Instrumentation

A3 Lite B

The A3 Lite B is a new high parameter analyzer. The A3 Lite is a 25 parameter/23 color 5 laser cytometer. The instrument is located in 8-182 TRC, which is in the Vonderheide lab. The A3 Lite B will be available for all users to run on, with some restricted time set aside for the Vonderheide lab. The instrument configuration for the A3 Lite B is shown above.

FACSConto TRC and JMB Decommissioned

As some of you might already know, some of our older Canto cytometers will be getting decommissioned, due to lack of use.

The Canto TRC is scheduled to be shut down and removed from the schedule on July 29, 2022. All Canto TRC users were emailed about the shutdown months ago. Canto TRC users will be migrating to the new A3 Lite B in 8-182 TRC.

The Canto JMB is scheduled to be shut down and removed from the schedule on August 12, 2022. This was decided last week during the Penn Cytomics finance meeting. Canto JMB users can move to any LSR II or Fortessa to continue to run their samples. The closest LSR II configuration to the Canto JMB is the LSR B, which is located in 297 JMB.
If you have any questions or concerns about either instrument being decommissioned, please feel free to contact the Penn Cytomics Lab and we will be happy to help you.

**Beckman Coulter Vi-Cell Broken and Beyond Repair**

Earlier last week, the Vi-Cell, located in 231 JMB, died and there is no plan for it to be repaired. The Penn Cytomics lab is looking into alternative cell/viability counters. See the promotions below.

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**Promotions**

**Nexcelom Cellaca MX Demo**

The Nexcelom Cellaca MX is a high throughput cell counter and viability instrument. The Penn Cytomics lab has scheduled a demo for August 3, 2022. This demo will be taking place in 297 JMB. If you are interested please contact Jen in the Penn Cytomics lab at jennifer.jakubowski@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

For more information on the Nexcelom Cellaca MX (FL2 model), check out the link below. We hope to see you on August 3rd.

[https://view-su2.highspot.com/viewer/62a21c612ce87c063e019d55?iid=6021d0d9daa3410740b0896b](https://view-su2.highspot.com/viewer/62a21c612ce87c063e019d55?iid=6021d0d9daa3410740b0896b)

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**Miltenyi Biotec gentleMACS Octo Dissociator**
The Penn Cytomics lab would like to announce the purchase of the gentleMACS Octo Dissociator with Heaters! The gentleMACS is a benchtop instrument for the fully automated and standardized tissue dissociation or homogenization of up to eight samples. Equipped with eight individual heating units and numerous optimized and ready-to-use gentleMACS Programs, the gentleMACS offers a fully automated workflow for tissue dissociation. In addition, the instrument allows the user to create user-defined programs for almost any biological material. All eight positions can be operated independently. Single-cell suspensions or thorough homogenates are easily and reproducibly obtained using the unique C Tubes or M Tubes. These single-use gentleMACS Tubes allow sample preparation in a closed and sterile system, providing a high level of user safety and minimize cross-contamination.

Applications:

- mouse or human tumor
- mouse or rat neonatal heart
- neural tissue
- mouse spleen, lung, lamina propria, epidermis, or liver
- mouse or rat skeletal muscle
- and more

If you have a tough tissue sample that you need to breakdown for an assay, think about the gentleMACS. This tissue dissociator is located in 297 JMB. Ask today about training and how you can take advantage of this technology.

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**Policy Reminders**

**New Cancellation Policy for the Symphony A5**

There has been a large number of last-minute cancellations on the Symphony_A and the X-50_Parker lately, so the Penn Cytomics lab has initiated a new cancellation policy window for all users. The Symphony_A and X-50_Parker schedules will block out users 72 hours in advance, very similar to the LSR and Fortessa’s 6 hour block out time.

The hope is that if you know you are not going to use your time, that 3 days notice will allow other users to schedule that time. These cytometers are very heavily used and these experiments take a lot of planning. Cancelling at the last minute doesn’t really allow other users a reasonable amount of planning time to fill the time slot. We know there are instances where you will need to cancel your time at the last minute and you still can. You will just have to call the Penn Cytomics lab and speak with a staff member before your time is cancelled.

**Penn Cytomics Analyzer scheduling policy**

This is a reminder of the scheduling policy as it pertains to all analyzers, with the exception of Symphony_A and X-50_Parker:

**Scheduling:** The following rules have been implemented in order to maximize instrument usage.

The scheduling Calendar locks six hours before the current time. If you need to schedule a block of time less than 6 hours away, call the lab to schedule the time. Likewise, if you need to cancel time less than 6 hours away, call the lab.
You may only book up to 3 hours of consecutive time during normal working hours (10am-6pm). You may book longer sessions during evenings and weekends.

Do not “share” your scheduled time with a lab mate. That will result in your lab mate being charged for the usage and you being charged as a no show. Instead, cancel your time and then have your lab mate book the time on their own. If you are under the 6 hour time window, call the lab to change names in the calendar.

Calendar bookings will expire 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. In other words, if you are not at your scheduled machine within 15 minutes of your start time, it will be assumed that you are not coming. This will allow another user to take your time. If you know you will be late, call the lab and we will reserve your session by adjusting the start time.

We reserve the right to charge for up to 75% of your scheduled time. Please do not over book!

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**Lab Coats required when running**

Please remember to always bring and wear a lab coat when running on any cytometer. This is not just the policy of the Penn Cytomics lab, but by the University and EHRS.

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**Masks are recommended, but not required**

Please remember that masks are recommended, but not required when sorting or running analysis. With an increase in COVID cases lately, if you are going to be in close proximity to other users or staff members, please extend the courtesy and wear a mask.