

1. Foreword

1.1 Bridging the Gap

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NORDKEM was established in the mid 1970's, at a time where the understanding of the various elements of analytical quality in clinical biochemistry was already well developed. The component of variability arising from pre-analytical sources were likewise recognized.

The challenge to the projects under the auspices of NORDKEM was to implement analytical quality management systems in daily practice. Even more challenging was however to place the analytical component of the quality system in a true clinical context.

Many seeds have been put into the ground during the twenty years of NORDKEM's existence. It is probably not yet recognized how important NORDKEM has been for a whole generation of clinical biochemists: for those who developed further the quality concept from a pure analytical to a clinical-analytical point of view - and for that maturing generation of younger scientist who have met under the shield of NORDKEM to discuss and learn about quality.

Thus NORDKEM has filled a gap of twenty years - i.e. a generation of clinical biochemists.

It is to be hoped that Nordic clinical biochemists also in the future will be able to develop further the application of quality management to clinical laboratory activities.