

Topic for Discussion: Authorship

Cross-Cutting Themes: Collaboration, Scientific responsibility, Mentor-mentee relationships

Topic Overview – What’s at stake?

- Peer-reviewed publications are a key metric of academic success and advancement.
- Authorship order signals contribution and holds weight when determining readiness for jobs, career development awards, grants, promotions.
- Authorship also signals responsibility and accountability for content. Misrepresenting authorship can end up distorting the scientific literature on which our fields depend.
- Being generous with authorship can demonstrate collaboration; advance team science

Getting the Discussion Started

- In what ways have changing collaborative practices in biomedical research complicated the assignment of scientific credit? What strategies have been suggested to address such concerns?
- In your experience, how have differing expectations among researchers about authorship roles and responsibilities led to conflicts or challenges to research integrity?
- What does your research mentor think about the rights and responsibilities of scientific authorship? Have you ever tried to have that conversation? Why or why not?

Use the 4 R’s to Think Through a Particular Case or Issue

<u>Process for Thinking through Difficult Ethical Dilemmas</u>	
Recognition:	<i>What are the issues being raised? What is the underlying ethical concern? How does this issue impact me?</i>
Reasoning:	<i>What values are at stake? Are there competing points of view? What are the potential benefits and harms of different actions? Are there any rules or guidelines that can help?</i>
Responsibility:	<i>What are my responsibilities? Do others have responsibilities also?</i>
Response:	<i>What should I do – and why?</i>

“Back pocket” Cases

- You are first author of an abstract that reflects your independent ideas and methods development, with advising from one senior faculty member. What happens when a second senior faculty member in your research group says he must also be included as author (he had no intellectual, data, funding, or methods contribution to the paper)?
- You are asked to take over another partially drafted manuscript for a former graduate student who has left the lab. How do you discuss authorship with the PI?

Assigned Reading

Brand, A, Allen, L, Altman, M, Hlava, M, & Scott, J. (2015) Beyond authorship: attribution, contribution, collaboration, and credit. *Learned Publishing*, 28: 151–155.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1087/20150211>

Additional Resources

- Bennett, LM, Gadlin, H, & Marchand, C. (2018) Credit and Sharing (Chapter 8), *Collaboration and team science: a field guide*, 2nd edn, pp. 77-89. <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crs/research-initiatives/team-science-field-guide>
- International Committee of Journal Medical Editors (ICJME) authorship criteria. <http://www.icjme.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>