

This material is part of a collection that documents the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation perpetrated against Alaska's women research scientists by their supervisor, with full knowledge (and arguably, "tacit approval") of their federal employer, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Subject: FW: PWA Policy on Authorship
From: Cindy Bower <Cindy.Bower@ars.usda.gov>
Date: Fri, 18 Dec 2009 16:17:03 -0900
To: "BOWER@sfos.uaf.edu" <bower@sfos.uaf.edu>
CC: CK Bower <ckbower319@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Whalen, Maureen" <Maureen.Whalen@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Date: Fri, 18 Dec 2009 17:22:10 -0700
To: "Hietala, Katie" <Katie.Hietala@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Cc: "Bower, Cindy" <Cindy.Bower@ars.usda.gov>, "Pantoja, Alberto" <Alberto.Pantoja@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Subject: FW: PWA Policy on Authorship

Katie,

Here is the text of the guidance I mentioned to you this afternoon, and the two ARS documents .

Happy holidays,

Maureen

Regarding authorship, I have attached P&P 152.2. All authors have to fulfill the three authorship criteria in section 1, page 3.

Anyone who fulfills the authorship criteria (P&P 152.2 section 1) must be offered authorship.

For management approval of authorship (see P&P 152.2, section 3, page 4), the AD has delegated the approval to the RL WITH GUIDANCE. The guidance that is in effect is described in the attached memo from May 17, 1999.

Co-authoring papers is not in the position description of technicians. Because it is not in their position descriptions, technicians should not be routinely co-authoring papers. A supervisor is responsible for ensuring the employee is performing the work described in the position description (PD). The supervisor's signature on the PD cover sheet attests to the accuracy of the document and that the employee is performing the work. The supervisor should not be assigning work outside of the PD.

P&P 152.2 recognizes technical help by technicians and acknowledges their assistance as described in P&P 152.2 section 2 Acknowledgement of Contributions.

In the rare instances where a support scientist is to serve as a co-author, as it says in the PWA guidance, "the role must be established...as soon in the research process as possible, ideally prior to the conduct of the research." The example, used by the PWA office, is it would be appropriate if a technician were specifically assigned the development of a method and then fulfilled the three authorship criteria. The RL would have to give prior approval to the role.

According to P&P 152.2, section 3, the RL as AD/AD designee "may require authors to justify the assignment of authorship, by explaining how each individual participated in the activities described by the guidelines for authorship..." The system for justification for authorship is up to the RL as AD designee. The RL signs the ARIS 115s according to the P&P 152.2, the PWA guidance and position

descriptions.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding PWA authorship policy.

Maureen C. Whalen

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----- End of Forwarded Message

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Policies and Procedures

Title: Authorship of Research and Technical Reports and Publications

Number: 152.2-ARS

Date: May 12, 1997

Originating Office: Office of the Administrator, ARS

This Replaces: ARS 152.2 dated 11/9/90

Distribution: ARS Headquarters, Areas, and Locations

This P&P provides guidelines for authorship of scientific and technical publications.

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1. Guidelines on Authorship

The question of who should be an author is fundamentally an issue of scientific ethics. Each author must have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content of the article. This participation must include:

- conception or design, or analysis and interpretation of data, or both; and,
- drafting the article or revising it for critically important intellectual content; and,
- final approval of the version to be published.

All elements of an article critical to the main conclusions must be attributable to at least one author. The order of names on a multi-authored article will be decided by the group responsible for the research.

Participation solely in the collection or summarization of data does not justify authorship.

The issue of “credit” for performance evaluation or the Research Position Evaluation System (RPES) relates to actual role rather than order of names, and is a separate issue beyond the scope of this P&P.

All individuals to be listed as authors, regardless of the classification of their positions, or other affiliation, must meet these authorship guidelines.

2. Acknowledgment of Contributions

Persons who have contributed intellectually to the paper and whose contributions do not justify authorship may be named and their contribution described—for example, “advice,” “critical review of study proposal,” “data collection.” Such persons must give their permission to be named.

At an appropriate place in the article one or more statements should specify:

- contributions that need acknowledgment but do not justify authorship;
- acknowledgments of technical help (required in a separate paragraph); and,
- acknowledgments of financial and material support.

3. Approval of Authorship

Authority to approve authorship by employees who do not occupy research or service scientist positions (Categories 1, 2 and 4) resides with the Area Director. The Area Director may delegate this authority to lower management levels (Institute Director, Center Director, Laboratory Director, or Research Leader). **Note:** Hereafter, “Area Director” also includes lower management levels when delegation has occurred.

- The Area Director may require authors to justify the assignment of authorship, by explaining how each individual participated in the activities described by the guidelines for authorship.
- When approval of authorship by the Area Director is required, such approval will be sought as soon as the need for approval becomes evident, but prior to production of the first draft of the manuscript.
- Any person who, in the judgment of the Area Director, meets the guidelines for authorship, and who wishes to be listed as an author, cannot ethically be denied authorship.

4. Reference

Guidelines on Authorship, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (Brit. Med. J. 291:722, 1985)

5. Summary of Responsibilities

Principal Investigators and Coinvestigators

- Determine when an individual has made contributions meeting the authorship guidelines.
- Request Area Director approval of authorship when required by Section 3, and provide justification upon demand.

Area Directors (or Delegates)

- Determine when authorship is warranted, and grant or deny approval as appropriate.

EDWARD B. KNIPLING
Acting Administrator
Agricultural Research Service

This material is part of a collection that documents the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation perpetrated against Alaska's women research scientists by their supervisor, with full knowledge (and arguably, "tacit approval") of their federal employer, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
May 17, 1999

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority to Approve Authorship
TO: PWA Center Directors, Laboratory Directors, Research Leaders
FROM: Antoinette A. Betschart /s/
Area Director

Except for manuscripts containing sensitive information, P&P 152.1-ARS dated March 10, 1998 establishes that Research Leaders are responsible for approving manuscripts and abstracts and for ensuring that the approval is entered into RMIS. Exercise of this responsibility is the last step in assuring that ARS publications are of the highest quality. Authority to approve authorship by employees who do not occupy research or service scientist positions (Category 1, 2 and 4) currently resides with the Area Director (P&P 152.2-ARS, May 12, 1997). I hereby delegate this authority to approve authorship by support scientists (Category 3) and technicians to Research Leaders in the Pacific West Area with the following guidelines:

For support scientists, all criteria in the guidelines on authorship (see P&P 152.2-ARS) must have been met. Support scientists should rarely be the principal author by virtue of their assignment (i.e., support). If a support scientist is to serve as principal author, the role must be established prior to the production of the first draft of the manuscript and as soon in the research process as possible, ideally prior to the conduct of the research. An exception may be publication of thesis or dissertation research.

For technicians, the level of contribution to a publication is appropriately recognized by an acknowledgment in the paper. By virtue of typical assigned responsibilities of a technician, authorship on even abstracts should be rare. As with support scientists, an exception may be publication of thesis or dissertation research. In any case involving authorship by a technician, approval shall be established as soon in the research process as possible, ideally prior to the conduct of the research. In addition, there shall be written justification explaining how the technician met all the guidelines for authorship set out in P&P 152.2-ARS.

Authorship by employees from any other classification series will continue to require approval by the Area Director. If you have any questions, please call Dr. Andrew Hammond at 510.559.6063.