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[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Company]

[Street Address, City, State ZIP]

May 14, 2026

[Opposing Counsel Name]

[Firm Name]

[Address]

Re: U.S. Patent No. 12174106 — Response to Assertion of Infringement

Dear Counsel,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 12174106 (the "12174106 Patent"). After preliminary review, we have substantial concerns about the validity, enforceability, and scope of the asserted claims, summarized below. We reserve all rights and defenses.

1. Subject Patent — Summary

Analysis of U.S. Patent 12,174,106: Flow Cytometer

Date of Analysis: May 13, 2026

Patent Number: US 12,174,106 B2

Title: Flow cytometer

Assignee: Beckman Coulter, Inc.

Inventor: Yong Qin Chen

Filing Date: December 22, 2021

Issue Date: December 24, 2024

Abstract:

The present disclosure relates to the field of flow cytometry, detailing an improved flow cytometer and its various subassemblies. The invention introduces a simplified and reliable diode laser-based optical system that produces a focused laser beam with an elliptical cross-section, optimized for flow cytometric applications. It also describes an imaging quality microscope objective with a long working distance, large...

2. Validity Concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 102 — Prior Art

We have identified prior-art references that, in our preliminary view, anticipate one or more asserted claims of the 12174106 Patent:

MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Senior Patent Analyst

Date: May 13, 2026

Subject: Analysis of Prior Art for U.S. Patent No. 12,174,106

Introduction

This report provides an analysis of the prior art cited in U.S. Patent No. 12,174,106, titled "Flow cytometer," assigned to Beckman Coulter, Inc. The analysis examines each cited reference to determine its relevance and potential to anticipate the claims of the '106 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 102. The '106 patent discloses a flow cytometer system incorporating several improvements, including a laser diode (LD) based optical subsystem, a composite microscope objective, a pulsation-free fluidic subsystem, a specialized peristaltic pump, and a wavelength division multiplexer (WDM).

The claims of US 12,174,106 are directed towards these individual subsystems and their combination within a flow cytometer. Key aspects of the invention include:

- A composite microscope objective featuring a concave mirror and an aspheric aberration corrector plate.
- A fluidic system that uses a T-coupling and a bypass conduit to create a pulsation-free sheath...

3. Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent of § 102, we believe the asserted claims are obvious in view of combinations of prior art that a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine:

An analysis of U.S. Patent No. 12,174,106, titled "Flow cytometer," under 35 U.S.C. § 103 suggests that several of its claims may be rendered obvious by a combination of prior art references. This analysis is based on information from the patent's prosecution history, which reveals key prior art considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) examiner.

Key Prior Art and Motivation for Combination

During the prosecution of the patent family to which U.S. Patent No. 12,174,106 belongs, the examiner cited and combined at least two key prior art references:

- U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0048539 to Oostman, Jr., et al. (Oostman): This reference discloses a flow cytometer.
- U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0165828 to Capewell (Capewell): This reference, from the field of optical communications, discloses a wavelength division multiplexer (WDM).

The motivation to combine these references, as is common in patent examination, would be to apply a known technology from one field (optical communications) to solve a known problem or to improve a device in another field (flow...).

4. Litigation History of the Patent

Public records reflect that the 12174106 Patent has been the subject of the following litigation, which informs our view of the asserted claims and your client's enforcement posture:

- Beckman Coulter, Inc. v. Cytek Biosciences, Inc. — 1:24-cv-00945 · U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware · Active

• Cytex Biosciences, Inc. v. Beckman Coulter, Inc. — PGR2025-00084 · U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Patent Trial and Appeal Board · Terminated

5. Request

In light of the foregoing, we request that your client (i) provide a detailed claim chart identifying each accused product or service and mapping every limitation of each asserted claim, (ii) identify any prior art known to your client, including any references cited during prosecution or reexamination, and (iii) substantiate the basis for any damages or licensing demand. We are prepared to discuss the matter further once we have received and reviewed the foregoing.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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