NordiQC and CBQA Validation Academy 2027

Validation and Verification of Immunohistochemistry Assays

Date: 26 to 27 April 2027
Venue: Comwell Hvide Hus Aalborg, Denmark
Registration opens: 2 November 2026

NordiQC and CBQA organise a two-day Validation Academy bringing together international experts and professionals involved in the validation and verification of immunohistochemical (IHC) assays.

Validation of IHC assays raises many questions and approaches to validation may differ between laboratories, countries and professional guidelines. The academy provides an opportunity to explore these challenges, exchange experiences and discuss different perspectives on IHC validation in diagnostic pathology.

Aim of the course

To provide an overview of current guidelines, recommendations and approaches to validation and verification of IHC assays, while encouraging open discussions about practical implementation.

Through presentations by international experts, the academy will explore how validation is approached in different parts of the world, highlighting areas of agreement, differences in practice and questions that remain unresolved.

A central aim is to create a forum where participants can raise questions, share experiences and engage directly with experts in discussions about current challenges and best practices in IHC validation.

The course will particularly focus on:

- Fundamental concepts and terminology in validation and verification of IHC assays
- Current international guidelines and recommendations, including different approaches to their implementation
- Planning and documentation of technical and diagnostic validation
- Pre-analytical factors, analytical sensitivity and specificity and IHC platforms
- Use of appropriate controls, reference materials and tissue microarrays
- Evaluation of assay performance characteristics
- The role of external quality assessment (EQA), scientific literature and non-IHC methods in validation and verification
- Indirect clinical validation and its potential applications
- Validation of immunocytochemical assays
- Open questions, practical challenges and different perspectives on best practices in IHC validation

Methods

The academy will include lectures by international experts presenting different perspectives and experiences in IHC validation, complemented by interactive discussions and question-and-answer sessions.

In addition to expert presentations, dedicated Q&A sessions, discussions and networking opportunities will allow participants to ask questions, exchange experiences and explore how different approaches to validation can be applied in daily laboratory practice.

Participants

The academy is intended for pathologists, biomedical laboratory scientists and technologists, quality assurance professionals and industry representatives involved in the development, implementation, validation or verification of IHC assays.

Practical information

Venue: Comwell Hvide Hus Aalborg, Denmark
Language: English
Course duration: Two days, 26 to 27 April 2027
Fee: DKK 4,000
Maximum number of participants: 60
Registration opens: 2 November 2026

PROGRAMME

Day 1

Time	Content	Speaker
09.00-09.45	Registration	
09.45-10.00	Welcome Short overview of the scope and agenda	Rasmus Røge, NordiQC Emina Torlakovic, CBQA
10.00-10.20	Short overview on present guidelines and literature on validation of IHC	Kristi Bøgh Anderson, NordiQC
10.20-10.50	Validation and verification in IHC: Definitions, terminology and documentation, why they matter?	Emina Torlakovic, CBQA
10.50-11.20	Questions	
11.20-11.40	Coffee	
11.40-12.10	Practical tools on how to validate IHC focusing on pre-analytics, analytical sensitivity/specificity, IHC platforms	Tanya Julio, NordiQC

12.10-12.40	Evidence for technical and diagnostic validation: test performance characteristics	Carol Cheung, CBQA
12.40-13.00	Questions	
13.00-13.45	Lunch	
13.45-14.15	Tools for technical validation and diagnostic validation and tools for PT: IHC controls and reference materials	Kristi Bøgh Anderson, NordiQC
14.15-14.45	How should validation and verification be planned?	Emina Torlakovic, CBQA
14.45-15.00	Questions	
15.00-15.20	Coffee	
15.20-15.50	How to use EQA, literature, and non-IHC methods for verification and validation of IHC assays.	Tanya Julio, NordiQC
15.50-16.20	The era of indirect clinical validation	Emina Torlakovic, CBQA
16.20-17.00	Discussion and conclusions	
17.00-18.00	Wine and cheese	All

Day 2

Time	Content	Speaker
08.30-08.40	Introduction	NordiQC
08.40-09.20	IHC validation guidelines Belgian recommendations for analytical verification and validation of immunohistochemical tests in laboratories of anatomic pathology	Donald Van Hecke, AZ St. Lucas, Belgium
09.20-10.00	IHC validation guidelines CAP recommendations for analytical verification and validation of immunohistochemical tests in laboratories of anatomic pathology	Andrew Bellizzi, Columbia University, USA

10.00-10.15	Discussion	
10.15-10.35	Coffee	
10.35-11.15	Tissue microarray resources for validation of critical IHC assays	Guido Sauter, University Medical Center Hamburg, Germany
11.15-11.30	Questions	
11.30-12.10	Development and validation of Immunocytochemical assays	Irena Srebotnik Kirbiš, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
12.10-12.50	Panel discussion on the framework for the “Recommendations for Analytical Verification and Validation of Immunohistochemical Tests in Laboratories of Anatomic Pathology”	Donald Van Hecke, AZ St. Lucas, Belgium Andrew Bellizzi, Columbia University, USA Emina Torlakovic, CBQA Rasmus Røge, NordiQC
12.50-13.00	Conclusions	
13.00-14.00	Lunch and departure	