PUBLICATION AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORSHIP

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the participants are able to:

- Define authorship
- List the roles and responsibility of an author
- Resolve issues pertaining authorship and acknowledgements

RESEARCH HAS NO VALUE IF IT IS NOT MADE PUBLIC

- Results are shared with colleagues so they can be tested, used to advance knowledge, and put to work.
- They are shared with the public and policymakers so that they can be used to make decisions about funding and practical application.
Is determination of authorship an important matter? Why?

- Credits researchers who have contributed to the work
- Establishes who accepts responsibility for:
  - Answering questions about the study

In academic setting, publishing helps scientists to:
- win grants
- get promotion, renewal of tenure and higher salaries
- obtain professional prestige and fame
- Satisfy the pre-requisite to thesis submission

Watch this video clip.....

This video clip was produced by Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).

Title:
- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Part 4 - Situation 3 - Authorship.wmv
Group Activity 1

Thinking Aloud!!!

What were the authorship issues raised in the video?

Honorary Authorship

- The practice of listing undeserving authors on publications
- It is widely condemned and in the extreme considered by some to constitute a form of research misconduct

Salami Publication

- Sometimes called bologna or trivial publication
- It is the practice of dividing one significant piece of research into a number of small experiments (least publishable units or LPUs)
- To increase the number of publications
- This practice may distort the value of the work by increasing the number of studies that appear to support it
Group Activity 2

Discuss with your group members about the problems or challenges you have encountered with regards to authorship.

List the problems and present it to the class.

(20 min)

Group Activity 3 (role play)

Read case study 2 carefully and discuss the issues raised below.

Dr. Sanjay’s department chair had requested that the paper to come out under her (corresponding author) and his post-doc and students had different opinions on who should be the first author.

Each group will be assigned a role as Dr. Sanjay, department chair, post-doc fellow and grad student. Each group will try to defend and justify to Dr. Sanjay why they should be granted the corresponding/first author of the paper. Dr. Sanjay needs to solve the issue.

(30 min)

Group Activity 4

Group discussion.

What determine authorship and order of authorship?

What does not count for authorship?

What are the roles and responsibilities of corresponding author?

(10 min)
Contribution of an author

- Authorship is generally limited to individuals who make significant contributions to the work that is reported. This includes anyone who:
  - was intimately involved in the conception and design of the research,
  - assumed responsibility for data collection and interpretation,
  - participated in drafting the publication, and
  - approved the final version of the publication.

Importance of authorship

- Authors are usually listed in their order of importance, with the designation first or last author carrying special weight
- Practices may vary by discipline
- No clear rules for determining who should be listed as first author or the order in which other authors should be listed.
The ICMJE Requirements simply note that:

“The order of authorship on the byline should be a joint decision of the coauthors. Authors should be prepared to explain the order in which authors are listed.”

The responsibility of a corresponding author

1. Deciding who else to be listed as coauthors.
2. Notifying all coauthors of this decision and for facilitating discussion and decision making about the order of the coauthors
3. Deciding names to be listed in the acknowledgement section
4. Assuming responsibility for the validity of the entire work.
5. Facilitating communication among coauthors during preparation of manuscript.

Corresponding Author

- Many journals now require one author, called the corresponding or primary author, to assume responsibility for all aspects of a publication, including:
  - the accuracy of the data,
  - the names listed as authors (all deserve authorship and no one has been neglected),
  - approval of the final draft by all authors, and
  - handling all correspondence and responding to inquiries.
6. Describing the contribution of all coauthors to the work.
7. Ensuring that the logistics of manuscript submission are properly followed.
8. Submitting the manuscript for publication.
9. Coordinating and overseeing corrections/amendments should the paper need to be revised.
10. Honoring request to share materials from research once published.

What does not count for authorship?
- Merely providing funding
- Having status of group or unit leader but not contributing to the study
- Providing lab space and the use of instrumentation
- Doing routine technical work
- Editing manuscript

What have we learnt?
- What determine authorship.
- Roles and responsibilities of authors and corresponding authors.
- Possible ways to resolve authorship issues.