

## **Foreword**

In 1997, Dr Sérgio Coutinho invited me to consider organizing, in 1998, a symposium to commemorate the ten years of flow cytometry in Brazil. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together several professionals who have contributed in some way to the development of this technology in our scientific milieu. The symposium took place between September 29-30, 1998 at Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Fiocruz, Rio de Janeiro and consisted of round-tables emphasizing the applications of flow cytometry to some important fields including cytokines, membrane receptors, cellular functions, cancer and Aids. The scientific content of the meeting made it both unique and very informative. The discussion generated by the presentations highlighted the importance of flow cytometry as a tool for studying several phenomena in clinical as well as basic biological research.

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