



# ISCBLM (KLLÍ)

## History of the Icelandic Society for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

The Icelandic Society for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine was founded in 1978 and subsequently joined the Nordic Federation of Clinical Chemistry (NFCC) as well as the Nordic Clinical Chemistry Project (NORDKEM) in order to strengthen professional contact and cooperation with our Nordic colleagues. The first major task of the newly founded society was to host the 18th Nordic Congress in Clinical Chemistry in Reykjavik held in 1981. A year later the SI units were introduced into clinical laboratories in Iceland, initiated and supervised by society members.

Regular open meetings were held both on a variety of specialised clinical biochemistry topics as well as various aspects of quality control and quality management within the clinical laboratory. Guest speakers from abroad were frequently invited to give talks to laboratory personnel and these meetings were generally well attended. The society actively cooperated in several of the major quality improvement projects of NORDKEM until it came to an end in 1994.

In 1986 the society joined IFCC and in 1992 the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nordic Congress in Clinical Chemistry was held in Reykjavik with the IFCC president as a guest of honour. The society is also a member of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) that was founded in 2007 when FESCC and EC4 were joined.

To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society a Nordic Symposium was held in September 1998 on the subject "Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine in Current Oncology" with invited speakers and participants from the Nordic countries.

By now the Nordic cooperation had become a regular aspect of the activities of the Icelandic society that continued to give an important professional support. Apart from participating in the various activities of the NFCC the Icelandic society was invited to appoint a member of the editorial board for Nordic Clinical Biochemistry (Klinisk Biokemi i Norden) a popular journal, published four times a year, now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year.

One of the beneficial impacts of the Nordic cooperation has been in the field of quality assurance and harmonisation of laboratory results. After extensive groundwork, collecting and analysing over 3000 samples from healthy individuals over 17 years of age, recommended Nordic reference intervals were introduced for the 25 most common biochemical properties in 2003. Last year recommended paediatric reference intervals

for 21 common biochemical properties were published by a Danish working group and equivalent work is ongoing in Norway and Sweden. NFCC has supported a cooperation to unify these reference intervals to make them applicable for use in all of the Nordic countries. The longstanding tradition of cooperation between the Nordic countries in quality assurance, method standardisation and the use of high quality material in Nordic external quality assurance studies has rendered these projects and others less extensive possible.

The Nordic Congresses in Clinical Chemistry are the highlights of the Nordic cooperation and in August 2002 the 28th Nordic congress was held in Reykjavik. It attracted a large number of participants, from a diversity of laboratory disciplines as well as numerous exhibitors of laboratory equipment. Ten years later in June 2012 the 33<sup>rd</sup> Nordic Congress in Clinical Chemistry was held in Reykjavik. As before the scientific committee planned an ambitious and interesting program with speakers from both sides of the Atlantic that covered the forefront of science as well as current developments in the practice of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

The society has continued to organise general local meetings and courses and many excellent speakers from abroad have been invited to give talks on highly specialised topics. Doctors in specialities other than laboratory medicine have been encouraged to attend as the society has been emphasising the importance of cooperation between clinicians and many of the highly specialised laboratory services now being offered.



The board of The Icelandic Society for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in year 1992.

