Guidelines for Publications

Within the scope of the Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects /National Register for Congenital Heart Defects V.

These guidelines regulate the authorship and submission of scientific publications that draw upon data from the Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects (KNAHF)/National Register for Congenital Heart Defects (NR). The regulations apply solely to publications (including letters to the editor) for scientific journals.

1. Authorship

In line with the international guidelines (ICMJE, www.icmje.org) authorship is based on the fulfilment of all of the following four criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work;
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
3. Final approval of the version to be published;
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.

In the case of publications resulting from multicenter studies, the consortium can be additionally listed as “Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects” or as “Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects Investigators”; the consortium can be added after a semicolon at the end of the author list. A list of the consortium’s members can be provided in the addendum.

The standard for the order of authors is as follows: usually, the person who has written the manuscript is the first author. The position of last author can be claimed by the principle investigator (PI), if they are not the first author already. In the case of more than one PIs being involved in the study, it is incumbent upon them to agree on the position of the last author, according to each investigator’s share in the study. The other authors are named by the PIs who also define their order in the list of authors. The role of “corresponding author” is usually assumed by the primarily responsible PI. Doctoral candidates are to be considered as co-authors if the results of their thesis are part of the publication.

In the case of disagreement regarding authorship, the Steering Committee of the KNAHF can be consulted for mediation.

2. Mention of Institution/Affiliation

Authors from hospitals that are a member of the KNAHF should mention the former as an additional “affiliation” in addition to their own institution:

German: - KNAHF (Kompetenznetz Angeborene Herzfehler) Partnerstandort

English: - KNAHF (Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects) partner site

Authors whose hospital is a partner site of the DZHK are to specify the DZHK as an additional affiliation in addition to their own institution:


Hamburg/Kiel/Lübeck, Greifswald, Göttingen, Berlin, Rhein-Main, Heidelberg/Mannheim, München
3. Mention of Funding Institution

All publications within the scope of the KNAHF have to be supplemented by a passage indicating the funds received from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The following text is to be used:

„Die vorliegende Arbeit wurde unterstützt durch das Kompetenznetz Angeborene Herzfehler, das bis 2014 vom Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Förderkennzeichen: 01GI0601) gefördert wurde. „Die vorliegende Arbeit wurde unterstützt durch das Kompetenznetz Angeborene Herzfehler, das bis 2014 vom Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Förderkennzeichen: 01GI0601) gefördert wurde.

or, respectively:

“This work was supported by the Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects, which has received funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, grant number 01GI0601 (until 2014), and the DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research; as of 2015).”

4. Further Remarks

If the KNAHF, or, “Competence Network...” has not already been mentioned by name in the list of authors (see above) or in the title, it should be mentioned in the key words or in the abstract of the publication.

5. Submission Procedure

Before submission to a journal, the completed manuscript has to be sent to the KNAHF’s Management/Head Office. The Management checks the manuscript regarding formal correctness in accordance with the regulations of the KNAHF.

The authors are to inform the Management/Head Office as soon as possible whenever a manuscript has been accepted for publication or rejected. The Management regularly discloses the current publication list.