

# Research Contributions to Consider When Making Authorship Decisions

This document was created and is maintained by the NIH Intramural Research Program Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics. Revised March 5, 2026

## Contributions

## Authorship? (yes; no)

## Comments

<b>Design &amp; interpretation of results</b>	original idea, planning & input		An idea alone may not warrant authorship, unless highly original & unique
	other intellectual contribution		Yes, but assuming active involvement
<b>Supervisory role</b>	supervision of the project		Yes, but assuming active involvement
	training, education		
	mentoring of first author		No, unless substantive contribution made to study
<b>Administrative &amp; technical support</b>	resources: money, space		Acknowledgements yes, authorship no
	resources: animals, reagents		No if already published; yes, if novel
	resources: patients		Maybe, depending on circumstances
<b>Data acquisition</b>	original experimental work		
	technical experimental work		No if routine; yes, if novel methods added, or specific role, e.g., statistics, imaging etc.
	data analysis (assays)		Yes, unless only very basic
	data analysis (statistics)		Yes, unless the contribution is only very basic
<b>Writing &amp; other</b>	drafting of manuscript		Writing first draft typically merits first (or co-first) authorship
	reading/ commenting on manuscript		Acknowledge substantial feedback; rarely merits co-authorship
	No contributions		NIH's authorship policy requires that authors participate in drafting or substantively reviewing or revising the manuscript