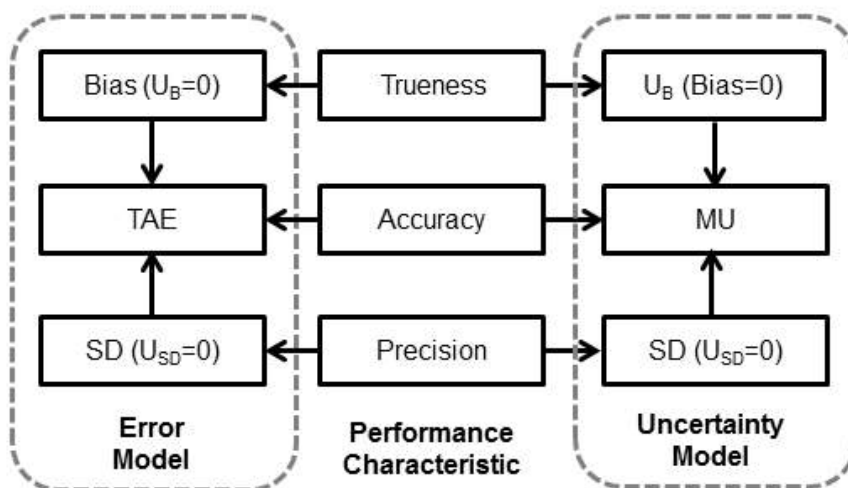


Concerns: meeting report 18th 'Quality in the Spotlight' in Antwerp

Dear colleague,

The scientific meeting 'Quality in the Spotlight', focusing on the next generation in quality management in laboratory medicine, running 19th and 20th of March 2018, was a great success.

From a scientific point of view: Professor Jim Westgard gave an inspiring lecture on the application of Parvin's algorithm in QC management, Dr. Anna Carobene from Italy showed us the way in which Biological Variation is developing and Dr. Ina Kjaer from Denmark introduced us to a new, practical APS (analytical performance specification) chart. They were among 20 speakers that were open minded, well informed and intensively communicating with the audience.



The dependences between the various items, such as TAE and MU, involved in the description of APS, from the lecture of Professor Jim Westgard

From a social point of view the mix between the next generation and the established colleagues was teaching, entertaining and generating enthusiasm. The discussions were vivid during the lectures and the breaks. Around 80 participants enjoyed each other's company. An interview on stage as well as an extensive plenary discussion led to useful and decisive conclusions that will be published.



A voting and discussion session during the 2018 'Quality in the Spotlight' meeting in Antwerp

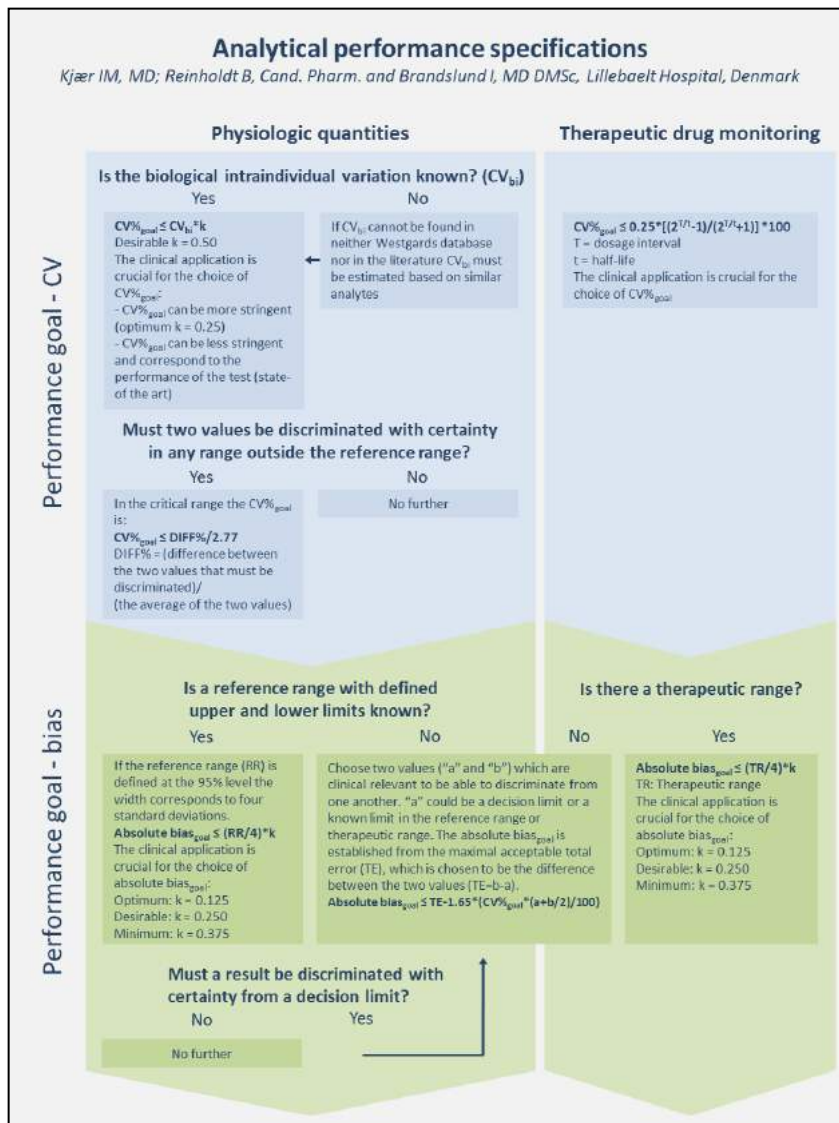


Chart enabling the calculation within the medical laboratory of APS from the lecture of Dr Ina Kjaer

The participants definitely wanted a conference in 2020 and were enthusiastic about taking part in an ongoing Internet group discussion on current subjects regarding quality in LM and in writing a short consensus paper regarding the final conclusion on APS. TAE equals MU in certain (most practical) cases and otherwise the Danish chart can be applied.

The summary of the 2016 Quality on the Spotlight edition is available. The 2018 report is in progress.

The traditional limerick contest had the following winner:

*A labman from the next generation
 Couldn't choose and left with frustration
 Was it TAE or GUM
 Henk is the bum
 He educates newbies with elation*

The price for the best poster went to Paulo Pereira for a poster entitled "Case study: Determination of measurement uncertainty and diagnostic uncertainty in screening immunoassays".



Dr. Oswald Sonntag made a painting from Jim Westgard that was presented to him by Joan, Jim's wife. While the dinner speech was given by Douwe van Loon, a loyal participant for many years of the conference.

Joan Westgard presenting the painting from Oswald Sonntag to her husband during the conference dinner

The Westgard award winner of the 18th edition was Dr Erna Lenters-Westra, who gave a brilliant talk on the quality of HbA1c POCT measurements and the way industry is dealing with such.



The Dutch Westgard award winner, Dr Erna Lenters – Westra, together with the award godfather

So much for this short impression. Please mark 11th and 12th May 2020 down in you agenda for the next happening in Antwerp. The subject is pending, so are the speakers. So in case you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us at TQMantwerp@gmail.com. We will be looking forward to meet you and all others again in Antwerp in 2020. The organizing committee will be happy to make it happen again for the 19th time!

Best regards, also on behave of Stacy Walz (co-chairman),

Henk Goldschmidt (chairman)