

## COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance Policy Document

Authorship Policy, Version 1.

Current as of 16:00 31-March-2020 AEST

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### Overriding principles

According to current International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations<sup>1</sup>, authorship should be “based on the following 4 criteria:

Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; **AND**

Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; **AND**

Final approval of the version to be published; **AND**

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.”

The Global Rheumatology Alliance (GRA) Steering Committee agrees that the ICMJE provides excellent guidance to assigning authorship of the academic outputs of the alliance.

*In recognising that the contributors to the GRA initiatives have volunteered their time and expertise, decisions about authorship should be as inclusive as possible, while always adhering to the ICMJE policy guidance without exception.*

### Policy

#### 1. Invited/Commissioned Editorials, Comment Pieces or similar

- a. When any member of the GRA Steering committee members are invited to contribute an editorial or commentary about the C19-GRA, the GRA Steering committee will make a decision about the appropriate author/s.
- b. When a GRA member is invited to contribute an editorial or commentary about the C19-GRA, it would be expected that this invitation is forwarded to the GRA Steering committee, and that the GRA Steering Committee should review a final version of the manuscript before submission.

#### 2. Non-invited or non-commissioned academic works of the C19-GRA (Internal projects)

- a. Specific project members will likely qualify for authorship if ICMJE criteria are met.

- b. GRA Steering Committee and committee direct reports: Due to the involvement of the committee in the conception and design of the outputs being published, as long as they draft and/or edit it critically for intellectual contact and provide final approval as per the ICMJE guidelines then they qualify for authorship.

### 3. Individual Authorship Order

- a. In general, this schema will be followed, however the C19-GRA Steering Committee can vary this if there are special circumstances, and a majority agree to varying this policy on an individual paper basis. There are two groups that make up the authorship list, the first is the group who worked on the project, in order of effort. The second is the steering committee and direct reports in alphabetical order. The first author is decided by the project leads and the final author is decided by the steering committee, on advice of the project leads. First and final authorship can be shared when the C19-GRA Steering Committee determines this, on advice from the project leads. ***The principle of equity should be looked at when making this decision.***

For Example:

Lead author/s, project Worker 1, project Worker 2, project worker 3, project worker 4, project worker 5, Committee member A, Direct report to committee member D, Committee member F, Committee member H, Direct Report to Committee M, Committee Member S, Final Author/s.

### 4. Using the “COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance” as an author

Once the manuscript has been approved by the C19-GRA Steering Committee then authorship by the alliance can be approved. The names of those who make up the C19-GRA will be provided to be used as an appendix to the paper.

### 5. Authorship of External Projects

Please see the Data Sharing/External Project Policy with respect to how external projects are initiated and managed. Authorship of external projects will be discussed at the time the the data is requested to be released. The time and effort of C19-GRA members to both the data being released and the time to contribute to the external project should be recognised when negotiating authorship with parties applying for external projects.

### References

[1] International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of scholarly work in medical journals. <http://www.icmje.org>.

Written by: Philip Robinson, reviewed and approved by the C19-GRA Steering Committee, 31-March-2020