



Case 1: Who is an Author?

You are a part of a lab that has just concluded research on the efficacy of a new drug treatment for childhood asthma. At the next lab meeting you are to discuss authorship for the resulting publication. Please **consider the appropriateness** of each of the the individuals listed below in the authorship listing; where in the listing each might be; and what the responsibilities resulting from inclusion as an author might be:

- a) The lab manager who has contributed to the research by offering a few suggestions from time to time but who has not been a part of the research process other than in his role of maintaining the laboratory.
- b) A representative from the drug manufacturer. She has offered substantial contributions. (Consider this individual under two circumstance: (1) the drug manufacturer is requiring her to be listed as an author (2) the drug manufacturer is requiring there to be no mention of the company in any publication.)
- c) A post-doc who is no longer a part of the lab but who had facilitated the partnership between the lab and the drug company, written much of the protocol and obtained significant funding for the project.
- d) You and several other graduate students who did the majority of the work and analysis.
- e) Another graduate student who was assigned a portion of the work. His portion did not yield any results that could be included in the publication but was instructive to the work the rest of you were doing.
- f) The lab technician who brought up several key points from some literature she had been reading on related work.
- g) The biostatistician who has helped the lab with the finer points of various analyses.
- h) The PI who has been rather “hands off” on this project.
- i) A post-doc who joined the lab about a year ago, has made some contributions to the research project and who has a lot of pressure to publish something soon.

With your decisions in mind, draft a policy (or suggest elements for a policy) on authorship that would be used by your lab in the future (either now, or when you are PI).