

IV. Authorship Guidelines*

A. Authorship

1. All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed.
2. Authorship credit for original, research-based works (in any medium) may be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; 3) sufficient participation in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; and 4) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, 3, and 4. Other contributions such as provision of a key reagent, or collection of data may also be considered as long as conditions 2, 3 and 4 are met.
3. Authorship credit for reviews or commentaries not based in original research should be based on conditions 2, 3 and 4.
4. Acquisition of funding, collection of data (for example, from a fee-for-service core facility), or general supervision of the research group (e.g. by former or current mentors not directly involved in the conception or execution of the publication), alone, does not justify authorship.
5. Financial and material support should be disclosed.
6. “Ghost-writing,” a practice whereby a commercial entity or its contractor writes an article or manuscript and a scientist is listed as an author, is not permissible. Making minor revisions to an article or manuscript that is ghost-written does not justify authorship.

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

The order of authorship on the byline should be a joint decision of the co-authors. Authors should be prepared to explain the order in which authors are listed.

B. Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section, with written permission where consistent with journal guidelines.

Because readers may infer their endorsement of the data and conclusions, all persons must give permission to be acknowledged.

* This document was based in large part on requirements written by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Complete text of the ICMJE requirements may be found at <http://www.icmje.org/>.

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