

# MBP Authorship Guideline

To assist in guiding MBP faculty and students in defining the roles of authorship and contributions to published work, the Department has created the following Authorship Guideline, based on the recommendations of the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) (ICMJE).

In accordance with ICMJE's guidelines, authorship should be based on the following 4 criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. Agreement to be accountable in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

**Specifically, those who do not meet all of the four criteria cannot be acknowledged as an author.** Most importantly, contributors who meet some but fewer than four of the criteria should not be listed as an author but should be acknowledged. Examples of activities that merit acknowledgement, but not authorship, include the acquisition of the requisite funding for the work; general supervision of a research group or general administrative support; writing and writing assistance of technical editing, language editing and proofreading; and providing access to an existing dataset.

**The Department of Medical Biophysics recommends that the primary or lead author of the paper be responsible for setting the order of authorship and that the authorship and these guidelines be discussed with every contributor at the very beginning of the study and periodically thereafter, as new experiments are done, and/or other planned experiments are eliminated, and/or the collaborators' ability to make the agreed upon contribution evolves.**

In the age of complex collaborative projects in basic sciences, medical, biomedical and biophysics fields, joint co-authorship is steadily increasing. In the case of '**authors with equal contribution**' or '**joint first authors**', conditions should be agreed upon jointly by (all) trainees, staff, and faculty involved either in advance of the study or during the course of the study. The designation of 'contributed equally' should be reserved for commensurate scientific contributions and not for the individual benefit of those involved. Respective journal guidelines should be followed for identifying joint authorship.



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It is important to note that violation of the policies for authorship on scientific and scholarly publications is considered research misconduct as defined by the following documents:

- [University of Toronto's Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research](#),
- the [Faculty of Medicine's Principles and Responsibilities Regarding Conduct of Research](#), and
- the [University of Toronto Framework to Address Allegations of Research Misconduct](#).

Authorship issues that involve either trainees and/or faculty in the Department of Medical Biophysics should be brought to the attention of Chair and Vice-Chairs as well as the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation at [research.integrity@utoronto.ca](mailto:research.integrity@utoronto.ca), as appropriate.