

Authorship, Acknowledgements, and Declarations

PIH Cross-site COVID-19 Writing Workshop



What does authorship represent, and why does it matter?

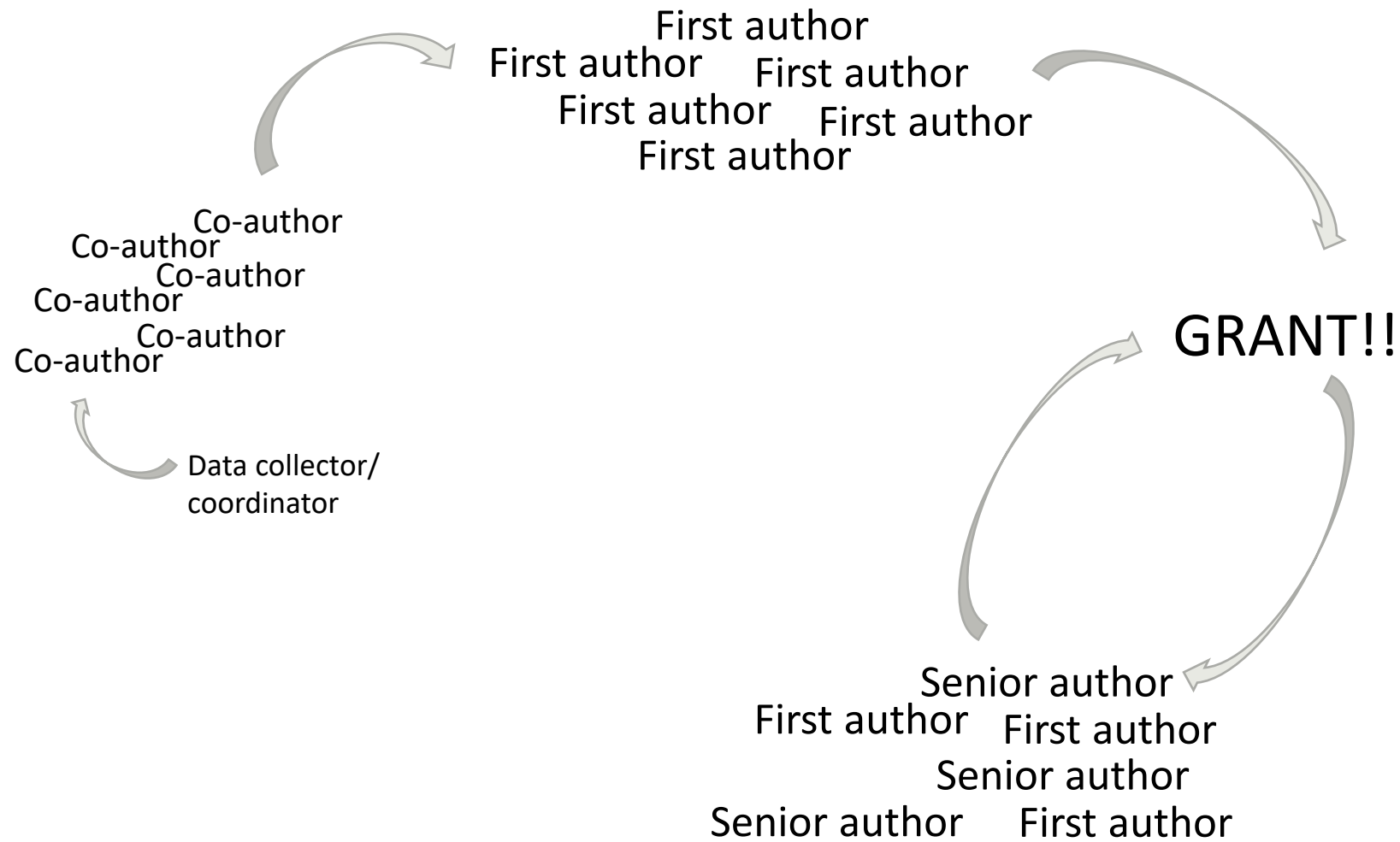
Represents?

- Contributions
- Ideas
- Time
- Effort
- Leadership
- Partnership
- Expertise

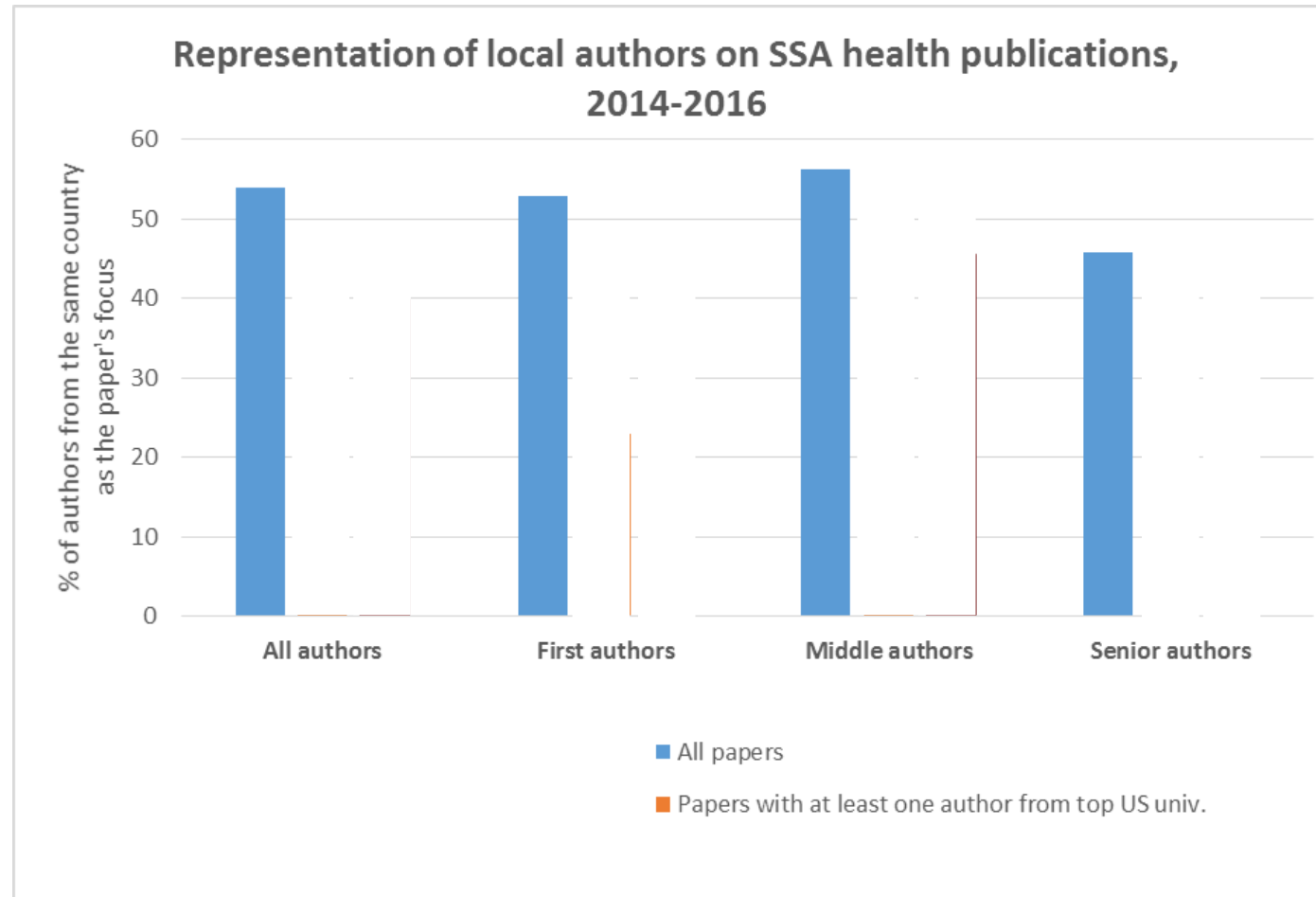
Why does it matter?

- Professional recognition
- Perceived expertise
- Invitations to speak/join groups
- Competitiveness for grants
- Professional competitiveness



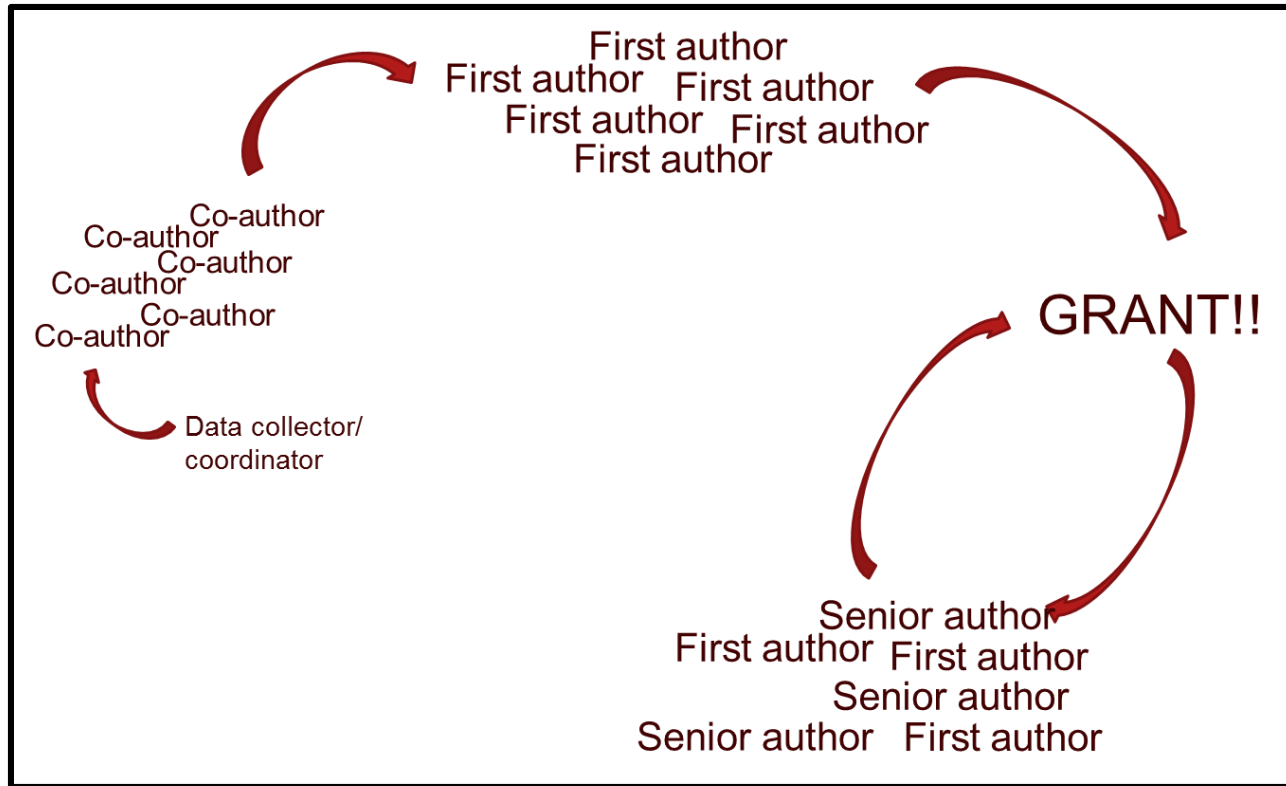


Dynamics in authorship



Hedt-Gauthier et al, BMJ Global Health 2019





1. Denying someone an opportunity now can have long term consequences for their research career.
2. Who moves along these paths and how are determined by people in power.

Things to think about:

- Authorship is important:
 - Represents contributions
 - Paves way for future opportunities
- Authorship decisions are fraught:
 - Shaped by power dynamics
 - Has been non-inclusive
- Critical to have an open conversation on these topics.

Authorship

- To be an author on a paper, one must meet these three conditions
 - Substantial contributions to conception/design, acquisition of data, analysis or interpretation of results
 - Drafting the article or critically reviewing the article
 - Give approval for final version of article

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

Authorship order

- First author: The leader
 - Leads the drafting of the manuscript
 - Responsible for moving paper along
- Senior (last) author: The “thought” leader
 - Program lead, Principal Investigator, primary mentor
- All other authors will be listed in order of contribution

Corresponding author

- Co-author whose contact information is listed with the paper
- Responsible for responding to questions from readers or the press
- Usually the first or senior author
 - First authors can provide detailed information about *that paper*
 - Senior authors can provide detailed information about *the larger program*
- In a co-first author setting, assigning the second first author corresponding author status can help emphasize equal contributions

Sample ORT paper

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Factors Associated with Loss to Follow-up among Cervical Cancer Patients in Rwanda

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Sample ORT paper

Annals of
Global Health

Mutsindashyaka T, et al. High Burden of Undernutrition among At-Risk Children in Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic in Rwanda. *Annals of Global Health*. 2020; 86(1): 125, 1–12. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.2636>

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

High Burden of Undernutrition among At-Risk Children in Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic in Rwanda

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Comments about authorship

- Should be spelled out early:
 - First and last authors – at the start of the study
 - All other authors should be determined at the start of drafting the paper
- Order should be recommended by first and last authors, but approved by study team


Recommendations for these papers

(Generally, we ask that teams discuss with mentors and RAs for final decisions)

- Co-first authors: Workshop Participants
 - How to decide who is listed first? Discuss, but if you still cannot decide. Flip a coin. Decide who can be corresponding author (which retires good internet, email) and then make that person listed second.
- Second authors: RAs
- Senior authors: Workshop Mentors
- Middle authors (and order): TBD with teams.
 - Generally think of 4-6 colleagues from your PIH country-sites and MOH.
- On behalf of the Cross-site COVID-19 Cohort Technical Group
 - Note, we are confirming this group. Names to come soon.



Syndromic surveillance using monthly aggregate health systems information data: methods with application to COVID-19 in Liberia

Isabel R Fulcher ^{1,2*} Emma Jean Boley,³ Anuraag Gopaluni,⁴ Prince F Varney,³ Dale A Barnhart,^{1,5} Nichole Kulikowski,¹ Jean-Claude Mugunga,⁵ Megan Murray,⁶ Michael R Law⁷ and Bethany Hedt-Gauthier^{1,4}; on behalf of the Cross-site COVID-19 Syndromic Surveillance Working Group

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How does this look on CVs:

- On my CV:
 - Fulcher IR, Boley EJ, Gopaluni A, Varney P, Barnhart DA, Kulikowski N, Mugunga JC, Murray M, Law MR, **Hedt-Gauthier B**, on behalf of the Cross-site COVID-19 Syndromic Surveillance Working Group. (2021) Syndromic surveillance using monthly aggregate health systems information data: methods with application to COVID-19 in Liberia. *International Journal of Epidemiology*; 50(4): 1091-1102.
- For someone in the writing group that is not named on paper.
 - Fulcher IR, Boley EJ, Gopaluni A, Varney P, Barnhart DA, Kulikowski N, Mugunga JC, Murray M, Law MR, Hedt-Gauthier B, on behalf of the **Cross-site COVID-19 Syndromic Surveillance Working Group**. (2021) Syndromic surveillance using monthly aggregate health systems information data: methods with application to COVID-19 in Liberia. *International Journal of Epidemiology*; 50(4): 1091-1102.

Author contributions

- Journals may request and publish information about the contributions of each author to limit ambiguity on contribution
- Contributions are listed with author initials

Author contributions

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Factors Associated with Loss to Follow-up among Cervical Cancer Patients in Rwanda

Author Contributions

PH and MH led literature review, study design, data analysis and manuscript, with assistance from CN, AF and AM. PP, TM, LNS, GR, JB, ST, CK, FGN, FU, and TR helped with data interpretation and manuscript drafting. All authors read and approved the final draft of the manuscript. All authors had access to the data and a role in writing the manuscript.

Placide Habinshuti and Marc Hagenimana hold joint first authorship.



CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) is high-level taxonomy, including 14 roles, that can be used to represent the roles typically played by contributors to scientific scholarly output. The roles describe each contributor's specific contribution to the scholarly output.

14 Contributor Roles

Conceptualization	Resources
Data curation	Software
Formal Analysis	Supervision
Funding acquisition	Validation
Investigation	Visualization
Methodology	Writing - original draft
Project administration	Writing - review & editing



Ensuring co-authors are engaged

- **Step one:** group email with week long deadline*
- **Step two:** group email with week long extension
 - Thank all who have responded
 - Give the rest a week more to respond
 - Suggest in person meeting to discuss
- **Step three:** Individual follow up
 - Email, suggest in person meeting to discuss
 - Phone/teams call, set up in person meeting to discuss

*When findings are unexpected or methods are complex, I like to start with a group phone call where I present the major findings!



Adding/Removing co-authors

- Adding new co-authors
 - New authors must still meet ICJME guidelines, and it is late in the processes for new people to be significant contributors
 - **Exception one:** was not in the initial list of co-authors, but has been supportive
 - **Exception two:** Current authorship team lacks some essential expertise to proceed with the project
- Removing co-authors
 - Difficult, approach diplomatically
 - If author has completely not engaged in your project
 - No contributions to conception/design, acquisition of data, analysis or interpretation of results
 - No contributions on drafting or critically reviewing the article
 - Does not give approval for final version of article



Acknowledgements

- Acknowledge individuals who made contributions but do not meet the three authorship criteria
- Acknowledge individually (“Stephanie Joseph”) or as a group/entity (“Partners In Health/Liberia leadership”)
- If acknowledging individuals, email and ask
 - **If** they would like to be acknowledged
 - **How** they would like to be acknowledged
- Specify their contribution (“supervised data collection”, “facilitated study implementation”)



Acknowledging co-authors

- Typically, we do not name co-authors in the acknowledgements. However, for training papers, we do for funding purposes and for professional support.

-This paper was developed under the Harvard Medical School Global Health Research Core and Partners In Health Writing Workshop, developed and facilitated by Dale A. Barnhart, Isabel Fulcher, and Bethany Hedt-Gauthier, with support from Donald Fejfar. <Senior Mentor> and <Research Assistant> provided direct mentorship to this paper as part of this workshop.

Acknowledgements

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

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Funding

- Acknowledge the funding directly contributing to this study.
 - If not, then you may want to put: Funding for this project was provided through PIH/country unrestricted funds.
- Some individuals may have their own funding statements.
 - Dale A. Barnhart is supported by the Harvard Medical School Global Health Equity Research Fellowship, funded by Jonathan M. Goldstein and Kaia Miller Goldstein.
- Depending on journal guidelines, funding can be part of the acknowledgements section or a separate section on its own.

Conflict of interest

- What does it mean to have a conflict of interest?
 - Any financial, professional, or personal relationship that may influence how you write about or interpret your findings.
 - Example, Maurice Chery owns Pfizer stock and is writing about increasing interest in vaccines.
- Is our institutional affiliation a conflict?

COIs Statements

- The authors have no conflicts to declare.
- Maurice Chery and Kobel Dubique are employees of Zanmi Lasante, which implemented this program. The authors have no additional conflicts to declare.
- Maurice Chery owns Pfizer stock, which produces a COVID-19 vaccine. Maurice Chery and Kobel Dubique are employees of Zanmi Lasante , which implemented this program. The authors have no additional conflicts to declare.

Think of conflicts as a “fact” not a concern. Better to overly declare.



Next steps

- Add the following to your paper:
 - After title: Authorship
 - After conclusion, before references:
 - Authorship contributions
 - Acknowledgements
 - Funding
 - Conflicts of interest

See the example document for a summary of items.

Questions?

