Authorship roles and responsibilities fact sheet

Who should be listed as an author?

An author is someone who provides the following:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafts or revised the work critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Provides final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agrees to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved."[1]

Roles and Responsibilities

- As an author, you are responsible for the publication's content and ensuring that the explanation of your contributions matches your work when collaborating on the publication.
- You are not only accountable for the work you did during the project, but you should also know how the other authors contributed to the work.
- You must understand everyone's roles and contributions from the authorship list.

See below the additional responsibilities for the authors in the following roles:

First or lead author: the person who contributed intellectually the most to work based on the abovementioned criteria. The first author is generally someone who has conducted the main experiments and has written the publication's first draft.

Corresponding author: ensures that the final publication submitted to the journal represents the conducted work. The corresponding author should keep records of raw data and analysis supporting publication in case of questions. Overall, being the senior member of the team does not qualify someone as the corresponding author; they should also qualify as an author per the above-mentioned criteria.

Who should not be listed as an author?

- Someone who only provided an idea or supported the project financially. Those contributions could be better recognized in the acknowledgment section.
- Other examples that, by themselves, are not contributions for authorship include general supervision of a research group or general administrative support; and writing assistance, technical editing, literature searches, language editing, and proofreading. (1)

1] https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html

Prevent Authorship Disputes

Prevent issues by discussing early and making clear what should be the authorship order and the expected contributions of authors to remain in those positions.

Authorship concerns?

If you have questions about your publication authorship order, discuss it with your collaborators first. If an agreement cannot be reached, discuss it with your Associate Dean for Research or our office at oric@emory.edu.

Resources

- **ICMJE: Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors**
- **Emory Policy 7.30**- **Policy on Authorship Guidelines and Dispute**
- **Resolution**

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