



QHRC Authorship Guidelines

“Authorship cannot be conferred; it may be undertaken by one who will shoulder the responsibility that goes with it. To a responsible writer, an article with his(her) name on it, is the highest product of his(her) mind and art, his(her) property...founded in his(her) character and evidence of it...The reader of a report issued by two or more authors has a right to assume that each author has some authoritative knowledge of the subject, that each contributed to the investigation, and that each labored on the report to the extent of weighing every word and quantity in it.”¹

This document presents the authorship guidelines for research conducted under the auspices of QHRC. It is consistent with the expectations for responsible conduct of research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and with most major medical journals and societies, including JAMA and the American College of Surgeons.

Authorship credit on any publishable manuscript at QHRC or for a QHRC client, whether in abstract, article, report, or book form, assumes that each author has contributed in a substantial way to the conceptualization, design, analysis, or interpretation of the results. According to the International Committee on Medical Journal Ethics (ICMJE), whose guidelines for responsible authorship represent the current state of the art in publication ethics, *“each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content”* and *“one or more authors should take responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole, from inception to published article.”²*

¹ Hewitt, R.M. (1957). *The Physician-Writer's Book; Tricks of the trade of medical writing*. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, p. 312

² International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. Updated May 2000. Available at: <http://icmje.org>. Accessed May 6, 2004.

Specifically, the following 3 conditions* for authorship shall be met by each potential author:³

1. Substantial contributions to conceptualization and design of the study, or acquisition of the data, or analysis **and** interpretation of the data;
2. Substantial contributions to the writing of the manuscript or critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content; and,
3. Substantial contributions to the approval of the final version to be published.

**All 3 conditions must be met in order to recommend authorship on a given manuscript.*

Authorship credit shall not be given for strictly routine contributions to the research effort that do not involve responsibility for the content and integrity of the manuscript.

Specifically, individuals shall not be given authorship credit solely for:

1. Collection of the data
2. Statistical analysis of the data
3. Data input
4. Supervision of the research group
5. Providing funding
6. Consulting for a fee or reimbursement
7. Routine technical work (e.g., transcription, coding, scoring)
8. Proofreading or editing
9. Contributing to the solution of narrowly defined problems that are not related to the larger project/manuscript objectives

Authorship shall be established as early as possible in the writing process. It shall be the responsibility of the first author (or in the case of a student or intern, the senior researcher) to ensure that authorship relationships have been established and agreed upon based upon the relative contribution of each member of the team to the conceptualization of the manuscript.

³ *ibid*