



## UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

### **Guidelines for authorship of scientific publications**

Co-operation is common and often essential in national- or international research groups. Varying habits and conventions concerning co-authorship and 'order of authors' exist, but being credited as an author in publications remains an important scientific merit. To avoid conflicts when publishing scientific material from research co-operations, it should be discussed early in the research process how author contributions will be documented in the publication, during local, national as well as international cooperations. It is also desirable that an engaging discussion of these matters is carried out inside the research environments in the Medical faculty, (Vetenskapsrådet 2017: ALLEA, 2017, ICMJE, 2019) Having ongoing discussions on these issues will ease the situation whenever researchers needs to address and argue issues of authorship..

The ethics committee of the Medical Faculty, Umeå University, has worked out the following recommendations in 2020. The revisions are based on the previous guidelines from 2016 and also on 'Recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of scholarly work in medical journals' (ICMJE, 2019), the latest version of what is often referred to as 'the Vancouver rules'. The report 'Good research practice' from the Swedish Research Council (2017) was also considered. These guidelines should be considered in such discussions.

Authorship should only be based on scientific contributions to the publication.

#### **Authorship credit should be based on:**

1. Substantial contributions to conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. 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.

Authors should meet all the conditions 1-4.

A person who fulfils the qualifications 1-4 *shall* be identified as author.

All individuals who meet the first criterion should have the opportunity to participate in the review, drafting, and final approval of the manuscript.

Co-authorship should, if possible, be agreed upon when planning the publication of the research project. Those who fulfil the criterion 1-4 above should be identified as authors and should be able to declare what contribution they have made and declare any conflict of interest. All co-authors should agree to the final version of the manuscript and thereby accept their responsibility of the publication. Each of the authors should take a certain responsibility for certain parts of the manuscript. In addition to being accountable for the parts of the work he or she has done, an author should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for all other parts of the work. In addition, all authors should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors, see 4. above ).

#### **The following does not qualify a person to authorship:**



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- solely suppling financial support or laboratory space.
- solely fulfilling criterion 1 above, e.g. solely contributing in data collection
- contributing with routine technical assistance
- giving general supervision to the research team

Each author should, to a sufficient degree, have taken part in the production of the article and have sufficient knowledge to be able to take responsibility for all parts of the content and conclusions. Persons who have taken some part in the process but not sufficiently to be included as co-authors ought to be mentioned in the 'acknowledgement' or be identified as 'clinical/participating investigator' or 'scientific advisor'. All persons mentioned in the acknowledgements should give permission to this in writing. Journal editors may require such permission.

### **Order of authors:**

*First author* in the list of authors should be awarded to the person who has put in the major part of the effort in the conduction of the study/manuscript/publication. *The second author's name* should refer to the person who has contributed the next most. *The last author's name will point out the senior/or advanced researcher* who has been the supervisor or scientific guarantor of the research.

Some publications practice publishing the authors name in alphabetical orders, with the exception of the first or second author's name.

### **References:**

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (2019) Uniform recommendations for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals: writing and editing for biomedical publication. Website: <http://www.icmje.org/index.html>.

Vetenskapsrådet, God Forskningssed (2017).

<https://www.vr.se/sokresultat.html?query=Vetenskapsr%C3%A5det+%282017%29#query/God%20Forskningssed>