

# GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORSHIP IN EEB

This policy is adapted from the authorship policy of the Biomedical Graduate Group at the University of Pennsylvania. <http://www.upenn.edu/grad/auth.biology.html>

## 1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR AUTHORSHIP

All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship.

1. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for content.
2. Authorship credit should be based only on substantial contributions to the following areas:
  - a. conception, design, analysis or interpretation of data
  - b. drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content
  - c. final approval of the version to be published
3. Conditions a and c must always be met in assignment of authorship; condition b may sometimes not be appropriate in cases of large collaborations.
4. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding or the collection of data does not justify authorship.
5. General supervision of the research group is not sufficient for authorship.
6. Appropriate credit for the contributions of other individuals to the work described in the publication should be made as an acknowledgement.
7. Any part of an article that is critical to its main conclusions must be the responsibility of at least one author. If that author is a student, then the faculty mentor shares the responsibility.

## 2. THE ORDER OF AUTHORS

1. The first author is that person who contributed most to the project, typically including writing the manuscript.
2. The sequence of author listing is generally determined by the relative contributions to the work. In the instance that equal credit is due, this should be footnoted by asterisk. It is suggested that authors be listed alphabetically in such a case; a policy you may wish to note on your CV.
3. Decisions about authors and the order in which they appear should be discussed at the beginning of the project and revisited periodically as the project develops. The order of names should be made by group consensus under the guidance of the lead investigator(s).

### **3. CORRESPONDING AUTHOR**

The corresponding author is the person with whom communications should be made after publication; this is not necessarily the first author.

### **4. WHEN CONFLICTS ARISE**

Even when the above guidelines are followed, conflicts of opinion may arise. When disagreements cannot be resolved within the research group or in discussion with the thesis committee, the student or faculty member may bring the issue in confidence to the EEB Executive Committee, which will serve as a grievance committee to mediate the conflict. If the Chair or a member of the Executive Committee is involved in the conflict, they will be excused from participation in the grievance committee.

*Approved by EEB Faculty: September 15, 2008*