

Manuscript Authorship Guidelines for the Mechanistic Behavioral Research Consortium (MBRC) – V1 (10/24/24)

Overall Principles

- Manuscript authorship for the MBRC is guided by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines for authorship.
- Investigators proposing (and providing guidance on core procedures and issues to be addressed by those procedures, often including the cross-site management team that formalizes all procedures) have key scientific impact and will usually serve as the first group of authors on the manuscript.
- Data collectors have key scientific impact on the final scientific product, and the MBRC encourages including them as manuscript authors whenever possible in a way that is consistent with the ICMJE guidelines.
- Whenever possible, authorship order will be proposed before the initiation of an MBRC study (e.g., in the letter of intent: see [example](#)) At this time, anticipated reasons that could lead to a change in authorship order later on will also be defined, along with mitigation plans (e.g., if a primary recruitment site decides to withdraw or does not meet the prespecified minimum sample size, then the site team may not be included as authors).
- Collegial discussion among potential authors is the primary mechanism for configuring authorship order; alphabetical listing of site authors is a default option. Discussion will be initiated by the study proposers and includes data collectors and the MBRC Research Steering Committee.
- Any manuscript submission issues related to scientific content and authorship are subject to review by the Research Steering Committee. The Research Steering Committee will generally seek to defer to the study proposers when possible, but the Research Steering Committee retains the right to intervene whenever they choose and on any grounds consistent with ICMJE guidelines (including ethical and scientific reasons).
- Authorship lists on the manuscript will conclude with “for the Mechanistic Behavioral Research Consortium” or other similar wording if designated by journal style.

Specific Guidelines

- Manuscripts are to be prepared attending to Checklist for Investigating Mechanisms in Behavior-change Research (CLIMBR):
<https://scienceofbehaviorchange.org/resources/sobc-checklist-for-investigating-mechanisms-in-behavior-change-research-climbr/>
- If any participant recruiting site PI contributes more than 50% of data used in an investigation, then that PI will have the opportunity to assert senior or co-senior authorship on the submitted manuscript.
- Negotiations for authorship will proceed in the following order:
 1. Study proposer (Primary site PI)
 2. Any sites that have contributed >50% of data (if applicable)
 3. Research Steering Committee
- Prior to project initiation, study proposers will delineate a scope of work that proposes specific project execution and authorship roles according to the Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT) or as stated in the letter of intent for the proposed study.

- If alphabetical listing of site authors is not used, authors are invited to self-rate their proposed contribution level for each CRediT domain, which will guide authorship order selection. An abridged set of ratings will be completed at the start of the project to reflect initial plans, and a full set will be completed following manuscript completion.
- The Research Steering Committee will review all authorship proposals and manuscript texts. They will also provide final approval for manuscript submission.
- If disputes arise among study authors regarding authorship order that cannot be resolved by collegial discussion, the Research Steering Committee will make final decisions on manuscript authorship.