

Villigen PSI, 17. Juni 2024

Definition of co-authorship (Center for Proton Therapy)

The author is the person who, through his or her personal work, has made a **significant scientific contribution** to the planning, production and quality of the results including revision of the results where appropriate.

The definition of co-authorship will be dictated by the scientific integrity guidelines of the Swiss academy of Science (<http://go.academies-suisse.ch/integrity>; <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4710639>), the International Committee on Medical Journal Ethics <https://www.ic-mje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>) and PSI's internal guidelines (Annex: Research integrity at PSI; page 27)

Following the PSI guideline, the author of a scientific publication is a person who fulfils all three of the following criteria by:

- a. makes a significant contribution to the research work through personal performance in the planning, implementation, control or evaluation of the research work
- b. is involved in the preparation of the manuscript and
- c. approves the final version of the manuscript

Due to the **interdisciplinary nature of the Medical Physics' and Medical research** performed at CPT, which will have an impact potentially on patient's care and ultimately outcome, it is critical to optimize the interface between the two complementary fields in research. Therefore, the co-authorship will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for any paper written by staff/students involved in research projects at CPT.

The authority to grant permission to publish is the PSI. At PSI, this task is delegated from the department head to the group leader, who knows about publication practice and considers overarching interests of PSI (collaborations, patents, confidentiality). The corresponding author is the one individual who takes primary responsibility for communication with the journal during the manuscript submission, peer review, and publication process. Generally, corresponding authors are senior researchers with experience in the submission and publishing process of scientific research.

All co-authors assume responsibility for the correctness of the content, the correct presentation and the conclusions drawn from the data, as far as they can be verified and unless partial authorship can clearly be ascribed.

As a matter of principle, all authors are responsible for the entire content of the publication.

Co-authorship will apply to:

- 1) *Those writing the research plan and grant application if applicable and/or*
 - 2) *Those reviewing critically the study methodology/design of the work and/or*
 - 3) *Those substantially contributing to the acquisition and analyses of data and/or*
 - 4) *Those participating at the critical review of the intermediate results/interpreting the data ('research meetings') and/or*
 - 5) *Those writing the abstract for congress submission/ manuscript for publication and/or*
 - 6) *Those who have agreed on the journal to which the article will be submitted and/or*
- **MUST: Those reviewing the abstract / the draft manuscript AND**
 - **MUST: Those approving the final version of the abstract/manuscript**

As a general guidance to define scientific contribution, if an individual fulfils 3 of the first 6 criteria and the last two ones, she/he can qualify as a co-author. Contributors who meet fewer criteria should not be listed as authors but considered to be acknowledged. The main criteria, however, is a significant scientific or technological contribution within the framework of scientific work.

Details of authorship must be discussed and clarified as early as possible during the kick-off phase of a new research project and settled in mutual agreement at the latest when the center's collaborators who will make a significant contribution are known. The project supervisor/project leader is responsible to initiate this process.

Freundliche Grüsse
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