CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

preparing a blood sample for analysis by:

depositing the blood sample within a sample chamber; and

placing the sample chamber, with the blood sample deposited therein, within a microscopy unit;

acquiring one or more microscopic images of the sample chamber with the blood sample deposited therein, using a microscope of the microscopy unit;

determining whether more than a threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber that had already settled within a monolayer within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images, by analyzing the red blood cells within the one or more microscopic images; and

invalidating the blood sample from being used for performing at least some measurements at least partially in response to determining that a threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber had already settled within the monolayer within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images; and/or

calibrating measurements that are performed upon the blood sample at least partially in response to determining that a threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber had already settled within the monolayer within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein preparing the blood sample for analysis further comprises staining the blood sample with one or more stains.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining an indication of how long the blood sample has been in the sample chamber prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images, based upon the amount of the red blood cells that had already settled within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein preparing the blood sample for analysis further comprises staining the blood sample with one or more stains, wherein calibrating the measurements that are performed on the blood sample comprises calibrating the measurements to account for an amount of staining that entities within the blood sample underwent as indicated by

more than the threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber having already settled within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images.

5. Apparatus comprising:

a sample chamber configured to have a blood sample deposited therein; and

a microscopy unit configured to receive the sample chamber, with the blood sample deposited therein;

a microscopy unit comprising a microscope configured to acquire one or more microscopic images of the sample chamber with the blood sample deposited therein; and

at least one computer processor configured to:

determine whether more than a threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber that had already settled within a monolayer within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images, by analyzing the red blood cells within the one or more microscopic images; and

invalidate the blood sample from being used for performing at least some measurements, at least partially in response to determining that a threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber had already settled within the monolayer within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images; and/or

calibrating measurements that are performed upon the blood sample at least partially in response to determining that a threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber had already settled within the monolayer within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the microscopy unit is configured to acquire a set of one or more additional microscopic images of the monolayer, and wherein the computer processor is configured to perform the further analysis of the sample, by analyzing the set of one or more additional microscopic images.

7. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the blood sample is stained with one or more stains, and the computer processor is configured to calibrate the measurements to account for an amount of staining that entities within the blood sample underwent as indicated by more than the threshold amount of red blood cells within the sample chamber having settled into the monolayer within the sample chamber, prior to acquisition of the one or more microscopic images.