

Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to provide guidance to collaborators for determining authorship for manuscripts. Many peer-reviewed journals have guidelines that address these relationships and their contributions, which should also assist the process.

Guidelines

In general, these guidelines have been developed to uphold the standards of accountability for contribution to science and fairness to those involved in the work. It is also a mechanism for consideration of the discussion of authorship for junior investigators and their senior mentors.

Manuscripts may be reports of empirical research, conceptual publications, or compilation of research projects such as systematic reviews or meta-analysis. Additionally, authors may also submit letters to the editor, case reviews or case reports. Responsibility for contribution may vary according to the type of project considered.

Authorship should be discussed at the outset of the project, and in some cases use of a scoring system may be helpful in determining contribution and byline order (Dulhunty et al 2011).

The ICMJE (2014) recommends that authorship be based on 4 criteria which include 1) substantial contributions to the body of work (including conception, design, data acquisition and management), 2) drafting or revising the work, 3) final approval prior to publication, and 4) agreement to accountability for the content of the work. All authors should meet all 4 criteria according to their recommendations. If they do not meet all criteria, their contribution should be acknowledgement only.

The byline order should reflect contribution to the body of work with the first author bearing the primary responsibility of writing the manuscript. The final decision regarding byline order shall be the responsibility of the principal investigator, or whoever is designated at the outset of the collaboration. The list of contributors must be comprehensive and complete when disclosed to the journal (Eggert 2011).

Copyright issues should also be considered, particularly for multi-institutional publications. Generally, the authors surrender the intellectual property to the journal; however, all authors on a paper must have the opportunity to review the final draft prior to submission, should concur with the discussion and conclusions and if they do not agree, have the option of removing their name from the publication (Resnik & Master, 2011).

The Outcomes Committee chair will assist with any questions/concerns/conflicts needing third party input.

References

- Dulhunty, J.M., Boots, R.J., Paratz, J.D., & Lipman, J. (2011). Determining authorship in multicenter trials: a systematic review, *ACTA Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica*, 55, 1037-1043. Doi: 10.1111/j.1399-6576.2011.02477.x
- Eggert, L.D. (2011). Best practices for allocating appropriate credit and responsibility to authors of multi-authored articles. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2(196), 1-6. Doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2011.00196
- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)(2014). Recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of scholarly work in medical journals. Retrieved from: <http://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf>
- Resnik, D.B. & Master, Z. Criteria for authorship in bioethics. *American Journal of Bioethics*, 11 (10), 17-21. Doi: 10.1080/15265161.2011.603795