

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.