

Before your Sort

- We are available to answer your questions and provide assistance during the planning phase of your experiment. Please email, call or stop by to discuss your sort.
- Help and information you will receive:
 1. Advice on what fluorochromes to use,
 2. How to estimate yield from what your expected % of target cells should be.
 3. How many cells you need to have a successful sort based on target populations.
 4. Identify cell type specific issues that could hinder you're your sort.
 5. Provide realistic expectations based on this information before you begin.
 6. We will have an Aria Sort Prep guide available from the facility. This guide has very useful information that typical staining protocols lack.
 7. We will help you estimate how much time to schedule on the sorter.
- Please give yourself enough time to prep your samples so you are on time to your scheduled sort. If you are running late **15 minutes or more**, please call. This may allow the current user to extend their time until you arrive as well as let the staff know that you did not forget your appointment.

During your Sort

- We will do our best to have the sorter cleaned and ready for your sort. If there is a significant delay that will impact the start of your sort we will contact you. *Please always include you contact information when you schedule a sort.*
- Our goal is to help you obtain the best sorted populations that we can. Please communicate at the beginning of the sort what you are anticipating out of the sort. This would include need for sterility, minimum # of cells for each sorted population, number of samples that need to be sorted.
- We will evaluate the sort with you once it has commenced to estimate sort yield based on the % of each sorted population, total cells to be sorted and the efficiency of the sort. Based on this estimate you should be able to have a realistic expectation of what you will walk away with from the sort.
- We will ask you whether you would like us to continue to assist you once the sort is underway, if you are confident that you can run it independently you are welcome to do so. We will always be available to you for questions or concerns during your sort regardless if you require more hands on assistance, until after hours commences at 5:00PM. If you are trained for after hours you are welcome to continue your sort.
- If you need to leave during a sort make sure to notify the staff so that we can keep an eye on your sort in your absence. If your sort finishes before you return, we will remove the sort samples and run purity checks for you if there are adequate cell #'s to do so. If you have more samples to sort you will need to be present so that we can assist you. This is vital to avoid confusion and potential mistakes.
- During the sort we will periodically check on you and the sorting progress. If at any time during the sort you need assistance or have questions please ask.

After your sort

- After each sort we will print out or record the *sort report* that contains the details of how many cells were sorted, the efficiency and the total number of events counted. This is a vital piece of information (especially if there are questions about yield) that is lost after each sort if it is not saved as a Excel file or printed.
- We will perform post sort purity analysis on the samples unless the total cell # is too limiting. If you choose to run independently or during after hours, it is your responsibility to record this information.

- We will clean and prep the sorter for the next user; if it is after hours please follow the shut down procedure.
- Once you have returned to your lab please let the staff know as soon as possible if something is not as you expected. This is crucial in order for the facility to address issues as they occur and to allow us to resolve them quickly when there is a problem that our routine QC methods did not identify. Your doing so will help us to eliminate instrument down time and failed sorts if there is a problem.

The overarching goal in the Cell Analysis Facility is to provide accurate and reliable data, technical assistance to aid in quality sorts and foster better understanding of the technology how it is utilized and how investigators can get the most out of this portion of their research projects.