



Authorship

Section 5: *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*

To be named author on a journal article a researcher must have made a substantial scholarly contribution to the work.

“Attribution of authorship depends to some extent on the discipline, but in all cases, authorship must be based on substantial contributions in a combination of:

- conception and design of the project
- analysis and interpretation of research data
- drafting significant parts of the work or critically revising it so as to contribute to the interpretation” (NHMRC et al 2007)

Written permission should be obtained from all authors included on the paper and no person, regardless of their position or profession, should be excluded without permission.

Scenario

A PhD student completes her PhD. During the course of her PhD she has published one journal article, with her as the lead author and her two supervisors as co-authors. She now has a plan to publish an article that she collected the data for during her PhD but the results were not analysed and written up for her PhD. Also, during her PhD candidature she worked as a research assistant for one of her supervisors. She was involved in data collection and entry as well as editing the final document. Finally her supervisor is preparing a theoretical article for publication which includes much of the literature gathered by the student for her PhD.

Points for discussion

1. Should her supervisors be included on the new article using the PhD data?
2. Should the student be included on the article she worked on as a research assistant?
3. Should the student be included on the theoretical article?

National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. 2007. *Revision of the Joint NHMRC/AVCC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice: Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, Canberra: Australian Government.

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