Standard Operating Procedure – Cytometry Facility – UZH					
Pages 1/2	NanoFCM SSC to nm conversion in FlowJo	July 2022			

#### **General remarks**

The NanoFCM software cannot display two fluorescent channels in combination with the particle size based on SSC signal. Here, we present a work-around solution for FlowJo.

# I.) Generate the standard curve based on the S16M/S17M bead recording

- 1) Open the recording of S16M/17M beads in the NanoFCM software
- Change to SS-A in the x-axis of the dot plot (default is SS-H but you have usually better resolution with the area signal)
- Click on Auto Threshold button and select the "Small Signal" option
- 4) Click on the Size MESF button
- 5) In the new window select **Standard** (S16M or S17M) and click on **Find peak** button. "Width Min" and "Threshold" options can be adapted if peaks are not recognized correctly
- 6) Do a quick check of the standard curve for correct appearance. Next, copy the displayed formula and save it in a txt file

In this example:  $y = 7.6347E-7*x^{(5.03099)}+0$ 

## II.) Export data as FCS files

- 1) Select NFA data file to be exported
- 2) Adjust threshold (note that only data above threshold will be exported to the FCS file!)
- 3) Click Save button and select FCS 3.0 as format
- Repeat previous steps for all NFA files you want to export

## III.) Generate size (nm) parameter in FlowJo

- 1) Open FlowJo and import the FCS files by drag & drop
- 2) Select the first file
- Go to Tools → Derive Parameters to open the transform window







- 4) Change the parameter name in the transform window
- 5) Insert following formula in the formula field

(<Param name="SS-A" /> /(X.XXX\*10^-7))^(1/Y.YYY)

Replace the colored section with the numbers from the formula you got from the NanoFCM standard curve.

In our example: y = 3.73124E-7\*x^(5.13867)+0

- 6) Decrease minimum & maximum range of the data to optimize the plot scaling
- 7) Apply the transformation to all files by dragging

°%ь	SS-A	in nm	onto	{ 🖥 } All	Samples
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#### IV.) What extra functionality do we get from this?

- > All 3 available channels can be displayed (SSC, FITC, PC5) in any order.
- > No more limitations on the number of gates.
- You can display subgates as shown here for an EV example labelled with CD63-GFP and stained for CD81. Note that the size distribution of EVs can be displayed for each gate by the generated "SS-A in nm" parameter. Interestingly, the GFP/CD81+ population seems to have an increase in the median EV size compared to the CD81+ only population...

