



6th WORLD CONFERENCE ON
RESEARCH INTEGRITY

HONG KONG
2 - 5 JUNE 2019

The Role of Corresponding Authors in Different Cultures

Sonia Vasconcelos, Science Education Program/IBqM/UFRJ, Rio, Brazil

Dena Plemmons, Research Ethics Education Program, University of California, Riverside, US



1910-2003

“We begin by noting the great frequency with which the history of science is punctuated by disputes, often by sordid disputes, over priority of discovery. During the last three centuries in which modern science developed, numerous scientists, both great and small, have engaged in such acrimonious controversy.” (Robert K. Merton, 1957)

“The instant I saw the photograph my mouth fell open and my pulse began to race.”



https://undsci.berkeley.edu/article/dna_checklist

“The instant I saw the photograph my mouth fell open and my pulse began to race.” This was James Watson's comment on first glimpsing **Photograph 51, the famous x-ray photograph of the hydrated B form of DNA that exhibits a clear X shape.** As Watson immediately recognised, this supports the idea that DNA is a double helix. But this photograph was not taken by Watson, nor by Maurice Wilkins who showed it to him. **It was the work of Ray Gosling, a PhD student supervised by Rosalind Franklin**”. (The Lancet, 2015)



Picture of the famous Franklin X-ray : Sodium deoxyribose nucleate from calf thymus, Structure B, Photo 51, taken by Rosalind E. Franklin and R.G. Gosling. Linus Pauling's holographic annotations are to the right of the photo. May 2, 1952.

<http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/coll/pauling/dna/pictures/scig.001.5.html>

“Watson and Crick’s paper features only a glancing concession to being “stimulated by a knowledge of the general nature of [Wilkins and Franklin’s] unpublished experimental results and ideas”. There is no mention of Gosling by name... “(Due Credit, Nature, 2013).



Suggestions to Improve the Comprehensibility of Current Definitions of Scientific Authorship for International Authors

Mohammad Hosseini¹  · Luca Consoli²  · H. A. E. Zwart³  ·
Mariette A. van den Hoven⁴ 

Received: 31 August 2018 / Accepted: 16 April 2019

© The Author(s) 2019

“... historical and regional differences in the meaning and implications of the practice of authorship (Long 2001), language differences, cultural misunderstandings, management issues, differences in assumptions, expectations, roles and work styles indicate that in many instances, international co-authors are not always on the same page (Anderson 2010) **due to differences in constituents of authorship in different countries and disciplines (Vasconcelos et al. 2014), variations in organization and management of research practices, research activities across academic, business and government sectors (Anderson 2010) or regulatory and legal differences (Bohnhorst et al. 2010), what is acceptable in one country might be considered problematic or even regarded as misconduct in another country.**”

Honorary authorship reported mostly for publications by authors from Europe, Asia and Africa (Survey to 9283 corresponding authors)... **“A completed survey was obtained from 1246 corresponding authors...”**, 15.75%. One-third (33.4%) admitted that they had added **authors who did not deserve authorship credit...** (Al-Herz W, Haider H, Al-Bahhar M, Sadeq A, 2013)



TUMS

Iranian Journal of Public Health

[This Journal](#)

[Search](#)

[Aims and Scope](#)

[Author Guidelines](#)

[Submit a Manuscript](#)

Corresponding authors of Iranian journals (Survey to 2,321 authors) – Of the 2,221 delivered, 36.6% responded - “...the most common misconducts among Iranian authors are **guest authorship** and falsification of the methodology.” (Hadji M, Asghari F, Yunesian M, Kabiri P, Fotouhi A, 2016)

BMJ Open

- ▶ Visit this journal
- ▶ Submit a manuscript
- ▶ Receive email alerts
- ▶ Contact us

BMJ

Corresponding authors of research submissions to 20 journals.

“4043/10 582 (38%) researchers responded. Respondents worked in 100 countries and reported varying levels of publishing experience. **67% (n=2700) had received some publication ethics training from a mentor**, 41% (n=1677) a partial course, 28% (n=1130) a full course and 55% (n=2206) an online course; only a small proportion rated training received as excellent...

Participants reported substantial variability in their perceived knowledge of seven publication ethics topics; one-third perceived their knowledge to be less than ‘some knowledge’ for the sum of the seven ethical topics and only 9% perceived ‘substantial knowledge’ of all topics.” (Schroter S, Roberts J, Loder E, Penzien DB, Mahadeo S, Houle TT, 2018)



[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Current Issue](#) | [Submit](#) | [Register](#) | [Journals.ASM.org](#)

[J Microbiol Biol Educ](#). 2014 Dec; 15(2): 155–158.

PMCID: PMC4278467

Published online 2014 Dec 15.

PMID: [25574268](#)

doi: [10.1128/jmbe.v15i2.867](#)

Authorship Guidelines and Actual Practice: Are They Harmonized in Different Research Systems?

[Sonia Vasconcelos](#),¹ [Daniel Vasgird](#),² [Iekuni Ichikawa](#),³ and [Dena Plemmons](#)^{4,*}

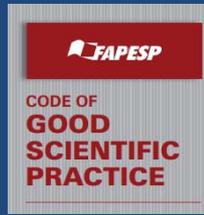
▶ [Author information](#) ▶ [Copyright and License information](#) [Disclaimer](#)

“Three of the authors of this piece are involved in an NSF-funded project entitled *Authors Without Borders: Investigating International Authorship Norms among Scientists & Engineers*. This research will examine whether international variations in authorship practices and expectations are fundamentally different from domestic (U.S.) authorship practices and expectations, and if so, how those differences affect decisions about authorship. **A clearer picture of these practices may, for example, illuminate our understanding of notions of leadership and ownership of research, of processes and products that help shape our knowledge society/economy.... A prevalent concern is the gap between established authorship guidelines and actual practices in the research environment.**” (Vasconcelos,S; Vasgird D, Ichikawa I, Plemmons D, 2014)



In a study focusing on **lab cultures, research integrity and data management that is ongoing** at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, **seniors in biosciences with a long tradition of being corresponding authors do not seem to be familiar with what changes that have shaped ethics guidelines for responsible authorship, particularly in the last decade.**

However, strong views on the importance of the commitment and role of **“the scientific author”, especially of the first and corresponding author**, has emerged in the two focus groups that have already been conducted (unpublished data, Patrick Menezes - PhD candidate; Sonia Vasconcelos, 2019).



Directives for research integrity of the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq, 2011), pay particular attention to responsible authorship, **with emphasis on the main role of the first and corresponding author** – these are expected to share the responsibility for the whole content of a paper.

In addressing this issue, we find that **“the provision of financial and infrastructural resources (e.g., laboratories, equipment, inputs, materials, human resources, institutional support) is not sufficient ground for being listed among the authors of scientific contributions resulting from the research project”** . (São Paulo State Research Foundation - FAPESP, 2011). This regulatory framework for authorship is shared by CNPq, 2011).

<http://www.cnpq.br/documents/10157/a8927840-2b8f-43b9-8962-5a2ccfa74dda>
http://www.fapesp.br/boaspraticas/FAPESP-Code_of_Good_Scientific_Practice_2014.pdf



Many of those providing infrastructural resources today started doing research in a very different time where sharing resources was crucial for the success of research projects and for the advancement of the countries' science.

How have senior corresponding authors handled authorship issues in their collaborations?

Exploring this feature may offer insight into the impact of responsible authorship on the practices of corresponding authors from emerging countries that “emerged” in science with limited infrastructure and with their own *modus operandi* of negotiating credit.

Thank you!

多謝!

svasconcelos@bioqmed.ufrj.br