

Authorship Guidelines

Authorship

Biostatisticians are expected to be co-authors on manuscripts and abstracts if they meet the guidelines outlined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines (<http://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf>). The NIH Sourcebook also has a useful visual guide to authorship (https://oir.nih.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/sourcebook/documents/ethical_conduct/guidelines-authorship_contributions.pdf)

Authorship should be based on scientific contribution.

ICMJE Guidelines state that authors must meet either of the following criteria should have an opportunity for authorship:

- 1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work
- 2) Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work

Then the following must also be fulfilled but those that meet criteria above should be given the ability to complete the criteria below:

- 1) Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- 2) Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- 3) Agreement 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.

Authorship Order

Researchers and biostatisticians should discuss and agree upon authorship criteria and author order in the early stages of the collaboration/project to avoid any misunderstanding. Authorship agreements should be in writing and discussed as the project evolves (<https://www.nature.com/articles/nj7417-591a.pdf>). The authorship order of the biostatistician should depend on the contributions made. If the biostatistician was the co-lead of the overall clinical study design, data collection, analysis, study conduct and manuscript preparation, then it is typical to list the biostatistician immediately following the principal investigators. However, biostatisticians may not assume all of these roles and middle authorship is appropriate.

Payment does not impact authorship or authorship order. Authorship is determined based on scientific contributions as outline by the ICMJE Guidelines and the publication Criteria for authorship for statisticians in medical papers by Parker and Berman.

Students/trainees who meet authorship criteria should be listed as co-authors and not in the acknowledgements.

References

Parker RA, Berman NG. Criteria for authorship for statisticians in medical papers. *Statistics in Medicine*. 1998; 17: 2289-2299.

Dance A. Who's on first? *Nature*. 2012; 489: 591-593.

Researchers and biostatisticians should discuss and agree upon authorship criteria and author order in the early stages of the project to avoid any misunderstanding.

Revised and Approved by SCC Biostatistics and Research Design Shared Resource 3/3/2022