

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:
 - a flow cell configured to propagate a sample in a flow stream;
 - 5 a light source configured to irradiate the sample in the flow cell;
 - a detector unit configured to differentially detect light from the flow cell without a scatter bar.
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the detector unit comprises a detector
10 comprising a detector array.
3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the detector array comprises an array of photodiodes.
- 15 4. The system according to claim 3, wherein the detector unit is configured to differentially detect light from the flow stream by deactivating a subset of the photodiodes in the array.
5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the detector unit further comprises an
20 optical adjustment component,
 - wherein the detector unit differentially detects light from the flow stream by modulating one or more components of the optical adjustment component or the detector.
- 25 6. The system according to claim 5, wherein the optical adjustment component comprises a fused fiber optic component and the detector comprises a detector array.
7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the fused fiber optic component comprises a tapered fused fiber optic bundle.
- 30 8. The system according to any one of claims 6-7, wherein the detector unit further comprises a light conducting material positioned between the fused fiber optic component and the detector array.

9. The system according to claim 5, wherein the optical adjustment component comprises one or more lenses.

5 10. The system according to any one of claims 5-9, wherein the detector array comprises an array of photodiodes.

11. The system according to claim 5, wherein the optical adjustment component comprises a micro-opto-electro-mechanical system.

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12. The system according to claim 11, wherein the optical adjustment component comprises a digital micro-mirror device.

13. The system according to any one of claims 1-12, wherein the system is a flow
15 cytometer.

14. A method comprising:
irradiating a flow cell comprising a sample in a flow stream with a light source;
and

20 detecting light from the flow cell with a detector unit according to any one of claims 1-12 that is configured to differentially detect light from the flow cell without a scatter bar.

15. A kit comprising:
25 a flow cell configured to propagate a sample in a flow stream;
an optical adjustment component; and
a detector unit according to any one of claims 1-12 configured to differentially detect light from the flow cell without a scatter bar.

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