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The triannual Nordic Research Symposium on Science Education (NFSUN) was held in Helsinki during the summer of 2014. About 120 science education researchers presented their ongoing research. Altogether, there were almost 200 participants in the conference. Approximately 60 participants came from Sweden, and about 30 each came from Denmark, Finland, and Norway. There were participants from Iceland as well. In addition, there were participants from every continent except Africa. The conference was organized around the 16 strands, similar to the European Science Education Research Association conferences.

This special issue of LUMAT alongside a special issue of *NorDiNa: Nordic Studies in Science Education* present the selected papers of the NFSUN conference. Scholars who presented their research at the conference were invited to submit papers for these special issues. All articles were peer-reviewed by at least two colleagues. We want to thank those members of the Nordic science education community, who devoted their time to review the submissions.

We were also pleased, that some colleagues outside the Nordic countries also submitted their manuscript to be published. This special issue of LUMAT includes papers also from German and Latvian researchers. We believe that these special issue showcases the variety of the themes, approaches and methods being explored in science education research.

