



Surgical Research Unit

Authorship in scientific Publications

There is a rise in number of publications in medical science. Research requires number of people with different qualities to achieve a desirable result. Multi-author papers have become a norm in recent publications. Disputes arise from sequence of name listed in paper, listing of non author's name, as well as emergence of ghost writers. People are raising voices against this bias.

Criteria to be an author:

- १- Substantial contributions to the concept, design, analysis of data.
- २- Drafting or revising critical intellectual content.
- ३- Final approval of the work to be published.
- ४- Accountable for accuracy, or integrity of work.

Anyone who meets these four criteria can be called as Author. Managerial position in the institution is not sufficient to justify to be included in as author. Those who do not meet these criteria should be considered in acknowledgement. They can be called as Clinical investigator, participating investigator, scientific advisor or critically reviewed the study proposal.

Order of author's name:

The most accepted approach is SDC (Sequence determines credit.) Names are written in the descending order of their contribution , means first author has greatest weight and the last author the least. There are other approaches like EC (equal contribution) approach where names are listed in alphabetical order, or FLAE (first –last author emphasis) or PCI (Percent contribution indicated) where each author is expressed in percentage terms.

Corresponding Author:

One who takes primary responsibility for communication with Journal for submission, peer review, and whole publication process including ethical committee 's approval, clinical trial registration, conflicts of interest disclosure. He should be available to respond to Journal's query.

Conflicts of interests:

These are financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership or options, honoraria, patents, and paid expert testimony. Conflict arising from personal rivalries, academic competition and intellectual belief should be avoided.

Medical writers:

People called to prepare scientific texts and graphics, or to put findings into a form suitable for publication, are to be listed as authors if, they influence the weight attached to the findings and the impact of the publication. If they are only responsible for purely linguistic and editing the text then they should not to be listed as authors.

Ghostwriter:

A ghostwriter, commissioned to write on another persons 's behalf, generally works for a fee . Ghostwriting is not compatible with the principles of scientific integrity.

Honorary authorship (gift authorship / guest authorship):

It is a violation of scientific integrity to grant authorship to a person who has not made a sufficiently substantial scientific contribution to a publication.

References :

1- Council of Science Editors 2000, Greenland/Fontana Rosa. 2012

2-“Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals” (ICMJE Recommendations), 2013.

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