

Authorship

Determining the authorship of an article or presentation is not necessarily an easy task. Authorship should be reserved for those who have primary responsibility for the work (APA, 2001). According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, 2003), Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, “authorship credit should be based only on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published.” All three conditions must be met to be an author. They note that acquisition of funding, collecting all the data, or research supervision does not justify authorship. However, Stern (2000) noted that the ICMJE’s authorship criteria has a poor record of adherence and therefore questions its adoption for the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Stern (2000) in “Authorship Criteria: Opening a Dialogue” provides an excellent overview of the issues involved in authorship. The Rehabilitation Sciences Doctoral Program faculty has decided it should be required reading and has accepted its recommendations as the basic foundation for standards of publication within the program.

All students and faculty should discuss issues regarding possible authorship at the very start of any project. This is especially critical for work done in apprenticeships or as a graduate assistant. While the student might have collected all the data, that act alone, according to the ICMJE’s criteria, would not warrant authorship. Therefore, students and faculty should determine authorship at the beginning of a project to avoid any conflicts regarding accountability. Authorship can always be reevaluated if roles and responsibilities change over the course of the project.

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed., pp. 350-351). Washington, DC: Author.

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, 2003), Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals: Writing and editing for biomedical publication. Available from: <http://www.icmje.org/index.html>

Stern, E.B. (2000). Authorship Criteria: Opening a Dialogue. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 54(2), 214-217.