



## Voorwoord

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### Thema Onderzoekslijnen

Clinical Chemistry is booming business! Besides providing a direct contribution to patient care, medical laboratories are very active in research, both fundamental and translational. A selection of the most successful research topics in Dutch Clinical Chemistry Research has been documented for you in this Special Issue of the 'Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Klinische Chemie en Laboratoriumgeneeskunde', published on occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Netherlands Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NVKC). The selection of topics is based on the number of publications in our Clinical Chemistry Research Database (PPO) on August 1, 2011.

We would like to thank all contributors for providing us with their manuscripts. We hope that you, as a reader, will enjoy reading this Special Issue as much as we have enjoyed in putting this issue together! On behalf of the NVKC Scientific Committee

Dr. R.H.N. van Schaik  
Chair NVKC-SC

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Further exploration in the scientific field of clinical chemistry is one of the main tasks of NVKC. Most of these research activities are carried out in cooperation with our clinical colleagues. This perfectly demonstrates the close harmony in which the route from bench to bedside is covered. I like to thank all contributors to this special issue of our Journal. I wish you, honored reader, a pleasant journey traveling through this issue.

Dr. J.W. Janssen  
President NVKC

The members of our society put their scientific activities as peer reviewed articles and presentations on (inter-)national symposia, in a national database ([www.nvkc.nl](http://www.nvkc.nl)), resulting in an overview of the joint scientific output of Clinical Chemistry in the Netherlands.

The scientific domain of Clinical Chemistry is broad, and almost always multidisciplinary. The goal of our professionals is to improve healthcare and develop diagnostic tools for improving patient care, in collaboration with medical specialists.

Looking at the contents of this special issue, the topics addressed perfectly demonstrate this broad participation. They span a wide range of laboratory determinations such as purine/pyrimidines, dimethylarginines, troponins and vitamine D, but also biomarkers for coagulation, platelet activity, immunosuppression and methotrexate therapy. Pharmacogenetics is described in two different settings. Promising developments are described for investigations in red cell disorders, lab-on-a-chip fertility and breast cancer determinations and even tissue engineering is addressed. Proteomics, placental DNA, microparticles and maternal thyroid function are other fascinating topics. But also the managerial aspects for the fertility and the routine lab are addressed as well. In addition, a huge database of the interactions between drugs and haematological data is described.

Please browse through the content of this issue and experience yourself the contributions presented, touching many interesting aspects of biomarkers for identifying pathophysiology.

Dr. J. van Pelt  
Chief Editor