



Nordic immunohistochemical Quality Control

Statutes

§1

Nordic immunohistochemical Quality Control (NordiQC) is a scientific non-profit organisation for quality assurance of immunohistochemistry in surgical pathology based in pathology laboratories from the Nordic countries.

§2

The purpose of NordiQC is to advance improvements in the quality of immunohistochemical staining and promote the use of this technology by

- a) Arrangement of assessment schemes for pathology laboratories in the Nordic countries
- b) Publication of overall staining results, optimal protocols and other information on the web site www.nordiqc.org
- c) Certification of laboratory proficiency in clinical immunohistochemistry based on assessment results
- d) Publication of scientific papers based on assessment results.

§3

Pathologists, cytologists and technicians in the Nordic countries constitute the natural reference group. NordiQC is independent of both national and international authorities and of commercial concerns. Sponsors will have no influence on working methods, results or conclusions.

§4

The work of NordiQC is based on routine immunostaining of standard processed human histological specimens. The stains presented on the web site originate from Nordic laboratories participating in schemes arranged by NordiQC. Important immunohistochemical markers will be described with illustrations of good staining results. Anonymised examples of suboptimal stains, their probable cause and suggestions for technical solutions will also be described. The origin of optimal stains and the associated protocols used will be shown, encouraging technicians and pathologists to communicate directly when needed.

§5

NordiQC is managed by a core-group comprising by four pathologists from Nordic laboratories actively involved in clinical immunohistochemistry, one representative coming from each of the four Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. All activities of NordiQC, including working principles, projects, economy, and replacement of its members, shall be made by the core-group by majority decision. The core-group may by consensus change the present statutes or abolish the organisation.

§6

The core-group shall appoint a chairman from among its members. The core-group shall appoint a scheme manager, a scheme organiser and a webmaster, which will be responsible to the core-group.

§7

All histological material used for the work will be non-identifiable and will be contributed by the different participating laboratories. Stain assessments will be performed independently by two or more members of the core-group and representatives of the participating laboratories invited by the core-group to participate in the evaluation. Assessment results will be presented as recommendations or guidelines. NordiQC will take no responsibility for their application in clinical work.

§8.

The work of NordiQC will be covered by financial contributions from the participating laboratories and from sponsors. All the income must be used for the work of NordiQC. The practice and economic management of NordiQC must be separated from other business and activities. If NordiQC is abolished, the remaining assets will be returned to the contributors.

§9.

A NordiQC laboratory will be established in a department of pathology, in which the scheme manager is employed, and will be under his or her direction. The NordiQC laboratory will be responsible for all practical handling and filing of the histological material, slides, protocols etc. The scheme manager shall be responsible for all economic dispositions according to the instructions of the core-group. All payments must go through an account established at the hospital housing the NordiQC laboratory. The chartered accountants of the hospital will be the accountants for NordiQC.