



Publishing Policy

Preamble

The German Centre for Cardiovascular Research e.V. (DZHK) was founded in 2011 upon the initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and since then has been funded jointly by the BMBF and the ten federal states in which it is represented. The DZHK promotes science and research in the field of cardiovascular disease by establishing a research alliance with a long-lasting impact that combines interdisciplinary research and clinical accessibility in a holistic approach. By funding the research activities of the DZHK member institutions on the subject of cardiovascular research, gaps in knowledge in the field of cardiovascular research shall be closed and new research findings shall be quickly transferred into clinical practice, thereby improving prevention, diagnosis, therapy and care in the long term. The aim is a close cooperation between basic, preclinical and clinical research orientated towards the indications and requirements of the patients in order to achieve a transfer of research findings into practical application.

A key criterion for the success of scientists on the one hand and research institutions on the other are scientific publications. They constitute the basis of the national and international scientific visibility of both individuals and organisations. For this reason, the DZHK will adhere to the following Publishing Policy which regulates how to handle DZHK affiliation and DZHK acknowledgement, as well as how to cite authorships. The Publishing Policy applies to all projects funded by the DZHK, including projects at partner sites, projects under the translational research projects funding line, projects under the Excellence Programme funding lines (e.g., Clinician Scientist Programme) and secondary usage projects in accordance with the Use and Access Policy. In principle, it applies to original papers, articles, methods articles, reviews, editorials, commentaries and conference papers.



1. DZHK affiliation

To ensure that the DZHK is perceived in the scientific community as an interdisciplinary research centre, scientists affiliated with the DZHK generally use the DZHK affiliation.

1.1. Using DZHK affiliation

DZHK affiliation is used by scientists* associated with the DZHK (DZHK PI, DZHK scientists, Young DZHK members, DZHK employees in accordance with Chapter 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the DZHK) for all publications in which they are listed as first, last or co-author, if the publication lies within the subject area of the DZHK.

DZHK scientists, Young DZHK members and DZHK employees shall agree with their respective DZHK PI or partner site speaker prior to publication whether they may or must use DZHK affiliation.

This provision is to ensure that all relevant DZHK research findings are published with clear reference to the DZHK. At the same time, attribution to the DZHK of publications that thematically have nothing to do with the DZHK shall be avoided. The provision shall be applied by the publisher with sound judgement; in conflicting cases, first the DZHK partner site speaker and subsequently, via the DZHK Main Office, the DZHK Board of Directors should be asked for clarification.

1.2. Indicating DZHK affiliation

DZHK affiliation reads:

DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research)

Additionally, the partner site may be cited, for example

DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research), partner site Göttingen

Two or more affiliations may be assigned to the name of an author in a publication. The complete DZHK affiliation for a DZHK PI can appear, for example, as follows:

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¹ *Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany*

² *DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research), partner site Hamburg/Kiel/Lübeck, Hamburg, Germany*

2. DZHK acknowledgement

Significant financial support of research projects by the DZHK is mentioned in the acknowledgement of a publication. Again, this is also a requirement for the visibility of a funding institution. DZHK acknowledgement demonstrates the financial contribution of the DZHK in research projects and recognises this accordingly.

* General references to people use the generic masculine form and apply to both genders.

2.1. Using DZHK acknowledgement

The DZHK acknowledgement is used if the research work on which the publication is based was fully or partially funded by the DZHK - regardless of whether one of the authors is a DZHK-associated scientist (DZHK PI, DZHK scientist, member of the Young DZHK, DZHK staff, according to chapter 5 DZHK rules of procedure) or not.

In addition, the DZHK acknowledgement is used for publications or manuscripts of DZHK-associated studies, although in some cases there is no financial support from the DZHK for these, and for publications from results of usage applications that are based on the use of data/biospecimens generated from the DZHK Heart Bank.

Financial support from the DZHK is identified by mentioning the DZHK funding code (available in the format 81X..... with 7 digits). The funding code can be found, for example, in the [DZHK project database](#) on our website ("ID").

2.2. Indicating DZHK acknowledgement

Where there was financial contribution from the DZHK, the wording is:

Supported by the DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research), funding code: 81X... .

Gefördert durch das DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung), Förderkennzeichen: 81X... .

For a secondary usage project, the wording is:

Data and/or biospecimen were provided by DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research) from the DZHK Heart Bank.

Daten und/oder Proben wurden durch das DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung) aus der DZHK Heart Bank zur Verfügung gestellt.

Where the research platform of the DZHK (all DZHK trials) was used, the wording is:

The study/trial/project was carried out using the research platform of the DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research).

Die Studie/das Projekt wurde unter Nutzung der Forschungsplattform des DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung) durchgeführt.

For a DZHK associated study without financial contribution from the DZHK, the wording is:

Endorsed by DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research).

Unterstützt durch das DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung).

3. Rules and recommendations

3.1. Recommendations regarding the title of the publication

When creating the manuscript, it must be ensured that the study acronym including the appropriate DZHK study number is stated as a rule in the title or at least in the abstract, particularly for DZHK studies. For other projects, if and how the DZHK could already be mentioned in the title should be judged on an individual basis.

3.2. General recommendations on authorships

The authorships for publications with DZHK affiliation must be in accordance with the rules of “Good Scientific Practice” of the DFG as well as the “Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals” of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). The recommended criteria for authorship credit of the ICMJE are the following:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
 2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
 3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
 4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
- (Source: ICMJE authorship criteria recommendation)

Within the scope of this Policy, criterion 4 can alternatively be limited to the responsibility for partial aspects of the work.

3.3. Recommendations of the DZHK on authorships and for citing DZHK publications

The DZHK also recommends that its project leaders consider the following aspects when awarding authorships in order to appropriately promote young scientists and recruitment in studies and to contribute to the motivation of scientific staff and the citation of DZHK publications.

For DZHK studies, it is obligatory to refer to the publication of the DZHK research platform (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36884078/>) in the manuscript under References (e.g. by naming it in the methods section).

3.3.1. Authorship eligibility

The following individuals or groups have authorship eligibility (eligibility to being invited to collaborate on the manuscript): Individuals who, on a scientific level, are involved in

- Data capture
- Analysis and interpretation of the data
- Execution of the statistical analysis
- Supervision of funding and conduct
- Drafting the manuscript
- Critical revision of the manuscript draft for important intellectual contents.

3.3.2. Order of authorships

Regarding the order of authorships, the individual who wrote the manuscript shall be named as first author. In accordance with the rules of Good Scientific Practice, the actual (not: hierarchical) project leader/project coordinator can take the position of last author, if he is not already first author.

Where there are several project leaders/project coordinators, they should agree early on the last authorship amongst themselves. “Corresponding author” as a rule should be the main project leader.

3.3.3. Co-authorships

The project leader(s) or the committee appointed for this purpose involve potential co-authors (including the individuals or groups with authorship eligibility, see **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**) in the preparation and the creation of the manuscript and determine the order of the (co-)authors.

3.3.4. Co-authorships for DZHK studies

For DZHK studies, the DZHK strongly recommends offering the study coordinator at the main study centre the opportunity to contribute to the manuscript (authorship eligibility), since they render an important, large-scale, long-term and time-consuming contribution to the success of the DZHK study. For multicentre DZHK studies, beside the main study centre, many study sites are also part of the success of a study by actively recruiting in the respective study. The opportunity to contribute to the manuscript for the first publication should be offered to every study site that is particularly active (authorship eligibility) and should thus be an incentive for physicians at study sites to recruit patients in DZHK studies. It is recommended that the following provisions are stipulated already in the study site agreements:

- (a) In DZHK studies, particularly active study sites shall be offered the opportunity to contribute to the manuscript for the first publication (authorship eligibility); whereby every site with at least 7 percent of the recruitment total shall be offered one authorship eligibility, every site with at least 14 percent of the recruitment total shall be offered two authorship eligibilities.
- (b) The study site decides who gets the authorship eligibility. The DZHK strongly recommends that the study site nominate the individuals who did the day-to-day recruitment work.

3.3.5. Group acronym

A general group acronym for projects with the participation of many scientists should be used particularly for the first publication with a defined list of “collaborators”. This group acronym will be incorporated into the list of authors. The names of all active participants must then be listed (depending on the journal) in the footnote of the list of authors or in the annex of the publication, so that the mention of all involved individuals generates hits in electronic literature searches.

A group acronym for DZHK studies should mention the actively involved employees from the main study centre and study sites in a combined manner if the data of the respective study sites is used in the publication. The group acronym for a DZHK study should be composed of “project title and project/study group”. An appropriate wording for a group acronym of a DZHK study could thus be the following:

TORCH-DZHK1 project/study group.

TORCH-DZHK1 Projekt/Studiengruppe.

The group acronym should not replace individual authorships that were acquired through recruitment efforts or authorship eligibility, respectively (see **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**).



3.3.6. Secondary use projects

For publications based on results from usage projects generated from the DZHK Heart Bank, the following applies:

- a) Study PIs of DZHK studies cannot be named as authors if the data and/or biospecimen used are not attributable to a DZHK study in question; this is usually the case with usage applications.
- b) The PI of a secondary use project is in any case obliged to refer to the usage of the DZHK Heart Bank in the Acknowledgement (cf. 2).
- c) and to refer to the publication of the DZHK research platform (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36884078/>) in the manuscript under References (e.g. by naming it in the methods section).

4. Press releases on publications

For compiling press releases on publications, the DZHK public relations office (christine.vollgraf@dzhk.de) shall be approached or at least consulted (§ 22 Rules of Procedure of the DZHK). This applies in particular to the active planning of press releases for DZHK studies, and translational research projects and projects conducted with biospecimen and/or data from the DZHK Heart Bank by the responsible DZHK-affiliated scientist.

5. Commencement

The General Assembly of Members of the DZHK and the Commission of Donors of the DZHK have given this Publishing Policy their approval; it will take effect on 01.06.2018.