

SOP: REACH Publication Authorship

Aims

REACH has an inclusive and generous authorship strategy, maximising opportunities to help resident doctors attain core curriculum competencies and progress their academic career. Published work should name as many authors as possible, recognising those that put in consistent and significant work whilst conforming to accepted criteria for authorship.

Core principles as per the [REACH Constitution](#):

Authorship will include the REACH collaborative (in general as last author) with all actively participating local leads included as indexed authors, as well as all team members that fulfil the criteria for named authorship. [The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) (ICMJE) recommends that to be an author* the following four criteria must be met:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content
3. Final approval of the version to be published
4. 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.

*REACH interprets this to apply to *named* authors of a publication (not collaborative authors, indexed under the REACH collaborative name).

Other individuals, including all local data collectors, will have their work acknowledged at the end of publications as contributors.

Other general principles

- All REACH members are encouraged to express interest in joining any project team with the intent to contribute significantly and consistently to the project and thus securing authorship on any ensuing publications. This is of course in discussion with and at the discretion of project leadership teams.
- Agreeing on authorship and authorship type (see definitions below) is a continuous process throughout REACH projects, starting from early on in the project with a clear discussion around authorship and expected contributions well in advance. Post hoc decisions of 'who did the most' are not appropriate; however, authors will be held accountable and have to fulfill agreed expectations.

- REACH will hold contact information for authors as required for publication purposes until the date of publication.

Definitions

First Author(s)	Individual(s) who make(s) the greatest academic contribution to the work and lead on manuscript writing. Joint first authorship is encouraged.
Named Author(s)	Individual contributors who meet all four ICMJE criteria. They are active project team members, are involved in writing the manuscript, producing figures or hold senior responsibility for the work published.
Last Author(s)	Principal investigator or most senior researcher with oversight of the project. All REACH publications should list <i>The London REACH Network Collaborative</i> as last author. Joint last authorship is encouraged.
Collaborative Authors indexed under the REACH collaborative name	For the relevant study period: - all actively participating resident doctor local leads as well as local consultant leads. - all active REACH central committee members.
Contributors acknowledged in publication text	Other individuals that have contributed to the published work, including all local data collectors.

The above principles generally apply to all peer-reviewed publications.

Considerations for specific publication/project types:

- Conference presentations (oral/poster):
First, named and last authorship principles apply. The presenting author of a poster or presentation should usually be the first named author. Abstract submission portals do not usually allow for listing indexed authors under a collaborative authorship but in general the REACH collaborative should be last author.
REACH encourages joint oral presentations.
- Publications related to 'spin-off' projects based on REACH-collected data:
The REACH collaborative should be (joint) last author. Original REACH project leads should be named authors if they engage in the manuscript process as per ICMJE principles, including review and approval of the manuscript. Indexed authors under the collaborative name should be the same active local leads and central committee members for the original REACH study as for all publications related to that study.

- Research study protocols:

Named authors on a study protocol should have significantly contributed to conception and design of the study and be committed to continuously contributing to the project. If a study protocol is submitted for peer-reviewed publication all those named on the protocol should be named authors. Those named on a study protocol should in general be named authors on the main study output publication(s).