

Call for Proposals

Data usage of the complete NAKO baseline MRI data

INTRODUCTION

The German National Cohort (NAKO) comprises a whole-body MRI examination for a total of 30.861 participants. We are pleased to announce that the full baseline MRI data set (acquired until 30-Sep-2019) is now available for scientific data use. Interested researchers are invited to submit proposals via the electronic NAKO transfer portal (<https://transfer.nako.de>) according to the timeline detailed below.

Applications are currently open to all interested scientists in Germany and it should be noted that portal, contracts as well as all other documents are currently only available in German. For all data usage requests submitted by 31-May-2022, the NAKO will try to arrange collaborations on overlapping topics.

TIMELINE

The following timeline is applicable for this call:

	Date
Call for proposals	31-Mar-2022
Submission deadline (for coordination on overlapping topics)*	31-May-2022
Recommendation of use and access committee (tentative)	15-July-2022
Decision of NAKO board (tentative)	September-2022

*after 31-May-2022 continuous submission

GENERAL INFORMATION

NAKO transfer portal (TransferHub):

<https://transfer.nako.de/transfer/index>: data dictionary, application form

Use and access policy:

https://nako.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/NAKO-e.-V.-Nutzungsordnung_v2_2019-03-21.pdf

Homepage:

www.nako.de

For information on the general design of the NAKO and the MRI sub-study please refer to:

German National Cohort (GNC) Consortium. The German National Cohort: aims, study design and organization. *Eur J Epidemiol.* 2014;29(5):371-82

Bamberg et al. Whole-Body MR Imaging in the German National Cohort: Rationale, Design, and Technical Background. *Radiology.* 2015;277(1):206-20).

REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICS FOR PROPOSALS OF MRI DATA

Data usage of MRI data generally follows a 2-step process: First, the applicant receives MRI data including “height”, “sex”, “age”, “weight”. After evaluation and data transfer of MRI results to NAKO database, the applicant receives all other required parameters (L1/L2-data). Please submit two separate applications:

- Application 1: please apply for and define the required MRI data
- Application 2: please apply for and define all other required non-MRI data

If possible, please submit both applications at the same time. This allows for a joint review of the applications and simplifies the conclusion of the contract.

If necessary and clearly justified in the proposal, additional parameters beyond “height”, “sex”, “age”, and “weight” can be provided if they are required to derive variables from the MR images, i.e. in the context of Radiomics/Deep Learning.

Proposals should be based on specific scientific hypotheses. Scientific relevance and statistical considerations should be outlined within the proposal. Information on quality assurance measures and resource availability are required.

REVIEW PROCESS

The general process will be in accordance with the NAKO use and access policy.

If more than one proposal on a given topic is deemed to be of similar scientific merit and is recommended for approval by the use and access committee, the applicants of both proposals will be informed about the existence of a proposal with similar or overlapping content and will be asked whether they want to collaborate with the other applicant. If no agreement can be reached on collaboration, both proposals will be recommended for approval.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Available on request:

- Data cleaning report for MRI data until 31-Sep-2019
- Data quality report for MRI data until 31-Sep-2019
- Basic characteristics of MRI population