

# ***Student Authorship in Scholarly Publishing***

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*Editor-in-chief:*

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# Purpose of assuming authorship

- Right persons to *receive credit*
- Assign *responsibility* for the research
- Right institution to receive DoHET *subsidy* (in RSA) - *affiliation*

# Publishing pressures

- Universities want more publications
- Rankings & DoHET subsidy
- Encourage student works to be published
- Career pressures for academic staff  
 (“publish or perish”)

# Who should be an author?

*someone who has made substantive  
intellectual contributions to a  
published study*

» [ICMJE.org](http://ICMJE.org)

# ICMJE - Authorship credit should be based on:

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

Authors should *meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.*

# Case study - SAJHRM

- Manuscript submitted by former study supervisor
- Based on substantial portions of MSc thesis *and* data of student
- Student not co-author, or acknowledged
- Editor finding: plagiarism and false declaration by authors

# Some practices at universities

- Student allowed 6 months to publish (as first author)
- If not, department will take over the role and publish (student remains first author)
- Department allows research to “expire” – then publish (no recognition to student)

# British Psychological Society Guidelines on student authorship:

1. *Student should be first author in student-supervisor collaborations, if article is substantially based on students work*
2. *Supervisor should ensure that student is enabled to make the major contribution to merit first authorship*



# British Psychological Society Exceptions

- 1. All the ideas & design were supervisor's (ready made project)*
- 2. Extremely close supervision was needed to produce the paper*
- 3. Supervisor conducted further extensive analysis beyond the scope of the student's work which was published*

# British Psychological Society

## The process

- Supervisor must make prior arrangement with student on authorship
- Students lack knowledge & power – supervisor must be fair and open
- Act in accordance with ethical guidelines, consult senior colleagues, provide copy of arrangement to them

# Declaring Contributions

- Some journals require a *statement about the contribution of each person* (if more than one), to be **published**.

# Thank you!

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