

Invitation to the Ninth Nordic Course on

Basic Semen Analysis

June 1-4, 2009

A joint NAFA¹ - ESHRE² course given by
the Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine
Karolinska University Hospital

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DEADLINES

We need your **final application** *as soon as possible* to be able to send the invoice for **the course fee** so that it is paid to our account four weeks before the courses – *i.e* by **April 30th**.

Course Organisers

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¹ Nordic Association for Andrology, www.nafa.nu

² European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, www.eshre.com

General Information

The aim of the course is to improve the standards of basic semen analysis. It is a combined regional course, aimed at laboratories in the Nordic and Baltic countries, and an international course, aimed at laboratories outside the Nordic countries. *Two persons from each laboratory* - one with medical responsibility ("supervisor") and one engaged in practical laboratory work ("technician") - are encouraged to participate in the course.

The course complies with the ESHRE syllabus for basic semen assessment courses and is organised jointly by ESHRE and NAFA.

Course languages: English – for Swedish speaking participants all printed course material will be available in Swedish. Practical tutoring will be available both in English and in Swedish; questions can be asked also in Swedish.

Speakers: Dr L Björndahl, Dr U Kvist. Tutors: Ms Inger Söderlund, Ms Jessica Tu.

Contents: *registration and introductory lectures* in the morning of the first course day (Monday, June). The *ornings* (starting at 08.30) are used for discussing the methods recommended in the WHO laboratory manual (1999) and as specified in the NAFA-ESHRE Manual on Basic Semen Analysis (2002). In the *afternoons* we have *practical sessions*. The first afternoon there will be a practical session called *pre-test*, where all participants examine two samples each. In the two following afternoons, all participants will *practice the methods* (first sperm count, sperm motility, and then sperm morphology and sperm vitality). The results from these practical sessions will be used for discussions about assessment techniques and quality control in the andrology laboratory. We will also practice detection of sperm antibodies. On *the last day* (Thursday, June 4), there will be a written examination in the morning, followed by *practical examination*. We expect to finish the course at 17.00 in the afternoon. All participants passing both practical and theoretical examination will receive a certificate from ESHRE.

Maximum number of participants: due to limited availability of microscopes, the maximum number of participants will be 20.

Course fee: (€1.00 equals approximately SEK 11.40)

Members of NAFA or ESHRE: 7 000 SEK including Swedish VAT (5 600 excluding VAT)

Non Members: 7 500 SEK including Swedish VAT (6 000 excluding VAT)

Fee includes lectures and guided, practical exercises, lab coats, get together party, lunches and coffee/tea. The WHO laboratory manual and other books are not included.

The course will take place at **the Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge**, south of Stockholm (18 minutes by local train (*pendeltåg* – service to *Södertälje*) from the Central Station to *Flemingsberg* – from there a 5 minutes walk to the course. Detailed information will be sent after registration of the invoice payment.

Accommodation: each participant must make their own reservations. Hotels close to the Stockholm Central Railway Station are convenient for transport to the Hospital. Comfort Hotel Stockholm is situated close to the central railway station, close to the airport trains and on top of the airport bus terminal and offers simple rooms to (relatively) modest prices (around €115 per night including breakfast). Try for example www.hotel.com or www.expedia.com.

WHO laboratory manual methods

The aim of the course is to train basic semen assessment with methods recommended in the latest edition of the WHO Laboratory Manual. For best gain from the course, we expect that all participants already comply with these methods. At least, all participants should be familiar with the outlines of the WHO laboratory manual *before the course* or the NAFA-ESHRE manual (available at:

<http://eshremonographs.oxfordjournals.org/content/vol2002/issue2/>

or at: <http://www.andrology.dk/index-filer/Page330.htm>).

A checklist according to the ESHRE syllabus

Citation of the WHO Laboratory Manual as a source for semen analysis methods in a publication or accreditation document requires that a laboratory has implemented the WHO Manual's methods and that semen analyses are performed in compliance with these recommendations. The following checklist is provided to establish if Your laboratory is in compliance with these guidelines.

1. Do you perform a duplicate four-category differential sperm motility count on warm preparations?
2. Do you use a positive displacement pipette to take the initial semen aliquot for dilution and (duplicate) counting using a haemocytometer?
3. Do you verify that the variation between duplicate sperm motility counts and between counts on the two sides of a haemocytometer for sperm concentration do not vary more than the maximum given in tables and graphs in the manuals?
4. Do you perform a differential multiparametric assessment of sperm morphology on a permanent, stained preparation using the classification as described in the WHO manual?
5. Do you determine the proportion of live spermatozoa using vital stain if there are more than 50% immotile spermatozoa in a sample?
6. Do you determine the concentration of leukocytes in semen using either a cytochemical or an immunocytochemical method?

If the answer to any of these questions is "no" then the deviation from the WHO Manual's recommendations must be explained and described precisely in the laboratory's own Procedures Manual.

Reading suggestions

As mentioned above, all participants are expected to at least be familiar with the *WHO laboratory manual for the examination of the human semen and sperm-cervical mucus interaction* (ISBN 0-521-42168-3; Cambridge University Press, 1999). A new edition of this manual is under preparation, and will hopefully be available sometime this year or the year after. If You do not have a copy of the WHO manual, You are advised to order it from your local book shop, or through for example www.amazon.co.uk.

A more detailed description, covering most parts of semen laboratory work, training and quality control, can be found in *Practical Laboratory Andrology* by David Mortimer (ISBN 0-19-506595-6; published by Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 1994).

BASIC SEMEN ANALYSIS COURSE

Stockholm '09 [joint ESHRE-NAFA course]

Monday, June 1	
08.00-08.30	Registration
08.30-09.45	Introduction to course and WHO Lab Manual (1999) Lecture
09.45-10.15	Coffee
10.15-11.00	Clinical Significance of semen analysis
11.00-11.15	Pause
11.15-12.00	Introduction to basic principles of quality control
12.00-12.30	Sample collection and macroscopic examination
12.30-12.45	General Discussion
12.45-13.30	Lunch
13.30-18.00	Practical Session PRE-TEST; coffee at 15.30
Tuesday, June 2	
08.30-09.00	Examination of the wet preparation
09.00-09.45	Sperm concentration measurement
09:45-10.15	Coffee
10.15-11.00	Sperm motility assessment
11.00-11.30	Introduction to sperm kinematics
11.30-11.45	Pause
11.45-12.15	Discussion of results (pre-test; day 1)
12.15-12.30	General discussion
13.30-18.00	Practical Session 1 (concentration & motility) ; coffee at 15.30
Wednesday, June 3	
08.30-09.30	Sperm morphology evaluation
09.30-09.45	Results of Practical Session 2
09.45-10.15	Coffee
10.15-10.45	Assessment of sperm vitality
10.45-11.30	Antisperm antibodies
11.30-11.45	Pause
11.45-12.30	Sperm preparation methods
12.30-12.45	General Discussion
12.45-13.30	Lunch
13.30-18.00	Practical Session 2 (morphology, vitality, antibodies); coffee around 15.30]
Thursday, June 4	
08.30-08.45	Results of Practical Session 2
08.45-09.45	Sperm function tests
09.45- 10.00	General Discussion
10.00-10.30	Coffee
10.30-11.30	Written examination
11.30-12.30	Lunch
12.30-16.30	Practical examination
16.30-17.00	Results of written and practical examination, general discussion

Application form

Participants:	“Supervisor”	“Technician”
Name:*		
Title:		
Lab:*		
Clinic:*		
Hospital:*		
Address:*		
Town/ZIP:*		
Country:*		
Phone:		
FAX:		
e-mail:*		
Invoice address (if different from mail address above):*		
Course fee:*	<input type="checkbox"/> NAFA/ESHRE member Please provide proof of membership <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> NAFA/ESHRE member Please provide proof of membership <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member
EU-VAT No		
Total fee:*	_____ SEK	_____ SEK
Language I prefer = 1 I can accept = 2	<input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Swedish in practicals	<input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Swedish in practicals
Approx. lab coat size:*	<input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> Small	<input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> Small
For Coffee breaks:*	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee <input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee <input type="checkbox"/> Tea
Special lunch requirements:		
Signature:*		

Please, send this form (or corresponding information)
 by FAX (+46-(0)8-31 36 91) or E-Mail (Lars.Bjorndahl@ki.se),
as soon as possible.