

CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:
 - placing a blood sample within a sample chamber;
 - acquiring at least one microscopic image of the blood sample;
 - 5 identifying, within the microscopic image, candidates of a given entity within the blood sample;
 - validating at least some of the candidates as being the given entity, by performing further analysis of the candidates;
 - determining a ratio between a count of the candidates of the given entity to a count of the
 - 10 validated candidates of the given entity; and
 - invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample, based upon the ratio between the count of candidates and the count of validated candidates.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein:
 - 15 identifying, within the microscopic image, candidates of a given entity within the blood sample comprises identifying, within the microscopic image, platelet candidates within the blood sample;
 - validating at least some of the candidates as being the given entity, by performing further analysis of the candidates comprises validating at least some of the platelet candidates as being
 - 20 platelets, by performing further analysis of the platelet candidates; and
 - invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample, comprises invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample based upon the ratio between the count of platelet candidates and the count of validated platelet candidates.
- 25 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein:
 - identifying, within the microscopic image, candidates of a given entity within the blood sample comprises identifying, within the microscopic image, white blood cell candidates within the blood sample;
 - validating at least some of the candidates as being the given entity, by performing further
 - 30 analysis of the candidates comprises validating at least some of the white blood cell candidates as being white blood cells, by performing further analysis of the candidates; and

invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample, comprises invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample based upon the ratio between the count of white blood cell candidates and the count of validated white blood cell candidates.

5 4. The method according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample comprises invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample based on the ratio of the count between the validated candidates and the count of candidates exceeding a maximum threshold.

10 5. The method according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample comprises invalidating the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample based on the ratio of the count between the validated candidates to the count of candidates being less than minimum threshold.

15 6. Apparatus comprising:

 a sample chamber configured to receive a blood sample;

 a microscope configured to acquire at least one microscopic image of the blood sample;

and

 at least one computer processor configured to:

20 identify, within the microscopic image, candidates of a given entity within the blood sample;

 validate at least some of the candidates as being the given entity, by performing further analysis of the candidates;

 determine a ratio between a count of the candidates of the given entity to a count of
25 the validated candidates of the given entity; and

 invalidate the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample, based upon the ratio between the count of candidates and the count of validated candidates.

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7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the computer processor is configured to:

identify, within the microscopic image, candidates of a given entity within the blood sample by identifying, within the microscopic image, platelet candidates within the blood sample;

validate at least some of the platelet candidates as being platelets, by performing further
5 analysis of the platelet candidates; and

invalidate the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample at least partially based upon a ratio between the count of platelet candidates and the count of validated platelet candidates.

10 8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the computer processor is configured to:

identify, within the microscopic image, white blood cell candidates within the blood sample;

validate at least some of the white blood cell candidates as being white blood cells, by performing further analysis of the candidates; and

15 invalidate the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample at least partially based upon a ratio between the count of white blood cell candidates and the count of validated white blood cell candidates.

9. The apparatus according to any one of claims 6-8, wherein the computer processor is
20 configured to invalidate the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample based on the ratio of the count between the validated candidates and the count of candidates exceeding a maximum threshold.

10. The apparatus according to any one of claims 6-8, wherein the computer processor is
25 configured to invalidate the sample from being used for performing at least some measurements upon the sample based on the ratio between the count of validated candidates and the count of candidates being less than minimum threshold.