

Report from the *SYSMEX* Symposium in Brussels

“LAFIA – Image Analysis and Telehaematology”

Marc De SCHINCKEL, VWR International

Mergers of laboratories, internal reorganisations, accreditation and uniformisation of work are increasingly forcing laboratory managers to automate the workflow in the laboratory as much as possible. Sysmex can offer these lab managers a wide range of integrated concept solutions with an eye to Total Laboratory Automation.

No less than 20 hospital- and private laboratories in Belgium are currently equipped with an HST, XE-Alpha and PC-DPS validation- and expert system. The major target behind the decision for automation is to achieve an optimised workflow organisation, with availability of maximum patient information (demographics, numerical results, scattergrams, histograms and blood cell images) playing an important role. Another principal aim is a clear reduction in the number of samples needing manual review.

Following the automation progress, Telehaematology with its possibilities to transmit microscopy images will be able to occupy a place in today's laboratory that is just as important. Therefore, on March 21, VWR International, the distributor for Sysmex in Belgium, in co-operation with Sysmex Europe organised a symposium in Brussels titled “LAFIA – Image analysis and telehaematology”, seizing a unique opportunity to present ‘LAFIA’ in Belgium.

About 50 doctors, clinical chemists and biologists from various university- and general hospitals as well as from private laboratories joined the event and showed an enormous interest in our presentations that day.

In his welcome speech *Sysmex*, ‘*Quo Vadis?*’, a vision with future **Mr. P. De Ruyck**, Sales Manager at VWR International, presented the position that Sysmex has today in the field of “In Vitro Diagnostics” and the Sysmex vision for the future.

After that **Mr. Henk Jansen**, Sysmex Europe, held a theoretical discussion about *Telehaematology*. He presented the concept of image transmission as well as the various possibilities LAFIA offers.



Mr. Peter De Ruyck
(VWR International)



Mr. Henk Jansen, a speaker
(Sysmex Europe)



Dr. L. Risch, a speaker (Switzerland)



Dr. V. Hennaux, a speaker (Belgium)

Dr. L. Risch, head of the Department of Laboratory Medicine, Kantonsspital Aarau, then spoke about *LAFIA, daily use in the laboratory*. Recently, the department team has started using LAFIA at the hospital because of its various possibilities for transmission of digital microscopy images and other result screens to satellite sites. For the co-operating satellite sites, the use of a central server is an ideal solution as it offers a morphological database that can be consulted centrally.

During the following interval, the participants had ample opportunity to get a personal introduction to LAFIA.

In his lecture *LAFIA, one year experience* **Dr. V. Hennaux**, Pharm. Biol. of the Hôp. St. Joseph, Ste Thérèse and IMTR at Gilly, explained the practical application and use of the LAFIA system at his laboratory. Dr. V. Hennaux has been using LAFIA for over a year together with the Sysmex XE-Alpha analyser and PC-DPS. For him, creating a personal reference database linked to the 'special patient database' from PC-DPS is one of the biggest advantages that LAFIA offers. The participants were shown a wide range of haematological examples during his speech, in which numerical results, scattergrams and histograms were combined with microscopy results including cell morphology images and scanned scattergrams obtained from other flow cytometry applications.

With *LAFIA on the Web*, Mr. Henk Jansen and **Mr. Andrew Howell**, Sysmex Europe, demonstrated a video conference between the auditorium in Brussels and the head office of Sysmex Europe in Norderstedt near Hamburg in Germany. This presentation was greatly appreciated by those present as it emphasised the maximum possibilities of the LAFIA system.

In his closing speech, **Mr. P. De Ruyck**, Sales Manager VWR International, thanked the speakers for their informative, clear and illustrative contributions about telehaematology in general and LAFIA in particular. After that he invited the guests for lunch, during which ideas and views about experiences and expectations were exchanged in a pleasant atmosphere.

One thing that everyone did agree on after this event was that today, only Sysmex offers real solutions in 'Total Laboratory Automation'.



Scene from the video conference

Sysmex Symposium in Belgium

– LAFIA Image Analysis and Telehaematology –

Date and Place : 21 March 2002 Groot-Bijgaarden, Belgium

- Program : **1. Diagnostics - Sysmex "Quo Vadis ?", a vision with future**
Mr. Peter De Ruyck, Sales Manager VWR International Bvba
- 2. Telehaematology**
Mr. Henk Jansen, Sysmex Europe
- 3. LAFIA, daily use in the laboratory**
Dr. Lorenz Risch, Univergity of Aarau
- 4. LAFIA, one year experiences**
Dr. Vincent Hennaux, Hôp. St. Joseph, Ste-Thérèse et IMTR Gilly
- 5. LAFIA on the Web**
Mr. Andrew Howell, Sysmex Europe
- 6. Conclusies - Conclusions**
Mr. Peter OeRuyck, Sates Manager VWR International Bvba



The lecture room