

Request for Statistical Support: Authorship Agreement

Below please find this guideline on authorship as it relates to statistical support in collaborative research. Please acknowledge your acceptance of this guideline and provide details of the proposed research.

Principle Investigator: _____

Other Investigators: _____

Research Topic: _____

Dataset name and type (Excel, SAS, SPSS, other, no data yet, etc.): _____

Will this research be submitted for publication? _____

If so, please provide details of submission (where, when, type of submission): _____

Specify the authorship line as it will appear in the anticipated submission:

[Please review attached guideline before signing.]

Investigator's Name Signature Date

Statistician's Name Signature Date

Guideline on Authorship for Collaborative Research Involving Statistical Support

The purpose of this document is to clarify the expectations of statisticians involved in the design, analysis, or reporting of research studies. Specifically, it seeks to clarify expectations regarding authorship.

General Guidance

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors has made the following statement concerning authorship [1]:

Authorship Requirements. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions 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 (1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; and (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (3) final approval of the version to be published. Conditions 1, 2, and 3 must all be met.

The Council of Science Editors [1] and the NIH [2, 3] have made similar statements. For a more complete consideration of the topic of authorship, please refer to Macrina [4].

Additionally, the American Statistical Association's "Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice" states that statisticians have the following "Responsibilities in Publications and Testimony" [5]:

1. Maintain personal responsibility for all work bearing your name; avoid undertaking work or coauthoring publications for which you would not want to acknowledge responsibility. Conversely, accept (or insist upon) appropriate authorship or acknowledgment for professional statistical contributions to research and the resulting publications or testimony.
2. Report statistical and substantive assumptions made in the study.
3. In publications or testimony, identify who is responsible for the statistical work if it would not otherwise be apparent.
4. Make clear the basis for authorship order, if determined on grounds other than intellectual contribution. Preferably, authorship order in statistical publications should be by degree of intellectual contribution to the study and to the material to be published, to the extent that such ordering can feasibly be determined. When some other rule of authorship order is used in a statistical publication, the rule used should be disclosed in a footnote or endnote. (Where authorship order by contribution is assumed by those making decisions about hiring, promotion, or tenure, for example, failure to disclose an alternative rule may improperly damage or advance careers.)

Intellectual Property at the University of New Mexico

Information at http://www.unm.edu/~counsel/research/policies/ipp_fnl.pdf.

Exceptions

Payment or other compensation for statistical analysis does not exempt the statistician from authorship consideration.

In situations where the contribution of the statistician is minor, e.g. running a simple t -test with appropriate write-up, authorship is not justified. In cases such as this, both the researcher and the statistician should agree in advance on authorship expectations.

In situations where the researching statistician provides significant support for thesis publication, acknowledgment should be provided in the resulting document.

Position Statement

The researching statistician may be involved in any or all of the following: clarification of the study objectives, study design, determining appropriate outcome measures or endpoints, writing the statistical analysis plan, performing statistical analyses, drafting the results, creating tables/figures/slides, final review of the product. Accordingly, the researching statistician may have contributed significantly to the final product, and it is recommended that the final review and approval involve the contributing statistician.

Expectation

It is expected that the final product, whether it be an abstract, slide presentation, manuscript, or otherwise, be reviewed by the contributing statistician for final approval. The statistician's co-authorship on resultant publications is also expected in cases of non-trivial analytic support. As early as possible, the responsibility of the various research collaborators should be discussed and authorship should be clarified.

References

1. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Jama*, 1997. 277(11): p. 927-34.
2. Institute of Medicine Committee on the Responsible Conduct of Research, The responsible conduct of research in the health sciences. 1989, Washington, DC: National Academy of Science Press.
3. NIH Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics, Guidelines for the Conduct of Research at the National Institutes of Health. 1997.
<http://www.nih.gov/campus/irnews/guidelines.htm>
4. Macrina, F., Authorship and Peer Review, in *Scientific Integrity: an Introductory Text with Cases*. 2000.
5. Committee on Professional Ethics, Guidelines for Statistical Practice. 1999, American Statistical Association.
<http://www.amstat.org/profession/index.cfm?fuseaction=ethicalstatistics>
6. This form available at
http://www.stat.unm.edu/~erike/consult/Authorship_Agreement.pdf