

Guidelines for Authorship for Studies run within the International Network on Cancer, Infertility and Pregnancy

1. General.

- a. All calculations regarding the number and position of co-authorships will be based on numbers of recruited patients by center.
- b. Each center is completely free and independent to fill in individual names according to its number and position of co-authorships (the center even may appoint persons not having recruited patients by themselves).
- c. The following “rules” should guarantee participation and benefits for all centers involved and share as much attractive positions among the centers as possible.

2. Fixed authorship positions.

- a. All co-authorship positions depend on recruitment of centers except one authorship position of the International Principal Coordinator and one for the statistician of the study (usually 4th position).
- b. Principal investigator or International Principal Coordinator is first author
- c. Principal investigator and International Principal Coordinator may appoint a second author who delivered a substantial work
- d. International Principal Coordinator is usually senior author
- e. When International Principal Coordinator is the Principal Investigator, he may grant the first position to someone else.

3. Number of authors per group

- a. Each center receives their first guaranteed authorship position when the center has recruited x% of the total number of patients.
- b. The 2nd position will be achieved when the center recruited 2x% of the total number of patients.
- c. The 3rd position will be achieved when the center recruited 3x% of the total number of patients.
- d. The 4th position will be achieved when the center recruited 4x% of the total number of patients.

The percent numbers are a general guideline and might be adapted to each specific protocol and will depend on the population size of the study and the number of participating centers (e.g. x+1% instead of x % etc.)

4. Position of the authors

The specific place of the group’s representative is defined by the overall recruitment by the center; e.g. if center A has the highest recruitment number, center B the 2nd highest recruitment number, center C the 3rd highest, and center D the lowest, 2nd author would be appointed by center A, 3rd author by center B etc.

Example: Study of 1000 patients

Group A : 220 pts. = 5 authorship positions

Group B : 210 pts. = 5 authorship positions

Group C: 120 pts = 3 authorship positions

Group D: 65 pts = 1 position

Group E: 40 pts = 1 position

Result:

Principal Investigator, A1, B1, statistician, C1, D, E, A2, B2, C2, A3, B3, C3, A4, B4, B5, A5, International Principal Coordinator
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When the International Principal Coordinator is the Principal Investigator, the senior author is appointed by the strongest recruiting group.

When Principal investigator and International Principal Coordinator appoint a second author (see 2.C.), 2nd position becomes 3rd, 3rd position becomes 4th, ...

General remark:

If possible, all centres who have actively recruited in the trial should be mentioned as co-authors in the appendix.