

The collaborative principle of the Rapsodi includes the participation and input from multiple partners into research questions and publications. The Rapsodi authorship policy is based on recommendations from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), who will be imposing their contributorship policies on many of the pieces Rapsodi members wish to publish (See Annex 1).

Principle authorship credit is based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data (i.e. site entered new datasets from at least 30 patients in past year), or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Principle authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.

Principle authors are therefore those who have made substantive intellectual contributions to the publication and are therefore responsible for at least one component of the work, should be able to identify who is responsible for each component, and should be confident in their co-authors' ability and integrity.

Co-authors are those who have substantially contributed to the publication, but may not have responsibility for one section of the work. Co-authors may not meet criteria 2 outlined for authorship above, but would have to meet criteria 1 and 3. Authorship or co-authorship is therefore dependent on approval of the publication within 30 day or 14 day timescale from the final draft being circulated, depending on the type of publication. Failure to respond will result in non-inclusion as an author.

Contributors of data will be recognized as co-authors in the most visible manner allowed for by the relevant publication. It is the Rapsodi policy to include a list of the sites contributing foreground to each publication where the site's data has been used in that publication, irrespective of the amount of data entered. These sites will be represented by their Principle Investigator who will be listed as a co-author. It is the responsibility of the principle author of a publication piece to negotiate the most reasonable position. Where:

1. A journal or other publications will not include a full list of co-authors at the header of the paper, the principle author (last author) is to obtain written confirmation by the journal that their listing of the co-authors as part of the study group guarantees recognition of the co-authors by PubMed and by Thomson Reuters (ISI). This means that authors will be listed at the top of the manuscript; where there is a limit on the number of authors, co-authors will be listed at the bottom of the manuscript
2. A journal or other publications will not include a full list of co-authors at the header of the paper or under a list at the end of the publication under the title 'Co-authors', then this list will be included under the title 'co-authors' under the category 'collaborators'.

Clinical centers contributing data will also be credited in acknowledgements, which ensures that when searched for using pub med that their input will be found. Their PIs will be listed as Co-authors. Co-authors should also note that they are entitled to cite authorship of the relevant publication.

Recommendations from the ICMJE

Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals:

Ethical Considerations in the Conduct and Reporting of Research: Authorship and Contributorship

Byline Authors

An “author” is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study, and biomedical authorship continues to have important academic, social, and financial implications (1). *An author must take responsibility for at least one component of the work, should be able to identify who is responsible for each other component, and should ideally be confident in their co-authors’ ability and integrity.* In the past, readers were rarely provided with information about contributions to studies from persons listed as authors and in Acknowledgments (2). Some journals now request and publish information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in a submitted study, at least for original research. Editors are strongly encouraged to develop and implement a contributorship policy, as well as a policy on identifying who is responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole.

While contributorship and guarantorship policies obviously remove much of the ambiguity surrounding contributions, they leave unresolved the question of the quantity and quality of contribution that qualify for authorship. The ICMJE has recommended the following criteria for authorship; these criteria are still appropriate for journals that distinguish authors from other contributors.

- Authorship credit should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.
- When a large, multicenter group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript (3). These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship/contributorship defined above, and editors will ask these individuals to complete journal-specific author and conflict-of-interest disclosure forms. When submitting a manuscript authored by a group, the corresponding author should clearly indicate the preferred citation and identify all individual authors as well as the group name. Journals generally list other members of the group in the Acknowledgments. The NLM indexes the group name and the names of individuals the group has identified as being directly responsible for the manuscript; it also lists the names of collaborators if they are listed in Acknowledgments.
- Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship.
- All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed.
- Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

Some journals now also request that one or more authors, referred to as “guarantors,” be identified as the persons who take responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole, from inception to published article, and publish that information.

Increasingly, authorship of multicenter trials is attributed to a group. All members of the group who are named as authors should fully meet the above criteria for authorship/contributorship.

The group should jointly make decisions about contributors/authors before submitting the manuscript for publication. The corresponding author/guarantor should be prepared to explain the presence and order of these individuals. It is not the role of editors to make authorship/contributorship decisions or to arbitrate conflicts related to authorship.

Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments

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Groups of persons who have contributed materially to the paper but whose contributions do not justify authorship may be listed under such headings as “clinical investigators” or “participating investigators,” and their function or contribution should be described—for example, “served as scientific advisors,” “critically reviewed the study proposal,” “collected data,” or “provided and cared for study patients.” Because readers may infer their endorsement of the data and conclusions, these persons must give written permission to be acknowledged.