

EuRECa and EuRR-Bone Registries: Guidance On The Role of Authors and Contributors

This guidance is intended to ensure that contributors making substantive contributions to EuRECa and EuRR-Bone studies are given due credit and that they understand their roles and responsibilities in being held accountable for future publications.

Authorship on EuRECa and EuRR-Bone outputs is based on ICMJE recommendations (1) and requires each author to meet all criteria listed below:

- Contributions to the conception, design, acquisition, analysis or interpretation of the work
- Drafting and revising the work
- Approving the final version of the work prior to dissemination
- Accountability for all aspects of the work

When a multi-author group has conducted the work, the investigators should decide who will be an author before the work is started and confirm who is an author before submitting the manuscript for publication. All members of the group named as authors should meet all four criteria for authorship, including approval of the final manuscript, they should be able to take public responsibility for the work and have full confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the work of the other authors.

It is recommended that the authors are divided into three categories, the first group will comprise of the core members of the project group, the second group will consist of the coauthors who have provided input into the wider analysis, interpretation of the data, reviewed the manuscript and contributed material from the participating centres and the third group will consist of the senior authors who will also act as guarantors of the work. The relative contribution of coauthors in the second group is variable with some coauthors contributing more in data interpretation and manuscript review while others may lean more heavily towards contribution of clinical material. Thus, it is recommended that these coauthors should be listed alphabetically by surname. The addition of more than two coauthors from any single centre will need prior discussion with the lead investigator for the study.

When submitting a manuscript authored by a very large group, the corresponding author can also take a different approach. The author can identify the group members who will work as authors in the byline of the article as those who will be most closely responsible for the manuscript, ie '*the banner authors*'. In addition, the author can name the EuRECa and EuRR-Bone Consortium, and include the members of the consortium who are not named individually as *banner authors*. Assuming that the members of the consortium still meet the four authorship criteria, they can be included as collaborators within this consortium and will still be cited in MEDLINE (2). The contribution of these collaborators will need to be clarified in the manuscript (3) and they will also be expected to individually complete disclosure forms.

Contributors who meet fewer than all 4 of the above criteria for authorship should not be listed as authors, but they should be acknowledged. Those whose contributions do not justify authorship may be acknowledged individually or together as a group under a single heading (e.g. "Clinical Investigators" or "Participating Investigators"), and their contributions should be specified (e.g., "served as scientific advisors," "critically reviewed the study proposal," "collected data," "provided and cared for study patients", "participated in writing or technical editing of the manuscript"). As acknowledgment may imply endorsement by acknowledged individuals of a study's data and conclusions, it is good practice for the corresponding author to obtain written permission to be acknowledged from all acknowledged individuals.

Going forward, the study protocol that is submitted to the Registries Data Access Committee for approval will ask the investigators to outline their authorship plan. This plan will be provided to the centres when they are approached to participate in a new study.

1. <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>
2. <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/policy/authorship.html>
3. <https://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/article-submission/authorship-contributorship>