NETHERLANDS BRAIN BANK

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Guidelines for co-authorship of the Netherlands Brain Bank

For publications of data derived from material obtained from NBB donors

The Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) of the Netherlands Brain Bank (NBB) provides guidelines for acknowledgement of the NBB in the Materials and Methods section of publications of data derived from material obtained from NBB donors. However, in cases where the NBB's contribution to a research project is more substantial than usual and includes e.g. intellectual input into study design or specific analyses of tissue or donor data, we request (corporate) co-authorship for (an individual affiliated to) the Netherlands Brain Bank in case of a publication in which NBB material or data are used.

For corporate authorship, the NBB can be added to the author list as "Netherlands Brain Bank" or "Netherlands Brain Bank for Psychiatry". A corporate author is preceded with a ; (not a ,). The affiliation of the Netherlands Brain Bank is: Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, Meibergdreef 47, 1105 BA, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Agreements about (corporate) co-authorship for publications of data derived from NBB material are included in the Implementing Letter, which is an appendix of the MTA.

The remainder of this document describes the three possible types of co-authorship, why co-authorship is important for the NBB, and the requirement of substantial contribution to justify the right of authorship. In addition, more specific guidelines for corporate co-authorship derived from https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/authorship.html are included.

Different types of co-authorship

Depending on the type of samples and the nature of the NBB's involvement in the research project, one of the types of co-authorship described below is required.

1. Corporate co-authorship of the Netherlands Brain Bank

For typical sample requests, the NBB offers researchers the use of material obtained from NBB donors, complemented by clinical and neuropathological data for research puposes. By means of the financial contribution as referred to in article 9 of the MTA, the NBB is reimbursed for part of the costs involved in brain banking, such as personnel time, materials, and storage.

If the NBB provides additional intellectual contributions, such as considerably more extensive efforts in running the donor program, in clinical and neuropathological phenotyping of the donors, in selecting and matching samples and data for the study, and/or in advising on the experimental approach, the NBB requests corporate co-authorship.

2. Corporate co-authorship of the Netherlands Brain Bank for Psychiatry (NBB-Psy)

The additional intellectual contributions described above apply to all projects that receive samples derived from donors from the NBB-Psy program. Specifically, compared to the NBB in general, the NBB-Psy program has a more extensive active donor recruitment program, collects more clinical data, and has more extensive post mortem procedures.

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Therefore, for all projects that receive NBB-Psy samples, we request corporate co-authorship for the "Netherlands Brain Bank for Psychiatry" (NBB-Psy). Each manuscript in preparation must be sent to NBB-Psy for evaluation and approval before submission[1]. In case a journal does not accept corporate co-authorship of NBB-Psy, the NBB-Psy postdoctoral researcher or project leader should be included as individual co-author.

3. Corporate co-authorship of NBB-Psy + individual co-authorship of researchers and personnel affiliated with NBB-Psy

In case data from cellular enrichments from NBB-Psy material are included in the publication, the NBB-Psy postdoctoral researcher will be included as co-author, in addition to NBB-Psy as corporate co-author.

Please note that some of the NBB-Psy donors participated in an extensive research cohort study during life. If the selected donors are part of such a research cohort from which additional information can be obtained, the researcher will be notified and will be enabled to contact the cohort leader. Contributing data and co-authorship for the PI or other researcher for that particular cohort should be discussed between the applicant and the cohort leader.

Importance of authorship and traceability for the NBB

Scientific authorship strengthens individual researchers in their reputation, academic strength and grant support. The same applies to the NBB. Since high quality brain banking is a joint effort of the entire NBB team, corporate authorship is more justifiable than co-authorship by one of the employees of the NBB (except in the cases that justify individual co-authorship, as described above). Corporate authorships mostly concern consortia and bio banks[2].

Grant money is indispensable for the NBB as well as for academic researchers who receive samples from the NBB. After all, the reimbursement of the costs for brain banking that the NBB asks of the researcher is compensated by this grant money. In fact, the integral cost price (annual costs of the NBB divided by number of samples provided annually) is approximately € 450 per sample, which is currently reduced by grant money to € 57.50 - € 115 per sample for non-profit organizations.

Requirement of substantial contribution

Based on international guidelines[3] the right of authorship is determined by whether the (corporate) author made a substantial contribution to the idea and design of the project, the collection of data, or the analysis and interpretation of data. Mere collection of material and data does not suffice. Therefore, the NBB only asks for authorship in cases where its contribution to a research project is more substantial than in typical NBB sample requests. However, it should be noted that the NBB's typical contribution can already be considered to be more than mere collection of material and data:

- The final diagnosis is determined after extensive analysis of all clinical data available and using diagnostic procedures where brains are evaluated according to the latest international insights in neuropathology (see also www.brainnet-europe.org);

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- In many cases the NBB provides advice on the experimental approach, matches samples for age, post mortem delay (PMD) and gender and often for other features, requiring considerable insight and experience of NBB employees;
- The NBB provides high quality tissue with extremely short PMD's, obtained using fresh dissection protocols, made possible by the NBB's elaborate donor program and 24/7 on-call autopsy team consisting of autopsy assistants, (neuro-)pathologists and mortuary assistants.

These aspects make the NBB costly. Therefore, the NBB continuously applies for grant money, which compensates up to 50% of the NBB's annual costs. Visibility of output obtained by material and data provided by the NBB is crucial for the success of our grant applications and the support of our institute (Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience).

References

1. https://hms.harvard.edu/about-hms/integrity-academic-medicine/hms-policy/faculty-policies-integrity-science/authorship-guidelines
2. http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/authorship.html
3. ICMJE: Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, 17 Sep 2009. http://www.icmje.org/

Fact Sheet
Authorship in MEDLINE®

Source: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/authorship.html

A MEDLINE citation may contain an array of personal author names, group (or corporate) author names, and collaborator names. This Fact Sheet explains the current policies that are followed in designating these forms of authorship and other contribution in MEDLINE.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) encourages authors, journal editors and publishers to consult the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (http://www.icmje.org/) and Council of Science Editors (http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/) when determining authorship attribution for a manuscript being prepared for publication.

NLM uses the PDF (Portable Document Format) version of an online article as the primary version for verifying bibliographic data.

Publishers include author and collaborator data in various ways. For example, authors and collaborators may be linked from appendices, footnotes, or otherwise found in supplementary documentation. NLM prefers that authorship and collaborator data be in the full text of the article rather than associated with the article in a supplementary online file. If, however, these data are recorded in a supplementary file, then two conditions must be met:

1. provide a clear indication in the main article of how to find these data, perhaps through the use of footnotes or other statements that can be easily found from the byline area, the bottom of the first "page" of an article, or near the acknowledgements area at the end of an article, and
2. publish the supplementary file with the article (do not link out to another Web site).

In general, the PDF and HTML (HyperText Markup Language) versions of an article should have the identical author and collaborator data content, although that content may be presented in different ways.

Personal Author Names

Personal author names are included in MEDLINE when the author names appear in the article byline, or are explicitly identified anywhere else in the text of the article as the authors or as the members of the writing group or writing committee for the article.

The authors are entered in the same order in which they are published in the journal article. There is currently no limit to the number of authors that may be included for a MEDLINE citation, except when the author names are published in non-Roman alphabets. (For information about current and past limitations to the number of authors included in MEDLINE, see http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/mms/medlineelements.html#au.)

Group (Corporate) Authorship

Group author names (also known as corporate, organization or collective names) are included in MEDLINE when such names appear in the article byline.

More than one group name may appear for a citation, and a group name may appear along with personal author names. When both personal and group author names are present, they appear in most PubMed® displays in the order in which they are published in the article. Names published in the article byline appear in PubMed before names that may be published elsewhere in the article.

Group names are entered for a MEDLINE citation exactly the way they appear in the article, except that definite or indefinite article words such as “the” or “a” at the beginning of the name are not included.

For articles that represent a formal guideline or practice guideline (and are thus indexed with the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®) publication types Guideline or Practice Guideline), the name of the guideline-issuing body is entered as a group name for the MEDLINE citation, even if that name does not appear in the article byline.

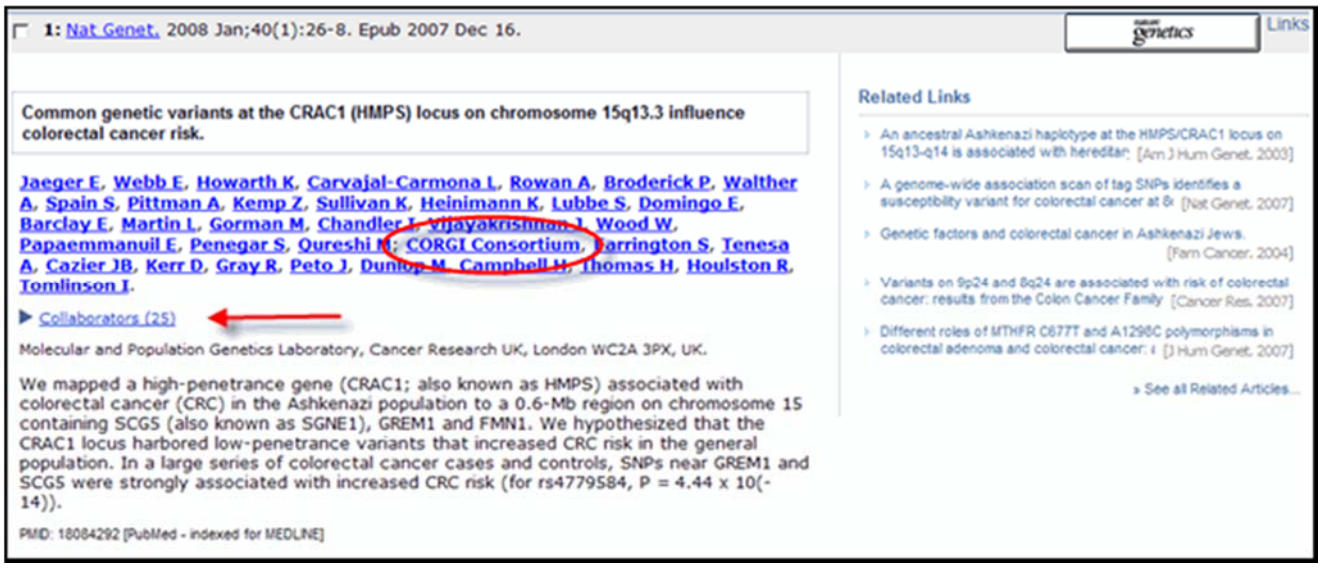
Collaborator Names

When a group name for a specific consortium, committee, study group, or the like appears in an article byline, the personal names of the members of that group may be published in the article text. Such names are entered as collaborator names (also called investigator names) for the MEDLINE citation.

Collaborator names are entered for a MEDLINE citation only when a group (corporate) author name is present for the citation. Collaborator names are entered exactly as they are published in the article, and in the order in which they are published in the article. Collaborator names are included redundantly even if they have also been included as authors for the citation (because they also appear in the byline or are explicitly identified in the article as the authors). Collaborator names may also appear redundantly in the MEDLINE citation if they appear redundantly in the published article, such as when the collaborators are listed in the article by various subcommittees and an individual is a member of more than one subcommittee.

Example

A PubMed Abstract display of a citation that includes personal authors, group author, and a link to collaborator names:



Clicking on the above link will display the names entered as collaborators for the citation:

Searching for Authors, Group Authors and Collaborators in PubMed

To search for an author name, use the search tag [au]. For example,

jaeger j [au]

To search for a group (corporate) name, use the search tag [cn]. For example,

corgi consortium [cn]

To search for a collaborator ("investigator") name, use the search tag [ir]. For example,

maher e [ir]

If a personal name is entered in a PubMed search without a search tag, all citations will be retrieved for which the name is an author or collaborator. A group author name entered without a search tag will retrieve citations with that name as an author occurrence as well as citations with the word(s) in any other field of the citation. The search tag [cn] may be used to restrict retrieval to the group (corporate) name field, e.g., corgi [cn].

Further information about how to search for author, group author or collaborator names may be found in the "Searching by author" section of PubMed Help.