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AUTHORSHIP IN MEDICAL LITERATURE**Abstract:**

Scientific paper publication has an important role in the academic filed. Being an author of such paper based on the research or other scholarly activity is associated with many benefits such as peer recognition, financial gain, promotion, job appointment, and fellowship and research awards. The race to increase the quantity rather than the quality of manuscript among the researchers has made the researchers being involved in an unethical practice. To be included as an author one must fulfill the authorship criteria developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). One shouldn't be given credit for authorship who can't defend the published work. Authorship misuse in the form of gift authorship, guest authorship or ghost authorship is not uncommon these days. To reduce the authorship conflicts many journals have set strict policy to mention about the nature of the contribution made by each "author" and that information is available to the readers.

Key words: Authorship, Scientific paper, Ghost authorship, Honorary authorship

INTRODUCTION:

Writing scientific paper is an art which allows presenting one's experience, sharing ideas, communicating with researchers and readers all around the globe; which forms the foundation of evidence based medicine for the betterment in diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Published work forms a means of communication between the scientists and the scholars. Publishing research paper in medical journals has an important impact on one's academic carrier. Research publication helps one to get better job, promotion or financial support, fellowship and research awards.¹ Authorship helps in recognition among the colleagues in the specific field. One's curriculum vitae also look better with the long list of published manuscripts. Beside these advantages; one's contribution to the medical literature can also be assessed with the number of his/her publications. Because of these benefits there is a tendency among the authors to have a large number of publications which has also resulted in published papers with negligibly important contents hence such low quality papers mayn't have contributed to the scientific knowledge.² Defining authorship has become an important issue nowadays as the controversies regarding authorship have risen in the medical literature because many researchers have been found to get involved in article publishing practice unethically.

Who is an author

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the Vancouver group, developed the criteria for authorship for biomedical journals.³ Recommendations from these guidelines suggest authorship has to be awarded to those who make a substantial contribution to (a) conception and design, or acquisition of or analysis and interpretation of data; (b) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (c) final approval of the version to be published. All of these criteria should meet to be designated as an author. In addition, the author should take responsibility of the content; and should be able to defend the doubts raised by the readers; about the work that has been included in the manuscript. The ICMJE also recommends that the contributors who do not meet all the three criteria should be listed in acknowledgements. Being a head of the department or institute is not sufficient for someone to be granted as authorship. Similarly, helping in fund raising, collection of data, technical help, without intellectual participation in writing and reviewing the manuscript; does not warrant inclusion of a person's name as an author in the byline. ICMJE mentions that each author

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Authorship misuse

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CONCLUSION:

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