



Nordic immunohistochemical Quality Control

Statutes

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

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The aim of NordiQC is to promote the quality of immunohistochemistry and expand its use by

- a) arrangement of assessment schemes for pathology laboratories primarily in the Nordic countries,
- b) publication of overall staining results, best protocols and other information on the website www.nordiqc.org.
- c) certification of laboratory proficiency in clinical immunohistochemistry based on assessment results.
- d) publication of scientific papers based on the assessment results.

§3

Pathology laboratories in the Nordic countries are all invited to participate and constitute the natural reference group. Laboratories outside the Nordic countries are accepted as participants within the frames of capacity. NordiQC is independent of authorities and commercial concerns. Sponsors have no influence on working methods, results or conclusions.

§4

The work of NordiQC is based on routine immunostainings from standard processed human histological specimens. The staining reactions presented at the web site originates from laboratories participating in schemes arranged by NordiQC. Important immunohistochemical markers are described with illustrations of optimal staining results. Anonymized examples of suboptimal staining results are revealed and their probable causes are described together with suggestions for technical solutions. The origin of optimal staining results and the associated protocols are given, encouraging technicians and pathologists to communicate directly when needed.

§5

NordiQC is managed by a core-group constituted by four pathologists from Nordic laboratories actively involved in clinical immunohistochemistry, one representative from each of the four Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The core-group makes decisions by majority concerning all activities of NordiQC, including working principles, projects, economy, and replacement of its members. The core-group may by consensus change the present statutes and may abolish the organisation.

§6

The core-group appoints a chairman among its members. The core-group appoints a scheme director, a scheme organiser and a webmaster, which are responsible to the core-group. Appointments can be denounced from both parts with six months' notice.

§7

All tissue material used for the work is not-identifiable and merges from different laboratories. The assessments are performed independently by two or more members of the core-group and representatives for the participating laboratories invited by the core-group to participate in the assessments. The results of the assessments are presented as recommendations or guide-lines. NordiQC takes no responsibility for their application in the clinical work..

§8.

The work of NordiQC is covered by 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 means will be donated by the core group in equal shares to the cancer societies' scientific funds in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

§9.

The NordiQC laboratory is established in a department of pathology, in which the scheme director is employed, and is under his or her direction. The NordiQC laboratory takes care of all practical handling and filing of the tissue material, slides, protocols etc. The scheme director is responsible for all economic dispositions according to the decisions 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 are accountants of NordiQC.