

reply-to:

"Ecological Society of America: grants, jobs,  
I would like to pose the following question to the  
network "By what criteria should individuals be  
included or excluded from authorship on a peer-reviewed  
publication, e.g., journal article?" A potential problem  
is that the combination of pressure to publish in academic  
circles and increasing numbers of cooperative research  
projects tends to elevate the number of authors on journal  
articles and perhaps diminish the value of authors at the 3rd  
and greater positions.

news" <ECOLOG-L&UMDD.BITNET@pucc.Princeton.EDU>

I have heard the following over the years  
but am not convinced that all of these hold water:

1. When in doubt go ahead and include the individual, it's better for collegial relations.
2. "The scientific paper should list as authors only those who contributed SUBSTANTIALLY to the work" Day, 1983. How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper, 2nd Edition, ISI Press.
3. I seem to remember an article in the ESA Bulletin about this but the consensus of this escapes me at present.
4. All participants including those with scientific, analytical, editing, and maintenance roles should be included as authors.
5. All scientists involved in the experimental design of a research installation regardless of their intellectual contribution to the ideas discussed in the manuscript.
6. All participants, even very peripheral ones, should be asked by letter if they wish to be included as authors and if they say yes, they should be included.
7. Only the core of 1-3 individuals who actually do the bulk of writing, re-thinking, agonizing, and analyzing involved in the manuscript. For the others, an acknowledgement is adequate.
8. All investigators listed on a proposal should be included as authors on all publications that involved research that took place as a result of that funding.

reply-to:

"Ecological Society of America: grants, jobs, news" <ECOLOG-L&UMDD.BITNET@pucc.Princeton.EDU>  
>From: "(Alexander L. Friend)" <alf2@RA.MSSTATE.EDU>

> "By what criteria should individuals be  
>included or excluded from authorship on a peer-reviewed  
>publication, e.g., journal article?"

>2. "The scientific paper should list as authors only those  
>who contributed SUBSTANTIALLY to the work" Day, 1983. How to Write  
>and Publish a Scientific Paper, 2nd Edition, ISI Press.

Of course, what constitutes SUBSTANTIAL is open to interpretation.  
Is it the head of the lab that provided the money; is it the  
technician that spent the hundreds of hours actually collecting  
the data; how about someone who provides a critical idea even if  
it involved only 5 minutes of his/her time? In the end these  
are personal decisions that can not be reduced to hard and fast  
rules.

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