

Authorship

MSRTP Adopted Guidelines

Presented by:
Shahrzad Bazargan-Hejazi, PhD
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ICMJE

ICMJE = International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

Most journals in the population health sciences require manuscripts to conform to ICMJE's *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*

In MSRTP we have adopted ICMJE criteria for publication and authorship as described in the following slides.

ICMJE Authorship Criteria

Each coauthor must have met **all three** of the following conditions:

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

ICMJE Authorship Criteria

- “Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship.”

Authorship Example #1

- A person who conducts interviews for the project but does not contribute further would not be eligible for authorship.
- An interviewer who also writes a paragraph for the discussion section would meet authorship criteria.

Authorship Example #2

- A hospital laboratory technician who analyzes blood samples of patients included in a clinical study but makes no further contributions would not be eligible for authorship.
- A lab tech who analyzes the samples and writes part of the methods section describing laboratory techniques would be a coauthor.

Authorship Example #3

- A data entry assistant who makes no additional contributions to the project would not be considered an author.
- A data manager who runs statistical tests and creates a table for the manuscript would meet authorship criteria.

Authorship Example #4

- A technical editor who cleans up the grammar and spelling in a manuscript does not earn authorship.
- An editor who raises important questions about the interpretation of the results and the meaning of the work may be eligible for authorship.

Authorship Criteria

- “All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed.”
- No *gift authorships*
- No *ghost authorships*

Authorship Order

A typical justification for authorship order:

- The first author is the person who was the most involved in writing the manuscript.
- The remaining authors are listed in order of contribution, defined in terms of time dedicated to the project as well as intellectual contribution.
 - List authors with equal contributions in alphabetical order
- The senior (supervising) author is listed last, unless s/he prefers to be listed in order of contribution.

Decisions about Authorship

- Publications are an important metric of success in the sciences and academia, and authorship is often the only reward for the time put into a project. As a result, authorship decisions can be very stressful.
- It is helpful to decide *before a contributor does any work on the project* whether that person will be a coauthor and what role s/he will play.
- At the end of the project, there should be no surprises about who is being included or excluded as an author.

Decisions about Authorship

- If someone making a minor contribution will not be a coauthor, make sure that s/he is not asked to write any part of the paper or to provide critical feedback.
- If someone will be a coauthor, make sure that s/he has the opportunity to make an important intellectual contribution to the writing of the paper.
- Any disputes over authorship criteria or the order of authors are usually best referred to the senior author on the paper.