

Preparing to write*

(Even before writing first draft)

Step I : Decide on authorship.

Step II : Know the manuscript requirements of the journal.

Step III : Assemble data, documentary evidence, references.

* How to write and publish papers in Medical Sciences
by Edward J. Huth 1982, iSi Press

Ethics of authorship of scientific papers

Ganatra RD. Issues in Medical Ethics 1996;4:78-80

"I find that you have published a paper on liver scanning where patients were drawn from my ward.

'Sir, I have put the name of your registrar as a co author of the paper'

'But they were my patients'

I was brash and bold then , more ever, I did not expect from that consultant as I was not an employee of the referring hospital.

'Sir, you have not bothered to look at the reports that I have been sending periodically. All of us know that they become your patients by the fortuitous circumstance of their reporting to the hospital on Monday'

'You will not get any of my patients for your nuclear medicine procedures'

'I do not wish to see you my ward in future'

He was so piqued by this incident that he talked to my chief who castigated me for my insouciant behavior"

Ethics of authorship of scientific papers

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"He said, 'In this paper where you described experiments on five rabbits, you have nine authors.'

'Yes sir, this is because each of them helped me in the conduct of my experiments.'

'What is the animal house attendant doing on your scientific paper? The fellow cannot even read English.'

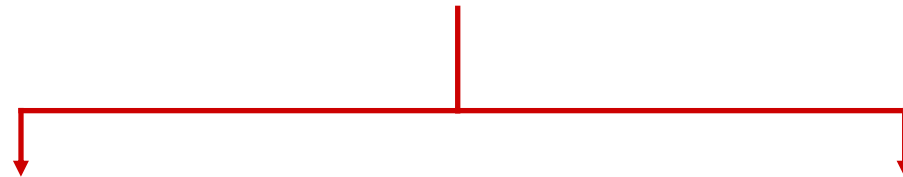
'Sir, He got the rabbits for me and helped me in the animal experiments'.

'But that is his job. And why you put my name as a co-author with the animal house attendant?'

'You allowed me to carry out this research project.'"

Conflict of interest amongst authors

- ◆ Collaborative work is a rule rather than exception in medical research.
- ◆ Conflict occurs when 'Balance of Interests' is disturbed.



Legitimate Authorship

- ◆ Individual author gets the deserving credit

Illegitimate Authorship

- ◆ Obtain authorship without deserving credit
- ◆ Authorship - Gifted
Forced upon

“Physicians do it in hundreds, scientists in groups, fiction writers lonely”

Richard Horton - Lancet 1996; 347:780

Number of articles published per issue of JAPI

	1987 Mean \pm SD	1997 Mean \pm SD
Original articles	4.2 \pm 0.98 (51)	7.36 \pm 1.4 (81)
Case reports	5.2 \pm 2.0 (57)	3.60 \pm 1.3 (40)

Parenthesis - Number of authors

t - test : OA P < 0.0005
 CR P < 0.025

Number of authors per article published in JAPI

	1987 Mean \pm SD	1997 Mean \pm SD
Original articles	4.48 \pm 1.06 (207)	4.0 \pm 0.70 (291)
Case reports	3.88 \pm 1.09 (220)	3.9 \pm 0.94 (149)

Parenthesis - Number of authors

P Value : OA - NS

CR - NS

Non inclusion of those deserving to be authors

Single Author

- ◆ Fetal haemoglobin as prognostic indication in sickle cell anemia - JAPI 1988;36:249-50
- ◆ Amlodipine- A new calcium channel antagonist in stable exertional angina - JAPI 1997;45: 16-19

Authorship trends in Indian Journal of Path and Microbiol.: going the global way?

Kakkar N - J. Clin. Path. 2004;57:670

		1975	2002
OA N=1268 (68.1%)	Mean number of authors for each articles	1.9 (SD 1.4)	3.9 (SD 1.2)
	Single author	5% articles	None
	5 or more authors	5%	26.1%
CR N=593 (31.9%)	Mean number of authors for each articles	2.6 (SD 1.5)	4.2 (1.3)
	Single author	40%	None
	5 or more authors	None	40%

What constitutes authorship?

- ◆ Journal editors do not always agree among themselves.
- ◆ Many editors subscribe to the guide lines from International committee of Medical journal editors (ICMJE), (also known as the Vancouver group).
Latest version issued in November 2003

ICMJE recommendations (Nov. 2003)

- ◆ Authorship credit should be based upon
 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; and
 3. Final approval of the version to be published.
- ◆ Authors should meet conditions 1, 2 and 3.
- ◆ Exclusion : Acquisition of funding, collection of data, general supervision of the research group alone

ICMJE recommendations (Nov. 2003) (contd.)

- ◆ All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed.
- ◆ Each author to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.
- ◆ In large, multicentre group individuals should identify those (3) who accept direct responsibility. These should fully meet the criteria for authorship. The group should clearly indicate preferred citation and should identify all individual authors as well as the group name.

ICMJE recommendations (Nov. 2003) (contd.)

II.A.1. -- **Byline Authors**

II.A.2. -- **Contributors**

- Contributors who do not meet criteria of authorship should be listed in acknowledgement section. e.g. those providing technical help, writing assistance or departmental chief who provided only a general support.
- Editors are strongly encouraged to develop and implement a contributor ship policy.
- ◆ **Guarantors:** One or more authors who take responsibility for the integrity all the work as a whole, from inception to publication and publish that information.

The vexed question of authorship: views of researchers in a British Medical faculty

Bhopal R, Rankin J, Mc Coll E et al BMJ 1997;314:1009-12

Key Messages

- ✉ View of sixty six medical researchers assessed for authorship and gift authorship.
- ✉ 76% supported ICMJE criteria but only few knew and used them.
- ✉ Gift authorship was the commonest problem. Promoted by pressure to publish, motivate research teams, maintain working relationship.
- ✉ Future criteria agreed by researchers and editors should give weight to practical contributions to research.
- ✉ Authorship had been deserved but not awarded (49%).

Authorship criteria and disclosure of contributions: comparison of 3 general medical Journal with different author contribution forms

Bates T; Anic A; Marusic M; Marusic A - JAMA 2004 Jul 7; 292: 86-8

- ◆ Determined number of named authors who did not meet ICMJE criteria for authorship according to their published contribution in following Journals with different contribution disclosure practices.
 - **Annals of Internal Medicine (n=72)**
Authors to choose from a list of coded contribution
 - **BMJ (n=107)**
Asked authors to described contribution in their own words
 - **JAMA (n=81)**
Uses structured check list with instruction on contribution that qualify ICMJE authorship

Authorship criteria and disclosure of contributions: comparison of 3 general medical Journal with different author contribution forms (contd.)

Bates T; Anic A; Marusic M; Marusic A - JAMA 2004 Jul 7; 292: 86-8

Results

- ◆ Number of honorary authors

Annals	:	121 / 562 (21.5%)
BMJ	:	46 / 482 (9.5%)
JAMA	:	3 / 641 (0.51%)
- ◆ Number of articles with honorary authors

Annals	:	60%
BMJ	:	21%
JAMA	:	4%

Conclusion

- ◆ Different contributor ship / authorship policies & procedures should be explored as possible explanation for differences in contribution disclosed by authors.

Important issues in authorship

- ◆ Definition of an author
- ◆ First and last author
- ◆ Order of authors
- ◆ Number of Authors
- ◆ Group authorship
- ◆ Acknowledgement
- ◆ Appeals
- ◆ Gift authorship
- ◆ Ghost author
- ◆ Contributors
- ◆ Guarantor
- ◆ Corresponding author
- ◆ Handling authorship disputes

Authorship Problems

- ◆ Basically occur due to gap between editors' criteria for authorship and researchers' practice.
- ◆ How to qualify and quantify the credit ?
- ◆ Questions are not just about defining credit but also disclosure and transparency.
- ◆ Juniors complain they have been denied or under represented (almost accuse plagiarism).
- ◆ Sometimes authorial credit is extended to widely (gift or honorary authorship).

Authorship problems - How to handle them?

Authorship Disputes

- ◆ Problem those do not contravene with ICMJE guidelines
- ◆ Largely question of interpretations
- ◆ Whether some ones contribution was substantial or not?
- ◆ To be solved by the authors themselves with help of their immediate superiors or departmental chief or dean
- ◆ Negotiate with evidence, ICMJE statement, Instruction to authors etc

Authorship Misconduct

Authorship Disputes - How to handle them ? (contd.)

“The two authors both claim to have thought up the idea of these guidelines. TA arranged the first meeting. EW wrote the first draft. TA and EW then made a substantial contributions to subsequent drafts. TA organized focus group of researchers at the University of Surrey to receive feed back. In the end TA and EW tossed the coin to determine who should be listed first.”

How to handle Authorship disputes: a guide for new researchers - Tim Albert & Elizabeth Wager

www.publicationethics.org.uk.2001/cope2001/pages2001/publications/phtml

Authorship problems - How to handle them ?

Preventing the Problem

- Encourage a culture of ethical authorship.
- Encourage authors (both young and old) to read at least one book on publication ethics.
- A written departmental or institutional policy on authorship.
- Discuss authorship issue at the start of the project. Have a face to face meeting with team members to know their views.
- Decide author ship before start of each article.
- Confirm the decision taken in writing who will be doing what and by when.

How to handle Authorship disputes: a guide for new researchers Tim Albert & Elizabeth Wager

www.publicationethics.org.uk.2001/cope2001/pages2001/publications/phtml

Authorship problems - How to handle them?

Authorship Misconduct

- ◆ Those problems which contravene ICMJE
- ◆ Who should handle them ?
 - Editor
 - Department / Institution
 - Scientific bodies "Inquiry Board"
 - Tough sanctions against dishonesty