

Guideline

on using the technology platform in the COVID-19
Research Network Lower Saxony (COFONI)

— Research Biobank —

Version 1.1 / 16th June 2023



COVID-19
FORSCHUNGSNETZWERK
NIEDERSACHSEN

**The German version of this guideline is the only legally binding version.
The translation is for information purposes only.**

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Preamble

The basic idea of the COVID-19 Research Network Lower Saxony (COFONI) is the networked grouping of complementary site expertise around a central technology platform. The technology platform lays the scientific foundation for interdisciplinary research projects that were previously only possible to a very limited extent due to financial and technical limitations. The central technology platform is divided into three sub-areas (1) animal models and test systems, (2) research biobank and (3) research databases. They provide the research network with cross-cutting methods and animal models as well as data and biobanks with maximum efficiency for all participants to share.

This guideline includes the specific regulations of the **Technology Platform Research Biobank**. The regulations that have been made apply to all COFONI-funded projects.

The guideline does not regulate questions of exploitation and intellectual property. This is left to a separate process to be coordinated with the institutions and project managers involved and, if necessary, to individual agreements based on this.

I. Guideline on Using the Technology Platform Research Biobank

§ 1 Regulations

The use of biosamples and data which are managed by the Central UMG Biobank and the Hannover Unified Biobank is possible as follows:

- (1) If samples from existing collections are requested or biobanks should be used in the context of studies, in this case the respective usage regulations of the Central Biobank UMG or the Hannover Unified Biobank apply.
- (2) If samples from externally funded projects are requested, the respective usage regulations of the externally funded projects apply.

Access to biosamples and data from existing collections is regulated for both biobanks via committees that evaluate the content of the submitted applications, whereby the clinics and researchers that were involved in collecting the biosamples and data have a say in the issuance. In order to give feedback to requesting researchers on the availability of biospecimens and data from existing collections before an application is submitted, contact should be made with the respective biobank for advice.

If further biosamples and data from existing collections are requested within the context of the funded COFONI-Project which are not listed in the application, the technology platform will pass on this information to the COFONI Steering Committee.

§ 2 Supplementary Provisions

In addition to this guideline, the following must also be observed in the respective applicable version:

- (a) Guidelines on good scientific practice¹
- (b) COFONI Publication Regulations in the respective applicable version

¹ Codex "Guidelines on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice", DFG, DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3923601



§ 3 Authorship in Scientific Publications

In accordance with the COFONI Publication Regulation, COFONI strongly recommends the coordinators/contact partners of the technology platform be offered to contribute to the manuscript (author's credentials), as they make a large, important, long-term and time-consuming scientific contribution to the success of the COFONI technology platform.

II. Coming into Force

The COFONI Steering Committee unanimously agreed to this guideline; it came into force on 15.12.2021. The German version of this guideline is the only legally binding version. The translation is for information purposes only.

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