

Appendix 5: Authorship Policy

1. PRINCIPLES OF AUTHORSHIP

The following principles of authorship have been derived from editorial publications from leading journals (see references) and are in accordance with the rules of the international Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

a. Group authorship

Group authorship will be appropriate for some publications, such as main reports. This will apply when the intellectual work underpinning a publication 'has been carried out by a group, and no one person can be identified as having substantially greater responsibility for its contents than others'.¹ In such cases the authorship will be presented by the collective title - The SIMS Trial Group - and the article should carry a footnote of the names of the people (and their institutions) represented by the corporate title. In SIMS, the CI, and possibly other members of the trial group will take responsibility for drafting the paper and this will be recognised by acknowledging the names of the CI (as primary author), followed by the other authors *and* the SIMS Trial Group'.² Group authorship may also be appropriate for publications where one or more authors take responsibility for a group, in which case the other group members are not authors but may be listed in the acknowledgement (the by-line would read 'Jane Doe *for* the Trial Group').²

b. Individual authorship

Other papers, such as describing satellite studies, will have individual authorship. In order to qualify for authorship an individual must fulfil the following criteria¹:

- i. each author should have participated sufficiently in the work represented by the article to take public responsibility for the content.
- ii. participation must include three steps:
 - conception or design of the work represented by the article OR analysis and interpretation of the data OR both; AND
 - drafting the article or revising it for critically important content; AND
 - final approval of the version to be published.

Participation solely in the collection of data is insufficient by itself. Those contributors who do not justify authorship may be acknowledged and their contribution described.¹

2. AUTHORSHIP FOR PUBLICATION ARISING FROM SIMS

a. Operationalising authorship rules

We envisage two types of report (including conference presentations) arising from the SIMS trial and its associated projects:

i. *Reports of work arising from the main SIMS trial*

If all grant-holders and researcher staff fulfil authorship rules, group authorship will be used under the collective title of 'the SIMS Trial Group'. The CI, and possibly other members of the trial group will take responsibility for drafting the paper and this will be recognised by line" the CI (as primary author), followed by the other authors *and* the SIMS Trial Group'.

ii. *Reports of satellite studies and subsidiary projects*

Authorship should be guided by the authorship rules outlined in Section 1 above. Grant-holders and research staff not directly associated with the specific project should only be included as authors if they fulfil the authorship rules. Grant-holders and research staff who have made a contribution to the project but do not fulfil authorship rules should be recognised in the Acknowledgement section. The role of the SIMS Trial Group in the development and support of the project should be recognised in the Acknowledgement

section. The lead researcher should be responsible for ratifying authorship with the Project Management Group.

For reports which specifically arise from the trial but where all members do not fulfil authorship rules (for example, specialist sub-study publications), authorship should be attributed to the CI and the named individual(s) and *for* the SIMS Trial Group.

b. Quality assurance

Ensuring quality assurance is essential to the good name of the trial group. For reports of individual projects, internal peer review among members of the Project Management Group is a requirement prior to submission of papers. All reports of work arising from the SIMS trial including conference abstracts should be peer reviewed by the Project Management Group.

The internal peer review for reports of work arising from the SIMS project is mandatory and submission may be delayed or vetoed if there are serious concerns about the scientific quality of the report. The Project Management Group will be responsible for decisions about submission following internal peer review. If individual members of the group are dissatisfied by decisions, the matter may be referred to the Steering Group.

The Project Management Group undertakes to respond to submission of articles for peer review at the Project Management Group Meeting following submission (assuming the report is submitted to the trial secretariat in Aberdeen at least two weeks prior to the meeting).

3. REFERENCES

1. Huth EJ (1986). Guidelines on authorship of medical papers. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, **104**, 269-274.
2. Glass RM (1992). New information for authors and readers. Group authorship, acknowledgements and rejected manuscripts. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, **268**, 99.