

Authorship

Management of knowledge and communication

Who is the author of a paper?

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) establishes 4 criteria that must be met in order to be an author of a paper. The authors must:

1. Make a substantial contribution to the conception and design of the study, or to the collection of data, or to their analysis and interpretation, and
2. Write the article or the critical review of a substantial part of the intellectual content, and
3. Approve the final version for publication, and
4. Agree to be responsible for all aspects of the paper to ensure other matters related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the paper.

In which order should the authors be listed?

The number of authors and the order of their names (signatures) is a very important element and is taken into consideration in evaluation and in competitive processes. Although there is no strict rule in this regard, the number of authors must be justified in relation to the subject matter, complexity, and the length of the paper.

Concerning the order, the authors must agree to this taking into account the contributions made. The most valued authorships are the first, the last, and the corresponding author.

- The first author should be the person who has made the biggest contributions to the research;
- The last author (senior author) is the person who has directed or is ultimately responsible for the research;
- The corresponding author is responsible for the editorial process and the communications arising from the publication of the work. This role often falls with the first or last author.
- The other authors are usually ordered according to the importance of their contribution to the paper, and sometimes, in alphabetical order.