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Contact:

Name: Floris de Hon

Phone: 2498

E-mail: [f.hon@elsevier.com](mailto:f.hon@elsevier.com)

## Monitoring immune responses in disease

### *Novel technology for analyzing single blood cells*

**Amsterdam, September 2, 2008** – A recent study (doi:10.1016/j.clim.2008.06.009) published in *Clinical Immunology*, the official journal of the Clinical Immunology Society (CIS), describes a new method enabling the detection of multiple parameters of single human cells. The report demonstrates the characterization of specific blood cells from an individual with type 1 diabetes, providing information about the role these cells might play in the development of the disease and during therapy.

Classification of blood cells, including B and T cells, is important for distinguishing immune responses to pathogens, allergens, or self-antigens in autoimmune diseases. Although various techniques are available to identify cell surface determinants, cytokines and antibodies secreted by blood cells, so far it has not been possible to study multiple secreted proteins while also assigning surface displayed markers to individual living cells.

A collaborative group of investigators from Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA, describe how a combination of existing and enhanced immunological methods can identify and characterize rare B cells from blood of a recent onset type 1 diabetic subject.

“Although this is a small pilot study, it is a useful proof of principle for single cell interrogation methodology, which is potentially of general utility”, according to immunologist Gerald Nepom from the University of Washington, School of Medicine in Seattle, USA in his commentary published in the same issue of *Clinical Immunology* ([www.elsevier.com/locate/yclim](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/yclim)).

“This article describes a very exciting new immunodiagnostic tool, potentially enabling the discovery of novel biomarkers for the pathogenesis of immunologic disorders and in monitoring therapy”, said Andy Saxon”, the Editor-in-Chief of the CIS journal.

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#### Notes to editors:

E.M. Bradshaw, S.C. Kent, V. Tripuraneni, T. Orban, H.L. Ploegh, D.A. Hafler, J.C. Love, Concurrent detection of secreted products from human lymphocytes by microengraving: Cytokines and antigen-reactive antibodies, 2008 *Clinical Immunology*, published by Elsevier, In press (available on-line August 1, 2008).

To receive a copy of the article, please contact the press office at [newsroom@elsevier.com](mailto:newsroom@elsevier.com)

#### About CIS

The Clinical Immunology Society (CIS) is an international professional organization which includes more than 750 clinicians, investigators and trainees. The mission of the CIS is to facilitate education, translational research and novel approaches to therapy in clinical immunology to promote excellence in the care of patients with immunologic / inflammatory disorders (<http://www.clinimmsoc.org/>).

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**Media Contact**

Floris de Hon  
Journal Publisher, Life Sciences  
+31 (0) 20 485  
[f.hon@elsevier.com](mailto:f.hon@elsevier.com)