Who’s on First? Authorship Decisions...

Authorship is frequently viewed as ‘currency’ in the field of science and academia in general. Young scholars open their first publication bank account during their undergraduate and graduate studies, and continue to build upon each investment during postdoctoral appointments, and then while holding faculty positions. Often a strong publication record creates a momentum that can lead to further publications, great career opportunities, strong consideration for advancement to tenure status for faculty, grant funding, and invaluable intangibles such as respect and admiration within a community of researchers.

While a publication record certainly is an indication of contribution to the body of scientific work and documentation of discovery, great responsibilities are assumed when credit as an author is claimed. With such value in publishing, authorship may be heavily sought out, and important decisions need to be made about how the status of ‘author’ is obtained. Reaching these critical decisions usually begins with this list of inquiries:

- Who should be author?
- In what order should the authors’ names appear? and
- What are the responsibilities of each author?

Despite the importance of these questions there is, of course, no standard, simple, or straightforward answer. There are, however, organizations that have published guidelines and many resources (including publishers) that recommend particular authorship practices.

Who should be author? The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) Guidelines (2007) states that someone is an author if, and only if, they have done all of the following:

- Made a substantial contribution to the conception and design of the work, or acquisition, analysis and interpretation of the data;
- Drafted the article or revised it critically for important intellectual content, and
- Approved of the final version to be published.
The ICMJE definition specifically excludes authorship for anyone whose contributions consist solely of arranging funding, collecting data, or supervising the research group. However, contributors that do not meet the criteria for authorship may be credited in an acknowledgements section (source: ICMJE).

In what order should the authors’ names appear?
Traditionally, there is value and reason attached to the order in which the authors are listed. The reasoning behind the order of authors is varied across academic subjects. There is no constant formula used to calculate the order that authors’ names appear. Like other ‘ethical’ questions, this is a topic of debate (read an example of opinion here and debate that follows here). Potential authors should consult resources in their field of work (especially the journal or publisher the work is to be submitted to) and remember that communication will be fundamental to reaching fair agreement about authorship order. The ICMJE notes that: “The order of authorship on the byline should be a joint discussion of the coauthors. Authors should be prepared to explain the order in which authors are listed.”

What are the responsibilities of the authors?
All authors are absolutely responsible for the integrity of the complete content of a publication. Authorship credit is important to building your “scholarly” bank account but it also carries large weight in allegations of research misconduct. According to the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) in the US Department of Health and Human Services, all publications should include: A full and fair description of the work undertaken, an accurate report of the results, and an honest assessment of the findings. In a comprehensive scientific publication, researchers should include what they did (methods), what they discovered (results), what they conclude from their discovery (discussion and conclusion), and who was involved in the project. (source: ORI)

Publishing work is without a doubt a rewarding achievement. The accomplishment and celebration, though, should be balanced with the awareness and responsibility of ownership. To learn more about authorship decisions and practices visit CSU’s Responsible Conduct of Research webpage.

Molly Gutilla

RICRO Assistant Administrator & DRC Coordinator

IRB News

Do I need to take a training session to have my human subjects research protocol reviewed and approved?
Yes, if you are a Principal Investigator (PI) or a Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), you are required to complete one of our two methods of training; this is a change from the past. The IRB feels it is important that the people who interact with the participants and/or the data have this training as well. In addition to PI & Co-PIs being trained, if a project is NIH-funded and you are listed as “key personnel,” you will also need to complete the training. This training must be updated every three years.
PIs and Co-PIs have two methods to obtain this training: On-campus and via CITI, a web-based training hosted by the University of Miami. CSU’s on-campus training currently consists of the history, ethics, federal regulations, and CSU procedures about protecting human subjects in research. To register for a campus session, please link to:  http://www.vivo.colostate.edu/hrc/hrctraining.php

To complete the on-line CITI training, navigate to: http://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp?language=english. This self-paced core course was developed in collaboration with other institutions including CSU. This training has a 3-4 question quiz at the end of each unit that must be completed. CITI consists of several units, each taking 10-20 minutes to complete at your own pace. An overall passing score of 80% must be achieved to obtain the CSU training certificate.

When creating your new protocol submissions via the eProtocol system, you will note that for each individual listed on your protocol, you must indicate if this individual has completed human subjects protection training or not (in fact, in order for a PI to create a protocol, the PI must have completed this training). Although Co-PIs are now required to complete training, we will have a grace period during which individuals can obtain human subjects training.

Not sure when your training approval expires? Feel free to contact the RICRO office, and we will let you know.

**eProtocol Goes Live Across Campus!**

Human Subjects Researchers are reminded that the eProtocol system is available for all researchers to use. We are no longer accepting the H-100, but we believe that you will enjoy creating your protocol on eProtocol. Give it a test drive soon!!

Evelyn Swiss (491-1381) ; Janell Barker (491-1655)

**Environmental Health Services Welcomes a new Assistant Biosafety Officer**

Amanda Toot is the new Assistant Biosafety Officer in Environmental Health Services at CSU. Amanda attended CSU for two years, majoring in Microbiology. She then completed her B. S. in Microbiology with a Minor in Emerging Global Disease in May 2004. Amanda earned her M. S. in Immunobiology at Iowa State University in 2007. She was a research associate in labs at the USDA, and at two private companies in Ames, IA, from 2002 – 2007. Amanda returned to CSU and joined the research group of Dr. Richard Titus in August 2007, where she gained experience in vector-borne viral disease research in BSL-2 and BSL-3 laboratories. Amanda started her biosafety position January 1, 2009. Her primary responsibility at the current time is the CSU Occupational Health Program for anyone at CSU with research animal contact and/or research with infectious agents. She will also assist with biosafety training, and with lab audits on the central and foothills campuses. Amanda can be contacted at 491-6729 or Amanda.Toot@Colostate.edu. Please join RICRO in wishing Amanda a warm welcome!
**The University Veterinarian Presents:**

Lab Animal Diet as a Potential Research Variable

On March 10th, 2009 Terry Burns-Heffner, the national sales manager for Teklad will be speaking about laboratory animal nutrition, production and quality control of rodent diets, phytoestrogens and their effects, and diet as a potential research variable. Please join us for this free event from 8:00-9:00 am in Microbiology room B120. Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to: denise.ostmeyer@colostate.edu or 491-7184.

**IACUC News:**

Upcoming Semi-Annual IACUC Inspection
The IACUC is tentatively planning to conduct the spring semi-annual inspection of animal facilities the week of April 13, 2009. Please look for more information forthcoming regarding scheduling of inspection team visits.

**Occupational Health & Safety Program**

If you work with animals at CSU please assist the Assistant Biosafety Officer, Amanda Toot in her efforts to get full participation in the Occupational Health and Safety Program. Further information on how to register and on hazards related to working with animals can be obtained at [http://web.research.colostate.edu/ACP/OHP.aspx](http://web.research.colostate.edu/ACP/OHP.aspx).

**Schedule of Upcoming Events – February-April, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 27:</td>
<td>Human Subjects Protection Training (IRB), 9:00-11:00 am, 340 General Services; eProtocol IRB Training, 11:00 am-noon, 340 General Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 4:</td>
<td>IBC Deadline, Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 10:</td>
<td>UV Presents: Lab Animal Diet as a Potential Research Variable, 8:00 am-9:00 am, Microbiology B120 (RSVP to <a href="mailto:denise.ostmeyer@colostate.edu">denise.ostmeyer@colostate.edu</a>) IACUC Deadline, Noon; Human Subjects Protection Training (IRB), 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, 340 General Services; eProtocol IRB Training, 3:00 pm-4:00 pm, 340 General Services</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 11:</td>
<td>IBC Meeting, 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 12:</td>
<td>IRB Deadline, Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 17:</td>
<td>IACUC Meeting, Noon</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 19:</td>
<td>IRB Meeting, Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 26:</td>
<td>eProtocol IRB Training, 9:00 am-10:30 am, 340 General Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 1:</td>
<td>IBC Deadline, Noon</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 8:</td>
<td>IBC Meeting, 1:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 9:</td>
<td>IRB Deadline, Noon; Human Subjects Protection Training (IRB), 9:00 am-11:00 am, 340 General Services eProtocol IRB Training, 11:00 am-noon, 340 General Services</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 14:</td>
<td>IACUC Deadline, Noon</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 16:</td>
<td>IRB Meeting, Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 20:</td>
<td>eProtocol IRB Training, 9:00 am-10:30 am, 340 General Services</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 21:</td>
<td>IACUC Meeting, Noon</td>
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