

 <p>UNIVERSITY OF Cincinnati</p> <p>Category: CoM-Research</p> <p>Applicable for: All CoM faculty CoM Departments Graduate Education All research units</p>	<p>COLLEGE OF MEDICINE Operating Procedure/Guideline</p> <p>Authorship Guidelines for Scientific and Scholarly Publications</p> <p>Effective Date: 03/05/2018</p> <p>Prior Effective Date: N/A</p>	<p>Document Owner: CoM Sr. Associate Dean for Research</p> <p>Responsible Office(s): CoM Dean</p>
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Background

Research at the College of Medicine (CoM) is conducted in several settings, including laboratories, hospitals, clinics, and offices which involve faculty, clinicians, graduate students and other trainees, professionals, affiliated faculty, technicians, students and staff. Publication of this research is often the end point of these studies. Publications are often used as a metric of research productivity for a variety of downstream applications including promotions, graduate degrees, and status in a specific discipline. Authorship on research publications implies recognition of efforts and accountability for the methods, data and outcomes. However, the expectations of authorship vary considerably across disciplines, departments, and even among laboratories in the same discipline or department.

The Office of Research at the College has encouraged the use of standards set forth by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org/>), but adoption of these guidelines has not been consistent across the College and many faculty and students are unaware of these standards. Collaboration and teamwork is a pillar of the College and a lack of transparency of authorship guidelines can lead to a number of problems associated with the integrity of the conduct of research, including inappropriate authorships, such as ghost authorship where contributors to the efforts are not listed; honorific authorship which adds individuals who have not substantially contributed to the content; orphan authorship where significant contributors are left off the publication; or forged authorship in which an author who had no part in the work is added without consent.

Authorship implies accountability. As the complexity of research methods has expanded, the number of authors who have contributed to the work has amplified, and those expecting credit and acknowledgement of their participation, e.g. whole genome sequencing and annotation, has also risen. It is often unclear to what extent each author is responsible for the content of the parsed research efforts and the totality of the publication.

Rationale

Simply stated, when trust in scientific research is diminished, the scientific enterprise is in peril. This

can translate into significant academic, social and financial implications. Publications can be retracted, grants based on fraudulent data are threatened, and the community stakeholders are left to question the importance of funding research.

To ensure that all CoM investigators, their trainees, and others engaged in research maintain the integrity of our common enterprise, the following authorship standards are the policy of the College of Medicine, its affiliated faculty and all who conduct research; these standards have been adopted per the recommendations of McNutt MK, et al. www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1715374115, which were adapted from the ICMJE guidelines.

Authorship guidelines.

- Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the concept or design of the work;
- Or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data;
- Or the creation of new software used in the work;
- AND to have approved the submitted version (and any substantially modified version that involves the author’s own contributions to the study);
- AND to have agreed both to be personally accountable for the author’s own contributions
- AND to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are appropriately investigated, resolved, and the resolution documented in the literature.
- It is required that each author registers for an ORCID identifier (<https://orcid.org/>) to reliably link author records to publications, to capture author contributions in the journal’s metadata, and to track and retrieve and individual’s authorship contributions across publications and across time.

It will be the responsibility of each academic unit to inform all those engaged in scholarly and research activities to be informed of the guidelines and this policy, and to put them into practice.

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