

Global Clinical Journal

Authorship Criteria¹

Why Authorship Matters:

Authorship confers credit and has important implications. Authorship implies responsibility and accountability for published work. The following criteria are intended to ensure that contributors who have made substantive intellectual contributions to a paper are given credit as authors, but also that contributors credited as authors understand their role in taking responsibility and being accountable for what is published.

Who is an Author?

The corresponding author is the individual who takes primary responsibility for communication with the journal during the manuscript submission, peer review, and publication process.

Authorship credit should be based only on substantial contributions to all four of the following components:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

All those designated as authors should meet all four criteria, and all who meet the four criteria should be identified as authors. Those who do not meet all four criteria should be acknowledged as non-author contributors (see below).

The criteria used to determine the order which authors are listed on the byline may vary and are to be decided collectively by the author group and not by the journal editors.

Non-Author Contributors:

Contributors who meet fewer than all four of the above criteria for authorship should not be listed as authors, but they should be acknowledged. Examples of activities that alone (without other contributions) do not qualify a contributor for authorship are acquisition of funding; general supervision of the research group; administrative support; writing assistance; technical editing; writing assistance; language editing; and proofreading. Those whose contributions do not justify authorship may be acknowledged individually or together as a group under a single heading and their contributions should be specified (e.g., “served as scientific advisors,” “critically reviewed the study proposal,” “collected data,” “provided and cared for study patients”).

¹ Content adapted from [recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#)

Because acknowledgement may imply endorsement by acknowledged individuals of a study's data and conclusions, corresponding authors are required to obtain written permission to be acknowledged from all acknowledged individuals.

References

General Considerations Related to References:

Authors should provide direct references to original research sources whenever possible. References should not be used by authors, editors, or peer reviewers to promote self-interests. Authors should avoid citing articles in predatory or pseudo-journals. Although references to review articles can be an efficient way to guide readers to a body of literature, review articles do not always reflect original work accurately. On the other hand, extensive lists of references to original work on a topic can use excessive space. Fewer references to key original papers often serve as well as more exhaustive lists, particularly since references can now be added to the electronic version of published papers, and since electronic literature searching allows readers to retrieve published literature efficiently.

References to papers accepted but not yet published should be designated as "in press" or "forthcoming." Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as "unpublished observations" with written permission from the source.

Avoid citing a "personal communication" unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in parentheses in the text. For scientific articles, obtain written permission and confirmation of accuracy from the source of a personal communication.

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in parentheses.

Reference Style and Format:

References should follow the standards summarized in the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Citing Medicine, 2nd edition: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7256/>. These resources are updated as new media develop, and currently include guidance for print documents; unpublished material; audio and visual media; material on CD-ROM, DVD, or disk; and material on the internet.