

# Authorship and Acknowledgements

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## Authors

- Why be an author
- Who should be an author
- Who should not be an author
- Positions on the byline
- Acknowledgements

## Why be an author?

- It is obligatory to report your results
- Benefit mankind
- Announce your existence
- Academic progress
- Monetary gain

## The commandment

“Thou shalt not allow thy name to appear as a co-author unless thou hast some authoritative knowledge of the subject concerned, hast participated in the underlying investigation, and hast labored on the report to the extent of weighing every word and quantity therein”

*Hewitt RM. Exposition as applied to medicine: a glance at the ethics of it. JAMA. 1954;156(5):477-479.*

## ICMJE

*“An author must take responsibility for at least one component of the work, should be able to identify who is responsible for each other component, and should ideally be confident in their co-authors’ ability and integrity”*

[http://www.icmje.org/ethical\\_1author.html](http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html)

## ICMJE

Each author must fulfill all 3 criteria:

- 1) Substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data
- 2) Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content
- 3) Final approval of the version to be published

[http://www.icmje.org/ethical\\_1author.html](http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html)

## JAMA

**1. Authorship Responsibility, Criteria, and Contributions.** Each author should meet all criteria below (A, B, C, and D) and should indicate general and specific contributions by reading criteria A, B, C, and D and checking the appropriate boxes.

A. I certify that

- the manuscript represents original and valid work and that neither this manuscript nor one with substantially similar content under my authorship has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere, except as described in an attachment, and copies of closely related manuscripts are provided; and
- if requested, I will provide the data or will cooperate fully in obtaining and providing the data on which the manuscript is based for examination by the editors or their assignees; and
- for papers with more than 1 author, I agree to allow the corresponding author to serve as the primary correspondent with the editorial office, to review the edited typescript and proof, and to make decisions regarding release of information in the manuscript to the media, federal agencies, or both; or, if I am the only author, I will be the corresponding author and agree to serve in the roles described above.

B. I have given final approval of the submitted manuscript.

C. I have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for (check 1 of 2 below)

- part of the content.
- the whole content.

D. To qualify for authorship, you must check at least 1 box for each of the 3 categories of contributions listed below.

I have made substantial contributions to the intellectual content of the paper as described below.

1. (check at least 1 of the 3 below)

- conception and design
- acquisition of data
- analysis and interpretation of data

2. (check at least 1 of 2 below)

- drafting of the manuscript
- critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content

3. (check at least 1 below)

- statistical analysis
- obtaining funding
- administrative, technical, or material support
- supervision
- no additional contributions
- other (specify)

## Positions

Relevance of first versus last author  
(perception among authors in major journals)

- **First:** 7 times more likely to:
  - Have done most of the work
  - Manuscript writing
- **Last:** 7 times more likely to:
  - Minor or no contribution
  - Provide funding/senior position

Zbar, *AM J Med Sci*, 2010

## Not authors

- Acquisition of funding
- Collection of data
- General supervision

These should be named in the acknowledgements

NLM may at times index these names

## Ghosts and guests

All authors must fulfill authorship criteria:  
If not: Guests

All who fulfill this criteria must be authors:  
If Not: Ghosts

Why is it done?

Why is this an issue?

## Ghosts and guests

- Trust
- Responsibility for content
- Creates non-expert experts
- Names sell papers
- Major pecuniary gains
  - Monetary
  - Pharma
  - Academic

## The Ghost

### The Shadow Scholar

"You've never heard of me, but there's a good chance that you've read some of my work. I'm a hired gun, a doctor of everything, an academic mercenary. My customers are your students."

"In the past year, I've written roughly 5,000 pages of scholarly literature...but you won't find my name on a single paper."

<http://chronicle.com/article/article-content/125329/>

## Acknowledgements

- Purely technical help
- Writing assistance
- Supervisor
- Assistance with study design
- Data collection/ data analysis
- Manuscript preparation
- Language editing
- Financial and material support

## Contributors

- More detailed description
- Specific contribution from each author
- Contribution of non-authors included
- May or may not be published
- Published in the acknowledgement section

## Bottom-line

- Follow at least the ICMJE guidelines
- Consider authorship before beginning the study
- Get written approval from all authors before submission
- Disclosure

## Case

- 'A' is Head of a clinical department
- 'B' is his new PG student
- 'C' is Head of a laboratory
- 'D' is her new PhD student
  
- A asks B to think of a thesis
- B decides that he wants to see if levels of a serum marker are raised in a particular condition

## Case

- A speaks to C, both discuss the protocol and C gets D to work on the project
- B writes the protocol
- A gets the IRB and funding approval
- B recruits patients, collects and analyzes data and writes the paper
- D does the laboratory tests

Who are the authors?

### Fit the criteria:

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

### Fit the criteria: A

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

### Fit the criteria: A

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

### Fit the criteria: A

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

### Fit the criteria: B

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

### Fit the criteria: B

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

## Fit the criteria: B

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

## Fit the criteria: C

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

## Fit the criteria: C

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

## Fit the criteria: C

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

## Fit the criteria: D

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

## Fit the criteria: D

- 1:
  - 1. Contribution to concept or design
  - 2. Data acquisition
  - 3. Data interpretation
- 2:
  - 1. Drafting of manuscript
  - 2. Revision or critical input
- 3:
  - 1. Approval of final version

## Fit the criteria: D

1:

1. Contribution to concept or design
2. Data acquisition
3. Data interpretation

2:

1. Drafting of manuscript
2. Revision or critical input

3:

1. Approval of final version

What if they do not do this?

Author: Only A  
Acknowledgements: B, C & D

Thank you