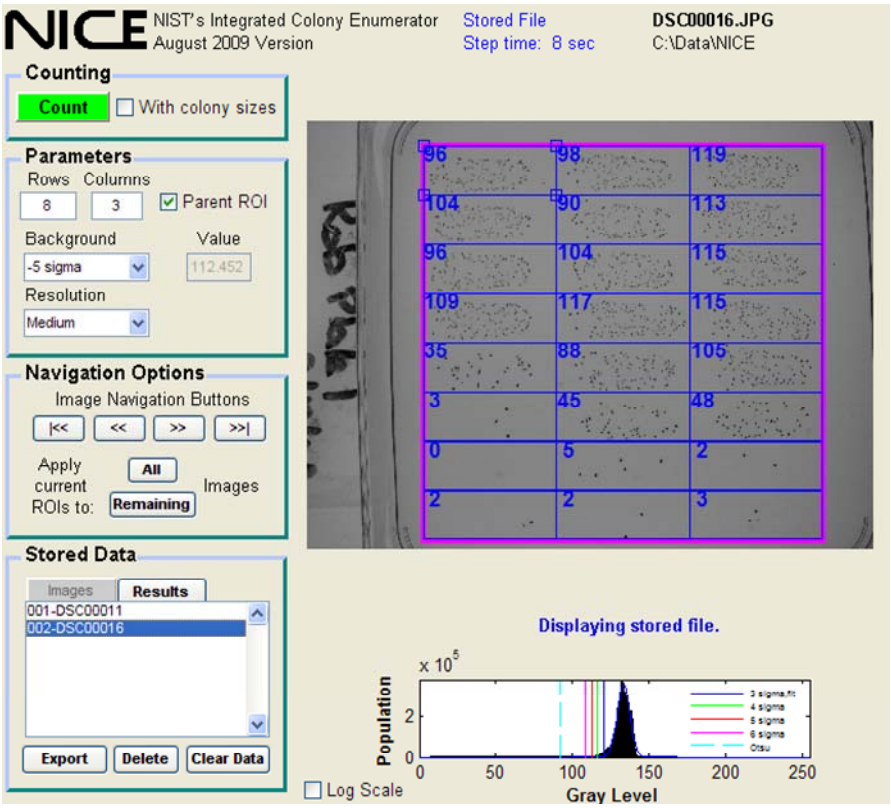
NICE (NIST's Integrated Colony Enumerator) is software that was developed to count pneumococcal colonies as part of an opsonophagocytic killing assay. More information can be obtained from:

Download:
ftp://ftp.nist.gov/pub/physics/mlclarke/NICE/

Contact:
nice@nist.gov



PATH research collaborations support vaccine development against pneumococcal disease
With the help of funding from PATH's pneumococcal vaccine project, the US National Institute of Standards and Technology recently completed the development of new, efficient software that is designed to aid in the development of vaccines against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. NIST's Integrated Colony Enumerator (NICE) software was developed in collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham as a tool for counting pneumococcal bacteria colonies cultured in human serum and white blood cells after vaccination in order to assess the degree to which antibodies kill the bacteria. NICE is open source, automated, standardized, and usable on any common imaging device, making it more precise than current manual counting methods and appropriate for distribution and use in developing countries.