**Scientific Authorship with the PCORnet Bariatric Study (PBS)**

How can you contribute to scientific manuscripts?

As our study begins to have results to share, the writing process is an exciting step! But it can be confusing – especially if you are new to scientific manuscripts or writing with large groups. We hope this Q&A will help the PBS team “be on the same page” as we write manuscripts together. We welcome your feedback on this document and the writing process.

**Why does authorship matter?**

Being an author on a scientific manuscript is an important part of research. It shows that you contributed to the work and implies responsibility and accountability for what is published. It can also be important for professional or academic advancement.

Most scientific manuscripts are written by a group of collaborating researchers. As a stakeholder, you bring a unique perspective to the PBS writing group. You can help us understand how our research may affect different groups with an interest in bariatric surgery. Your experiences also help us figure out how best to get our results out to the people who need them to make better health decisions.

**What makes an author?**

The PBS uses criteria from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) to define authorship. To be included as an author, you must meet all four criteria:

1. You made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work – or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of the data. (Participating in study conference calls fulfills this requirement.)
2. You drafted the manuscript or revised it critically for important intellectual content.
3. You approved the final version to be published.
4. You agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work, including ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
I meet the ICJME criteria. What are the different ways to be an author on a PBS manuscript?

We have 8 scientific manuscripts planned for this study. Each manuscript has two groups of authors. For each manuscript, you will have a chance to be in one of these groups.

The "byline authors group" includes the authors who will be listed at the top of the paper when it is published. It is made up of two existing groups:

- The writing group, a small number of PBS team members responsible for writing the initial draft of the manuscript.
- The Scientific Core Team, which leads the effort to plan and carry out PBS analyses.

The "collaborative authors group" includes the authors who will be listed under the group name "PCORnet Bariatric Consortium." Even though authors in this group are not listed at the top of the paper, they will still be included as a named author in searchable online databases. Authors in this group will include:

- All Clinical Data Research Network Bariatric Principal Investigators and Executive Stakeholders who were not part of the byline group for that manuscript.
- Individuals that were selected by the CDRNs to represent each of their data contributing sites as collaborative PBS authors.

Here is an example from PubMed, one of the most prominent databases for scientific researchers. You can see how David Arterburn is listed as an author under the manuscript's "Collaborators" section but not in the byline authors group. He is not explicitly named on the manuscript but he is given authorship credit as a member of the study's collaborative.
Scientific writing

Stakeholders

Authors

Second, please consider the byline member of this paper. How often is a member of the scientific community, as a group, recognized for contributions to equitable health care? The group: members of the scientific community, as a group.

In an increasingly data-driven health care delivery environment, it is critical to recognize the role of scientific writing in health care publishing. The purpose of this paper is to provide a framework for the equitable health care delivery environment, as a group.

First, we focus on how the scientific community, as a group, can be involved in health care delivery. We discuss the role of scientific writing in health care delivery and the role of scientific writing in the equitable health care delivery environment.

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If not, please contact [Karen.J.Coleman@kp.org] for further guidance on how to proceed. If you have any questions, please contact [kmm34@pitt.edu].

After submitting your paper, you will receive an automated email acknowledging receipt of your submission. If there are any issues with the formatting or completeness of your submission, you will be advised to make the necessary revisions.

When you receive the first round of reviews, you will be asked to respond to the reviewers' comments. It is important to address each comment thoughtfully and to consider the advice of the reviewers, who are experts in your field. If you have any questions about how to respond to a specific comment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

When all the revisions have been completed, the paper will move to the final stage of the review process, where it will be considered for publication. During this time, you will have the opportunity to work with the editor to ensure that your paper is in the best possible form for publication.

If your paper is accepted, you will be invited to submit it for publication. If it is rejected, you will be provided with feedback on why the paper was not accepted and suggestions for how to improve it for future submission. We encourage you to consider these suggestions and to revise your paper before submitting it again.

If you have any questions or concerns about the review process, please do not hesitate to contact us at [Karen.J.Coleman@kp.org] or [kmm34@pitt.edu]. We are here to support you throughout the process and to ensure that your paper is in the best possible form for publication.