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## Publication policy for the HEIRRI project

### Part 1: Principles of authorship

The following principles of authorship have been derived from editorial recommendations from leading journals,<sup>1-3</sup> evidence from systematic review of authorship across research disciplines,<sup>4</sup> and are in accordance with the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

#### Recognition of HEIRRI

In some situations, one or more authors may take responsibility for drafting a paper within the HEIRRI project, but all group members qualify as authors; in this case, this should be recognised using the by-line 'N.N. *and* the HEIRRI Consortium'.<sup>2</sup> Note that some journals will require signatures or an authorship declaration from the entire group and all group members should approve the final version before publication.

Group authorship may also be appropriate for publications where one or more authors take responsibility for a group, in which case the other group members are not authors but may be listed in the Acknowledgement (the by-line would read 'N.N. *on behalf of* the HEIRRI Consortium').<sup>2</sup> This formula does not require all group members to approve the publication although some journals require signed agreement to be listed in the Acknowledgements.

#### Group authorship

Group authorship may be appropriate for some publications, such as main reports, but is not recommended for academic publications such as journal articles because it has been shown to cause problems with retrieval and indexing<sup>5</sup>. Group authorship is appropriate when the intellectual work underpinning a publication 'has been carried out by a group, and no one person can be identified as having substantially greater responsibility for its contents than



others'.<sup>1</sup> In such cases the authorship will be presented by the collective title “The HEIRRI Consortium” and the report should carry a footnote with the names of the people (and their institutions) represented by the corporate title.

### **Individual authorship**

Other papers, such as describing satellite studies, will have individual authorship. In order to qualify for authorship an individual must fulfil the following criteria<sup>3</sup>:

1. each author should have participated sufficiently in the work represented by the article to take public responsibility for the content.
2. participation must include these aspects:
  - conception or design of the work represented by the article OR acquisition of data OR analysis and interpretation of the data; AND
  - drafting the article or revising it for critically important content; AND
  - final approval of the version to be published, AND
  - agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Participation solely in the collection of data is insufficient by itself and those persons who have contributed intellectually to the article but whose contributors do not justify authorship may be acknowledged and their contribution described.<sup>1</sup>

### **Determining authorship**

Criteria that will be used to determine authorship of reports and publications should be made as early as possible, and put in writing<sup>1</sup>. Any difficulties or disagreements will be resolved by the Project Executive Committee (PEC).





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## Part 2: Authorship for publication arising from HEIRRI

### Operationalising authorship rules

We envisage two types of report (including conference presentations) arising from the HEIRRI project:

#### *1. Reports of work arising from the main project – Project reports*

If all grant-holders and research staff fulfil authorship rules, group authorship should be used under the collective title of "**The HEIRRI Consortium**"; if one or more individuals have made a significant contribution above and beyond other group members but where all group members fulfil authorship rules, authorship will be attributed to 'N.N. and the HEIRRI Consortium'.

#### *2. Reports of satellite studies and subsidiary projects – Scientific papers*

Authorship should be guided by the authorship rules outlined in '*Part 1: Principles of authorship*' above and byline of authors agreed beforehand. Grant-holders and research staff not directly associated with the specific project should only be included as authors if they fulfil the authorship criteria. Grant-holders and research staff who have made a contribution to the project but do not fulfil authorship rules should be recognised in the Acknowledgement section. The role of the HEIRRI Consortium in the development and support of the project should be recognised in the Acknowledgement section.

### Quality assurance

Ensuring quality assurance is essential to the good name of HEIRRI. However, we do not want to impose a burdensome process on HEIRRI members with regard to publishing articles and presenting at conferences and meetings; timely dissemination is also important. It will not, therefore, be necessary for HEIRRI members to have publications and abstracts formally





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approved by the Project Executive Committee (PEC) and the consortium will rely on trust.

Authors are, however, encouraged to share drafts and articles with their HEIRRI colleagues for comment and feedback, or simply as a way of sharing their work. Published articles and abstracts should be sent to the Coordinator so that these can be uploaded to the RRI Tools website and also so that they can be reported to the EC.

## References

1. Huth EJ (1986). Guidelines on authorship of medical papers. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 104, 269-274.
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3. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals: Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors (<http://icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>)
4. Marušić A, Bošnjak L, Jerončić A. A systematic review of research on the meaning, ethics and practices of authorship across scholarly disciplines. *PLoS One*. 2011;6(9):e23477.
5. Dickersin K, Scherer R, Suci ES, Gil-Montero M. Problems with indexing and citation of articles with group authorship. *JAMA*. 2002 Jun 5;287(21):2772-4.

