

Publication Policy

1. Introduction

This policy describes the framework for scientific publications based on data or bio samples of the German National Cohort. A positive vote on an application by the use and access committee and a subsequent data/material contract with the NAKO e. V. [GNC registered association] is a pre-requisite.

The German National Cohort (GNC) [NAKO Gesundheitsstudie] is a long-term project which was designed by many scientists with respect to overarching as well as specific aspects. Data collection and quality assurance efforts are implemented and optimized by scientists from 18 data collection centers. Therefore, we envision multi-authors papers representing the collective efforts of scientists from the study centers and the central organs of the GNC.

2. Authorship for scientific publications

2.1. General considerations

Authorship is determined based on international rules as formulated by the “International Committee of Medical Journals” (<http://www.icmje.org/index.html>). All authors carry responsibility for the content of the publication either entirely or in parts. Position on the publication shall reflect contribution to the specific research question.

We distinguish between authorships that are based on:

1. contributions to the analysis of a specific research question and writing of the scientific manuscript,

and, given the long-term nature of the project,

2. contributions to design, examination modules, data collection and quality assurance.

The author list will be composed jointly based on these authors of the papers.

2.2. Specific considerations

The primary individual named in the use and access application is responsible for selecting the appropriate authors. For analysis projects of non-members of the NAKO e. V., an author who represents the NAKO e. V. is named to support the paper.

- (a) Before the analysis phase, authorship is determined based on the conception of the specific research question as proposed in the use and access application and the analysis plan. Shared first authorship and last authorship are possible.
- (b) Before the analysis phase, authorship is determined based on the design of the study, the data collection, the quality assurance and overall integrity of the data as established by the NAKO e. V. and the NAKO study centers.

More specifically,

- b1) co-authorship is offered to up to two representatives of the study centers contributing data to the publication (time restricted).
- b2) co-authorship is offered to representatives of the “Module” and “Kompetenzeinheiten” if the variables are considered as main exposures or main outcomes. Consideration as confounders in the analysis plan does not mandate authorship (time restricted).
- (c) Additional authors may be added or removed during the analysis, interpretation of the data and manuscript writing phase.
- (d) Exemptions from the rules named above can be considered for example for consortia publications. They need to be specified as part of the use and access process. All exceptions need to be documented in a working file accessible to all members of the NAKO e. V.

3. Authorship for publications in organs of the German federal or state ministries

Authorship by the NAKO e. V. is not required if data is used for reports assessing prevalence of exposures or disease in the German population in organs of the German federal or state ministries.

4. Acknowledgements

All publications must acknowledge the GNC according to the implementing regulation in the ANNEX to this document.

5. Tracking of publications

All publications in progress need to be tracked by the NAKO e. V. according to the implementing regulation in the ANNEX to this document.

6. Close

The publication policy is valid for 5 years and is to be updated half year before its expiration date.

7. Example

Fictive author list:

First author center1: Jointly conducted the analyses, wrote the first draft of the manuscript

First author center2: Jointly did the analyses, wrote the first draft of the manuscript

Second author center1: Supervised statistical analyses

Third author center2: Supervised interpretation of the results

4 authors for module representatives including center1 and center2 if applicable

36 Center authors including center1 and center2

Last author center10: Provided critical input to interpretation of the results

Last author center1: Supervised first author

Last author center2: Supervised first author

Annex

Implementing regulations for the publication policy of the German National Cohort (GNC)

1. Publications based on the German National Cohort (GNC) must contain both the German and the English name of the study.

German: **NAKO Gesundheitsstudie**

English: **German National Cohort (GNC)**

2. All publications based on the German National Cohort must include the following acknowledgement or an appropriate equivalent:

English:

This project was conducted with data from the German National Cohort (GNC) (www.nako.de). The GNC is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) [project funding reference numbers: 01ER1301A/B/C and 01ER1511D], federal states and the Helmholtz Association with additional financial support by the participating universities and the institutes of the Leibniz Association.

We thank all participants who took part in the GNC study and the staff in this research program.

Deutsch:

Dieses Projekt wurde mit Daten der NAKO Gesundheitsstudie durchgeführt (www.nako.de). Die NAKO Gesundheitsstudie wird durch das Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) [Förderkennzeichen 01ER1301A/B/C und 01ER1511D], die Bundesländer und die Helmholtz Gemeinschaft gefördert sowie durch die beteiligten Universitäten und Institute der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft finanziell unterstützt.

Wir danken allen Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmern der NAKO Gesundheitsstudie sowie den Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeitern der NAKO Gesundheitsstudie.

3. All publications in progress must be traceable by the NAKO e. V. This specific implementing regulation (with regard to the tracking procedure) will have to be elaborated in detail. Until then all publications must be registered with the central executive office.