DZHK
Deutsches Zentrum für
Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung

DZHK Publishing Policy

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Preambel

The German Centre for Cardiovascular Research e.V. (DZHK) was founded in 2011 upon the initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) 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 research institutions. For this reason, the DZHK will adhere to the following Publishing Policy which regulates, among other things, 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 fellowship) and secondary use projects (DZHK Heart Bank) in accordance with the Use and Access Policy. In principle, it applies to original papers, articles, methods articles, reviews, editorials, commentaries and conference papers.

Non-compliance with this Publishing Policy may result in disadvantages in future application procedures at the DZHK. Furthermore, publications without a DZHK affiliation cannot be identified for statistical analysis (e.g. the number of DZHK publications at each partner site) and are therefore not included in the data evaluations.

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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 DZHK-associated scientists* (in accordance with Chapter 5 of the DZHK Rules of Procedure) 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-associated scientists shall agree with their respective DZHK PI or partner site spokesperson 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 regulation is to be interpreted by the authors with a sense of proportion; in cases of conflict, clarification should first be sought with the respective DZHK partner site spokesperson and, if necessary, clarification should then be sought with the DZHK Board of Directors via the DZHK Main Office.

1.2. Indication DZHK affiliation

DZHK affiliation reads:

DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research)

Additionally, the DZHK partner site must be indicated for each author, for example:

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

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

Stefanie Dimmeler [1]Institute for Cardiovascular Regeneration, Goethe University Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany. [2]German Center for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK), partner site Frankfurt Rhine-Main, Frankfurt, Germany.

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

2. DZHK acknowledgement

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.

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 the person involved is a DZHK-associated scientist (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 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") and in the Grant Management System.

2.2. Implementing the DZHK acknowledgement

The wording in case of financial contribution from the DZHK 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… .

The wording when using data and/or biospecimen from the DZHK Heart Bank is:

> Data and/or biospecimen *(please specify which entity you used)* were provided by the DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research) Heart Bank.
>
> Daten und/oder Proben *(geben Sie bitte an welche Entität sie genutzt haben)* wurden durch das DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung) aus der DZHK Heart Bank zur Verfügung gestellt.

The wording when using the DZHKomics resource from the DZHK Heart Bank must always be:

> Data of the DZHKomics resource are part of the DZHK Heart Bank and were supported by the DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research; FKZ: 81X…, 81X…, 81X…).
>
> Daten der DZHKomics Ressource wurden durch das DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung) gefördert (Förderkennzeichen: 81X…, 81X…, 81X…) und durch die DZHK Heart Bank zur Verfügung gestellt.

The wording when using the research platform of the DZHK (applies to at least all DZHK studies) is:

> The study/trial/project was carried out utilising the Research Platform (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36884078/) of.

Die Studie/das Projekt wurde unter Nutzung der Forschungsplattform des DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislauf-Forschung) durchgeführt (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36884078/).

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 (z.B. TORCH-DZHK1) 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

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 clinical studies and to contribute to the motivation of scientists and the citation of DZHK publications.

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 first authorship should be reserved for the lead author of the manuscript. In accordance with the rules of good scientific practice, the last authorship can be claimed by the actual (not hierarchical) project leader or project coordinator if they do not already hold the first authorship. Where there are several project leaders or 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 lead or the committee appointed for this purpose involve potential contributors (including the individuals or groups with authorship eligibility, see 3.3.1) 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 relevant 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 scientists and 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" (i.e. see 3.3.6.). 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 persons 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 3.3.1).

3.4. Recommendations for secondary use projects making use of the DZHK Heart Bank

For publications based on results from secondary use projects generated with data/biospeciemen 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. 2.2). Further details regarding the DZHKomics resource are attached to the Material/Data Transfer Agreement.

3.5. Obligation of the DZHK to cite specific DZHK publications

(1) For DZHK studies, it is mandatory to refer to the publication of the DZHK research platform (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36884078/) in the manuscript under References.
(2) For utilisation projects using data and/or biosamples from the DZHK Heart Bank, reference must be made to the publication of the DZHK research platform (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36884078/) and the DZHK Heart Bank 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 of the DZHK Rules of Procedure). 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 approved this Publishing Policy; it came into force on 1 June 2018 and was updated or adapted in November 2022, June 2023, January 2025 and March 2026.