

A statement regarding authorship in the Case Report project

The *Asia-Pacific Chiropractic Journal* formally states it follows the requirements of the *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors* (ICMJE).

The ICMJE guidelines state that in order to qualify for authorship of a manuscript, the following criteria should be observed:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Generally the first author listed on a paper is the author who 'owns' the data, the author who has done the essential work to allow the paper to be written. On this basis the apcj assigns first-authorship to the chiropractor who provides the patient data as the Intellectual Property of the case report. It is the policy of the *Journal* that the first author retains IP Rights on their data and work.

The format followed by the *Journal* is to list the first author first in the paper by-line, and then as the right-hand block of 'author details' at the ends of the paper. We expect the first author to be the author responsible for all further communication about the paper from readers hence their email address is given for this purpose.

The paper-as-published reflects the standard processes that all papers undergo when they are (i) generated by a research group and (ii) peer-reviewed with requests to re-write for various reasons. The *Journal* accepts that the ASRF has developed a task-specific research group to refine the outline of a case provided by a field practitioner. This research group is led by Clare McIvor and includes Ruth Postlethwaite and, from time to time, senior students who seek 'placement' with a research group to enrich their studies.

Each contributing author to any one published Case Report is a person who has made a defensible intellectual contribution to the paper across a range of inputs. All such authors rightly earn inclusion in the authorship of such report and are duly named as such.

Each published Case Report can be taken on face value as representing the combined intellectual input of all named authors. There are no ghost-authors or hidden contributors.

As Editor, I take full responsibility to ensure the *Journal's* requirements are adhered to.

Phillip Ebrall

Editor

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Further reading:

Ebrall PS. Ethical considerations for chiropractic researchers. In, Lawrence DJ, ed. *Advances in Chiropractic*, Vol 3. St Louis, Mosby, 1996: 245-68.

Ebrall PS. Defensible statements: an ethical consideration for scholarly writing. *J Chiropr Humanities* 1995; 5(1):19-27.

Ebrall PS. Commentary: The ethics of publication. *J Chiropr Ed* 1993 Sept:43-51