

Policy on Authorship

Since the publication and dissemination of research and other scholarly and creative activity is a fundamental academic responsibility, appropriate recognition of authorship is a significant concern to the University community. Indiana University cannot define rules for authorship for all forms of publication, but the following guidelines are widely accepted:

- Authorship credit is generally based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet two or more of these conditions.
- Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, may not justify authorship unless the team agrees.
- All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed.
- Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.
- When a large, multi-center group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript. These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship defined above.

(Modified from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication," Updated February 2006, <http://www.icmje.org/index.html>.)

The order in which authors are listed should be jointly decided by all co-authors in accordance with accepted practices in each discipline, which may include assessment of the relative contribution of each author. The best way to avoid disputes is to discuss this issue at an early stage of collaboration and to review those understandings as the project develops.

When co-authors cannot resolve disagreements about authorship themselves, department chairs and center directors should intervene to arbitrate. If no resolution is found, the matter should be forwarded to the dean(s) of the appropriate school(s) for arbitration. Students may seek advice from the Student Advocates Office. If a final agreement cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the Vice Provost for Research for a final decision.