



TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY

# Authorship policies overview

Maarja Kruusmaa  
Vice-dean of research  
IT Faculty



- An author is a person who **significantly** contributes to the paper by:
  - 1. defining the problem
  - 2. defining the methodology
  - 3. designing the experiments
  - 4. acquiring data
  - 5. analyzing and interpreting data
  - 6. writing and revising the paper



## International committee of medical journal editors:

Authorship credit should be based on

- 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; and
- 3) final approval of the version to be published.
- **Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.**



## PNAS Authorship Policy:

Examples of author designations include:

- Designed research
- Performed research
- Contributed new reagents or analytic tools
- Analyzed data
- Wrote the paper

An author may list more than one contribution, and more than one author may have contributed to the same aspect of the work.



# The American Physical Society:

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the

- concept,
- design,
- execution or
- interpretation of the research study
- **Some co-authors have responsibility for the entire paper as an accurate, verifiable, report of the research.** These include, for example, coauthors who are accountable for the integrity of the critical data reported in the paper, carry out the analysis, write the manuscript, present major findings at conferences, or provide scientific leadership for junior colleagues.



# American Psychology Association

- authorship is not limited to the writing of manuscripts, but must include those who have made substantial contributions to a study such as
  - formulating the problem or hypothesis
  - structuring the experimental design
  - organizing and conducting the statistical analysis
  - interpreting the results
  - writing a major portion of the paper"



# Institute of Physics (IoP)

- When determining the credit for a piece of work, authors should ensure that all those who have made a significant contribution are given the opportunity to be cited as authors. Other individuals who have contributed to the study should be acknowledged, but not cited as authors.
- Some co-authors will be accountable for the **entire article**, for example those who **provide critical data, write the manuscript, present the findings at conferences or provide leadership for junior colleagues**. Other co-authors may be responsible for **specific contributions** to a paper.





## Nature:

- It is now generally agreed that **every author is not responsible for every aspect of the paper**, and that some authors need to be more responsible than others.



## Examples of author contributions from Nature

- <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v470/n7332/full/nature09750.html#/contrib-auth><http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v470/n7332/full/nature09760.html#/contrib-auth><http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v470/n7332/full/nature09655.html#/contrib-auth><http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v470/n7333/full/nature09675.html#/contrib-auth><http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v465/n7295/full/nature09012.html#/contrib-auth><http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v465/n7301/full/nature09116.html#/contrib-auth>



## Author's responsibility

- **RULE OF THUMB: "If you are willing to TAKE CREDIT, you also must be willing to TAKE RESPONSIBILITY."**



## Author's responsibility (IoP)

- **All authors** should receive the final version of the submitted manuscript, agree to its submission and take appropriate responsibility for it. **Any individual unwilling or unable to accept appropriate responsibility for a manuscript should not be a co-author.**



# American Chemical Society

Authors are those who also share the responsibility and accountability of the results



## Author's responsibility:

- As an increasing volume of research is carried out by collaborations, often from labs based in different countries or continents, it has become more important to be clear about who did what and who is responsible for different parts of the paper. Therefore, for papers from such collaborations, **we are now asking that at least one senior member from each group in the collaboration takes responsibility for that group's contribution to the manuscript**



## Author's responsibility (Nature):

- At a minimum, an author should agree to:
- ensure that the original data is preserved and retrievable for re-analysis;
- ensure that the data reported in the paper are representative of the original data;
- foresee and minimize obstacles to the sharing of data, materials, algorithms or reagents described in the paper.
- The corresponding author(s) will remain responsible for ensuring that enquiries about the paper are answered promptly on behalf of the coauthors, directing enquiries to the other authors as appropriate.



## Consent to authorship: (IoP):

- All authors should be consulted about changes to authorship (e.g. the list of authors) during the publication process, and it should be clear to the journal that they have given their consent.





Is getting the grant for the research enough for someone to be listed as an author? (Nature):

- The answer to this question will vary from paper to paper; however, as 'getting the grant' generally also involves, among other things, writing a detailed proposal, recruiting new researchers to the project and providing ongoing intellectual input and internal review/quality control/supervision, the answer will often be yes.



## Not encouraged practices

- Authorship by authority – attributing authorship to administrative department leaders who have not contributed to the work
- Honorary authorship - Attributing authorship to especially prestigious or socially "useful" colleagues.
- Courtesy authorship and gift authorship – authorship for returning a favor or paying credit
- Guest authorship – someone who visits the lab during the project course is listed as an author
- Swap authorship - list me in your article and I will include you in mine
- Ghost authorship - an individual makes a substantial contribution to the research but is not listed as an author

