACS format. For example, there was widespread support for keeping gating out of ACS. A specific area of concern was instrumentation meta data, and there was some agreement that there was a good use case for having this part of the ACS file. Michael will develop a proposal for additional keywords that should be included in the header. Alternatively, Ryan will research the possibility of encoding instrumentation description using OWL within the header section. In the latter case, instrumentation description would be based on an ontology of a flow instrument, encoded within OBI (point 2). There would be no list of minimum terms, and users could encode what details they felt was required for any experiment. The issue of mutability of the ACS file would have to be examined (e.g., if the filter information was mis-recorded). However, this approach would facilitate capturing meaning of the included instrumentation terms (versus free text keyword/value pairs) and would be extensible in the future, or based on user requirements.

Next call: **Wednesday, March 7, 2007, 10:30 PST.**