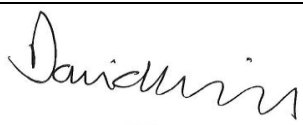


**Standard Operating Procedure
(SOP)
Research and Development Office**

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1.0	Sept 2007	Katrina Hughes	N/A
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The issue of authorship is of enormous importance to researchers since decisions about promotion, tenure and the funding of grants are very often based upon the number and quality of articles one has published.

Researchers facing pressure to “publish or perish” undesirably have a vested interest in either claiming authorship credit on as many articles as possible or having to include names of others as authors. This pressure may lead to the inclusion of names even where inclusion is not warranted by their contributions to the research project – a practice known as “unjustified” authorship.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide guidance on determining authorship of published papers and other research outputs.

3.0 SCOPE

All staff involved in either writing protocols/proposals for research and membership of particular research teams.

4.0 PROCESS

In May 2000 the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE also called the Vancouver Group), revised its statement on authorship (ICMJE 2000).

The criteria of the Vancouver Convention requires “substantial” contribution to each of the three specified areas, yet precisely what contributes a “substantial” contribution is not specified.

Within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust substantially contributing will be defined as: -

- A contribution, which is of a fairly great amount for which credit will be due.
- The corollary of *credit* is the ability to take *responsibility* for what is written.

These are the twin attributes of Authorship. (Hoey 2000)

The following principles should be adhered to in relation to publication of research.

4.1 Named Authorship

Any named author on a publication should have contributed to the study in a manner in keeping with the following Vancouver Guidelines.

“All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship and all those who qualify should be listed. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate positions of the content. One or more authors should take responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole, from inception to published article.

Authorship credit should be based only on

- Substantial contributions (as previously defined) to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data.
- Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content.
- Final approval of the version to be published.

The three Conditions must ALL be met.

Authorship is not justified by: -

- Acquisition of funding
- The collection of data
- General supervision of the research group.

Authors should: -

- Provide a description of what each contributed
- Name all others who contributed to the work but who were not authors in the acknowledgements.
- Describe what those others did.

4.2 Decisions Regarding Authorship

Before the outset of the research project/trial it is recommended that

- Named authorship is agreed

This can be changed based on work actually carried out during the project.

4.3 Group Acknowledgement

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust will strongly encourage acknowledgement of all significant contributors to the trials in an appendix at the end of the publications and /or study reports.

This should include all health care professionals who have contributed significantly to the trial.

5.0 REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, REFERENCES, SOP LINKS etc.

Epstein RJ (1993) Six Authors in Search of a Citation Villain or Victims of the Vancouver Conventions? British Medical Journal 306 pp 882-83.

De Villiers F (1984) Publish or Perish – the Growing Trends towards Multiple Authorship. South African Medical Journal 66 pp 882-83

Huth E J (1986) Irresponsible Authorship and Wasteful Publication. Annals of Internal Medicine 104 pp257-59

Hoey J (2000) who wrote this paper anyway? The new Vancouver Group Statement refines the definition of authorship. www.cmay.ca/cgi/content/full/163/6/716.

International Committee of Medical Journals Editors (2000). Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. Updated May 2000 Available www.icmje.org (1985) Guidelines on Authorship BMJ 291.722 (Medline)

6.0 APPENDICES

None