Nordic Institute of Chiropractic and Clinical Biomechanics

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE 1990-2010
AN OUTLINE OF HISTORY

On 15 June 1990, Nordic Institute of Chiropractic and Clinical Biomechanics (NIKKB) was founded by the Danish Pro-Chiropractic as the first Scandinavian education and research centre for chiropractic.

The Institute was opened on 8 October 1991 by the then county mayor of Funen, Jens Peter Fisker.

At the same time as NIKKB was established, the Regions’ Board for Wages and Tariffs and the Danish Chiropractors’ Association had resolved “that with effect from 1 April 1990, a fund would be set up to advance chiropractic research and postgraduate education” in Denmark.

In 1994 the objective of the fund was extended to provide the financial basis for NIKKB, and thus the funding of the institute took its present form.

BACKGROUND FOR FOUNDING AN INSTITUTE

The intention behind NIKKB was to support endeavours to establish an inter-Scandinavian university-based scientific education in chiropractic. This was proposed in 1989 in a joint report from Odense University and the Scandinavian chiropractors’ associations.

Earlier the same year, the Nordic Council had decided to set up a place where students could meet chiropractic as it is practiced, and to establish an organisation to ensure that the education provided was based on a solid foundation of science and research.

As an approved educational institution, the original objective of NIKKB was to carry out the clinical part of the education in collaboration with Odense University and Odense University Hospital, to present the clinical and theoretical teaching in the postgraduate part of the chiropractor’s education, and to carry out research into chiropractic and biomechanics.

In 1994, when a university-based education in chiropractic was established in Denmark, the objective of NIKKB was revised.

Today the institute is a research centre focused on knowledge dissemination and quality development within the field of chiropractic.

ORGANISATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The institute is governed by a Board of six to twelve appointed members. The five Scandinavian chiropractors’ associations (from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland) appoint one member each. In addition to these, important interested parties such as the Danish Chiropractors’ Association, the Foundation for Advancement of Chiropractic Research and Postgraduate Education, the Regions’ Board for Wages and Tariffs, the Region of Southern Denmark, the University of Southern Denmark, the European Chiropractors’ Union and the patients’ association “Kiropraktik & Sundhed” are also represented. The day-to-day management is in the hands of a director who is also the head of research.

NIKKB is financed by the Foundation for Advancement of Chiropractic Research and Postgraduate Education, which gets its means directly from Danish chiropractors and the Regions’ Board for Wages and Tariffs.

The Foundation for Advancement of Chiropractic Research and Postgraduate Education co-finances several of the research projects at the institute. Grants from the foundation are awarded on the basis of specific applications, made out on project basis. Funds granted for research projects are not included in NIKKB’s total operating budget.

The institute consists of a research, a radiology and a postgraduate department and is staffed according to the various tasks carried out by the institute. At the beginning of 2010, fourteen were permanently employed, whereas a number of persons were in consultant and/or affiliated appointments.
KEY DATES

In 1990 NIKKB moved into premises at Klosterbakken 20 in the centre of Odense, the former domicile of a worsted spinning company: “Odense Kamgarnsspinderi”.

In 1991 the first Danish Act of Chiropractic was passed, which regulated chiropractors’ practice and recognised them through an authorisation scheme as fully qualified, publicly recognised providers of treatment in the Danish health service.

In 1994 the first students in chiropractic and clinical biomechanics began at Odense University.

Since 1994, NIKKB has updated a list of research papers published as a direct result of the institute’s research. In 2009 alone, eighteen scientific papers were published.

The first Danish PhD in chiropractic was awarded in 1995. Since then several PhD projects have been completed, some in association with the University of Southern Denmark, Odense University Hospital, Hospital of Funen and NIKKB.

Since 1995 NIKKB has published the professional journal NIKKB NYT, which is issued six times a year as part of the journal “Kiropraktorens”. Its main purpose is to disseminate research results and new knowledge about chiropractic. NIKKB also publishes a comprehensive annual report with a detailed description of all research projects.

In 1999 NIKKB established an independent postgraduate education department, whose purpose is to provide and coordinate postgraduate education for Scandinavian chiropractors. Every year, NIKKB offers about twenty courses of postgraduate education to more than 400 attendees mainly from Scandinavia.

In 2000 it was resolved in an agreement between the Danish Chiropractors’ Association and the National Health Insurance that NIKKB should provide radiology service and consultancy to Danish chiropractors. In that connection the radiology department at NIKKB was established. One of the main tools under this scheme is the quality handbook, which is available in electronic form. The physicist scheme, offered against payment, now has well over 150 subscribing clinics.

In 2002 the then deputy county mayor, Karsten Uno Petersen, was appointed chairman of the Board of the institute. Karsten Uno Petersen is now a member of the Regional Council of the Region of Southern Denmark and chairman of the Foundation for Advancement of Chiropractic Research and Postgraduate Education. As of 1 January 2010 he is still chairman of the Board of NIKKB. Karsten Uno Petersen succeeded the then member of Funen County Council, Ejvind Hansen.

In 2005 NIKKB prepared a research action plan for the period 2005–2010 and had it approved. A number of areas for special action have been designated under the headings of epidemiological back research, clinical biomechanical research and clinical research. Through this action plan, which is presently being further developed to cover the period 2011–2015, the institute seeks to create a framework for continued positive development and the high level of activity that has always characterised NIKKB’s research.

In 2006 the institute moved to new and more modern premises at Forskerparken in Odense, in the professional environment of the University of Southern Denmark.

In 2006 NIKKB initiated the creation of a joint Scandinavian research forum, the Nordic Chiropractors’ Research Forum, with the objective of strengthening the exchange of knowledge and experience about research into the musculoskeletal system. The forum has annual meetings where e.g. PhD projects from the Scandinavian countries are presented.

Since 2006, NIKKB has been a part of the centre research collaboration, Clinical Locomotion Science, with the University of Southern Denmark and Hospital of Funen. The aim
of this collaboration is to establish a cooperation forum to provide the framework for development of networks related to research into disorders of the musculoskeletal system.

In 2007 the institute got a new logo and an integrated visual profile.

In 2007 the institute registered the trademark “NIKKB” with the Danish Patent and Trademark Office and internationally with WIPO (the World Intellectual Property Organization).

In 2007 NIKKB published its first issue of the NIKKB NORDIC NEWSLETTER in English.

In 2007 NIKKB participated for the first time at “Lægedage”, an annual conference and exhibition for general medical practitioners at the Bella Center, Copenhagen, in order to get a wider dialogue with general practitioners. Conference participation has become an important platform specifically for dialogue with other parts of the health service.

In 2008 the radiology department at NIKKB set up KirPACS, a central image server for storing digital x-rays, available to Danish chiropractic clinics for a fee. KirPACS provides a unique facility for Danish chiropractors to store digital x-ray imagery securely but accessibly, and makes image communication between the different sections of the health service possible.

In 2009 chiropractor, doctor and PhD Henrik Wulff Christensen was appointed as director and head of research at the institute. Henrik Wulff Christensen is the sixth director of NIKKB.

In 2009 NIKKB formulated a vision and mission statement for the work of the institute, which outlines its strategic objectives. The work behind the vision and mission helps to tell the outside world where we are going as an institute and why we are doing what we do.

In the years to come NIKKB will be working towards closer integration with the research environment at the Institute of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics at the University of Southern Denmark, and plans finally to move onto the Campus. Legally, NIKKB will remain an independent entity with its own employees, Board, funding etc.

On 15 June 2010 NIKKB celebrated its 20th anniversary.

**VISION:**

An internationally leading centre for research, knowledge dissemination and quality development in the chiropractic profession

**MISSION:**

NIKKB is a dynamic knowledge environment that raises the quality of chiropractic internationally through partnerships and networks original research greater focus on interaction and dialogue between research and practice and through active influence and participation in the ongoing health debate in society

NIKKB

Anders Lykke Fogh-Schultz, NIKKB 2010

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