

Intellectual Involvement merits Authorship Workshop

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The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) states that individuals merit authorship when they participate in at least one activity from the following 4 categories:

1. Conception or design of the work; or acquiring, analyzing, or interpretation data; AND
2. Drafting manuscripts or revising them critically; AND
3. Approving the final version; AND
4. Agreeing to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

However, many articles in physics and medical categories attribute co-authorship to massive lists of researchers—some with 3100 individuals. In the humanities, law, and theology, writing constitutes the prime intellectual activity so articles are authored by one individual. National Institutes of Health (NIH) developed a scale for fifteen research activities. Together with ICMJE's fourth criteria, individuals might merit authorship when they contribute to one of the 15. However, supervision is underrepresented in their list—professors might not qualify as author's by the NIH.

This workshop addresses the question “What intellectual involvement merits authorship?” We identify research activities of 5 categories of scholarship—supervision, experimental design, sample manipulation, data reduction and writing.

