

Authorship in Research Papers

Rocky K. C. Chang

24 October 2012

Based on

- T. Albert and E. Wager, “How to handle authorship disputes: a guide for new researchers,” The COPE Report 2003.
(<http://publicationethics.org/files/2003pdf12.pdf>)
- Policy for Authorship on Scientific and Scholarly Publications
(<http://www.wustl.edu/policies/authorship.html>)

Authorship: the definition

- An author is generally considered to be an individual who has made substantial intellectual contributions to a scientific investigation. All authors should meet the following three criteria:
 - Scholarship: Contribute significantly to the conception, design, execution, and/or analysis and interpretation of data.
 - Authorship: Participate in drafting, reviewing, and/or revising the manuscript for intellectual content.
 - Approval: Approve the manuscript to be published.
- An administrative relationship, acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of a research group alone does not constitute authorship.

Unacceptable Authorship

- Guest (honorary, courtesy, or prestige) authorship is defined as granting authorship out of appreciation or respect for an individual
- Gift authorship is credit, offered from a sense of obligation, tribute, or dependence,
- Ghost authorship is the failure to identify as an author, someone who made substantial contributions to the research or writing of a manuscript that merited authorship, ...

Lead Author

- The lead author
 - assumes overall responsibility for the manuscript, and also often serves as the managerial and corresponding author, as well as providing a significant contribution to the research effort.
 - is generally held to have made the greatest contribution to the research.
- The lead author is responsible for
 - Authorship: Including as co-authors all and only those individuals who meet the authorship criteria set forth in this policy.
 - Approval: Providing the draft of the manuscript to each individual contributing author for review and consent for authorship
 - Integrity: The lead author is responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole, and ensuring that reasonable care
- Authors with equal contributions
(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20933195>)

Order of authorship

- The order of authorship, should be a joint decision of the coauthors.
- Authors should be prepared to explain the order in which authors are listed.
- Some groups list authors alphabetically, sometimes with a note to explain that all authors made equal contributions to the study and the publication.

Acknowledgments

- Individuals who may have made some contribution to a publication, but who do not meet the criteria for authorship, such as staff, editorial assistants, medical writers, or other individuals.

Research Funding

- All authors, in manuscripts submitted for review and publication, must acknowledge/disclose the source(s) of support for the work. Support includes research and educational grants, salary or other support, contracts, gifts, and departmental, institutional and hospital support.

Helpful guides

- Start discussing authorship when you plan your research.
- Decide authorship before you start each article.

The Three Cs

- Character, Competence, and Chemistry

Wisdom from the Bible

- For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is ..., then (Romans 12:3-8)

Wisdom from the Bible

- 我憑著所賜我的恩對你們各人說：不要看自己過於所當看的，要照著神所分給各人信心的大小，看得合乎中道。正如我們一個身子上有好些肢體，肢體也不都是一樣的用處。我們這許多人，在基督裡成為一身，互相聯絡作肢體，也是如此。按我們所得的恩賜，各有不同。或說預言，就當照... (羅馬書 12:3-8)