Rev Colomb Cir. 2024;39:668-9
https://doi.org/10.30944/20117582.2572

RESEARCH AND SURGERY

Requirements to be considered an author

Requisitos para ser considerado autor

Patrizio Petrone, MD, PhD, MPH, MHSA, FACS, MSCGP (Hon), MAAC, MACC[1],
Mónica Bejarano, MD, MSc, MACC[2]

1 Co-editor, Revista Colombiana de Cirugía; NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine. Mineola, New York, USA.
2 Editor, Revista Colombiana de Cirugía; Departmento of Surgery, Fundación Valle del Lili. Cali, Colombia.

The authorship of manuscripts, chapters and books is directly linked to academic contribution and entails a process of remuneration and scientific satisfaction. According to the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) [1] (http://www.icmje.org), or Vancouver group, authors must contribute some of the following functions or roles: 1) conception and design; 2) data acquisition, analysis and interpretation; 3) writing and critical review; 4) final approval of the manuscript; and 5) take responsibility for all aspects of the job. According to these recommendations, the exclusive provision of patients does not justify the authority.

Despite this, the inappropriate inclusion of authors continues to be frequent [2]. One of the most common is that authorship in which a colleague of higher institutional hierarchy is included without having made a valuable contribution. It is often called honorary authorship and frequently occurs in young authors. Its estimated prevalence is 25% in original works, 15% in reviews and 11% in editorials [2]. The second type of inappropriate authorship is called gift authorship and is observed when an author is included as a gesture of friendship or expecting similar remuneration. The third type is called invitation authority and is when you add a colleague with numerous publications, hoping to increase your chances of publication.

Another type is the so-called ghost authorship [3], of which there are two modalities: one is the most frequently observed in the industry, in which authorship is attributed to invited experts, while the real writer does not appear as the author; and the other form is that which is produced by the contribution of reviewers, especially when they suggest large changes. Lately, the inclusion of multiple authors in research with the participation of institutions from different countries has become popular.

Keywords: authorship in scientific publications; research; journal article; editorial policies; scientific publication ethics; general surgery.

Palabras clave: autoría en la publicación científica; investigación; artículo de revista; políticas editoriales; ética en la publicación científica; cirugía general.

Received: 01/31/2024 - Accepted: 03/5/2024 -Published online: 05/24/2024
Corresponding author: Patrizio Petrone, MD, PhD, FACS, MAMSE. NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine. Mineola, New York, USA. Tel.: +1 516-663-9571. E-mail: patrizio.petrone@gmail.com
Cite as: Petrone P, Bejarano M. Requisitos para ser considerado autor. Rev Colomb Cir. 2024;39:668-9.
https://doi.org/10.30944/20117582.2572

Este es un artículo de acceso abierto bajo una Licencia Creative Commons - BY-NC-ND https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.es

In order to avoid these types of inclusions, many journals request details of the contribution of each author [4].

An important point to consider is the importance of the order of authors, although there are no internationally implemented criteria. Due to this, it is always advisable to agree in advance on the functions that each author must perform, with the aim of fulfilling the authorship requirements before starting the work [5]. It is usually considered that the first author is the one who presented the original idea of the project and the one who did the most work. The senior author is placed at the end of the list of authors and is the one who intellectually guides the study; it is usually the one who assumes responsibility for the integrity of the work carried out and confirms the contributions of the authors. Some publications may clarify that the contributions of the first and second authors have been equal. The corresponding author is the one in charge of communications with the editorial teams of the journals, as well as with the co-authors who have participated in the research work.

Authorship not only grants academic credit but also has social and financial implications. But, above all, it entails responsibility for what is published and its results. For this reason, it is important and necessary, from the moment a study is designed, to define who the authors will be and their order, and what the contributions of each one will be, keeping in mind that an investigation may yield several articles, in which it is feasible to vary that order.

Compliance with ethical standards

Informed consent: This study is a literature review, and as such, there is no need for informed consent or Institutional Ethics Committee approval.

Conflicts of interest: The authors declared that they have no conflicts of interest.

Use of Artificial Intelligence: No artificial intelligence (AI) systems were used to produce this article.

Funding: Authors' own resources.

Author's contribution:

- Conception and design of the study: Patrizio Petrone, Mónica Bejarano.
- Acquisition of data: Patrizio Petrone, Mónica Bejarano.
- Data analysis and interpretation: Patrizio Petrone, Mónica Bejarano.
- Drafting the manuscript: Patrizio Petrone, Mónica Bejarano.
- Critical review and final approval: Patrizio Petrone, Mónica Bejarano.

References

1 International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. JAMA. 1997;277:927-34.

2 Gasparyan AY, Ayvazyan L, Kitas GD. Authorship problems in scholarly journals: considerations for authors, peer reviewers and editors. Rheumatol Int. 2013;33:277-84. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00296-012-2582-2

3 Baskin PK, Gross RA. Honorary and ghost authorship. BMJ. 2011;343:d6223. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.d6223

4 Borry P, Schotsmans P, Dierickx K. Author, contributor or just a signer? A quantitative analysis of authorship trends in the field of bioethics. Bioethics. 2006;20: 213-20. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8519.2006.00496.x

5 Petroianu A. Distribution of authorship in a scientific work. Arq Bras Cir Dig. 2012;25:60-4. https://doi.org/10.1590/s0102-67202012000100014