

*Affirmation, Clarification, Update and
Codification of the*

Parkinson Study Group

Authorship and Publication Policy

Reviewed and approved by majority vote of the PSG Executive Committee

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Parkinson Study Group (PSG) is to advance scientific research aimed at relieving the burden of Parkinson's disease (PD). The cornerstone of the PSG, since its organizational creation in 1987, has been a cooperative consortium of individuals ---investigators, coordinators, consultants and staff who are collectively committed to improving the treatment and care of patients and families with Parkinson's disease. As a collaborative research group, the PSG provides benefits that are greater than the individual contributions.

Free and unfettered access to data and the timely publication of scientific reports have been long-standing guiding principles of the PSG. Since establishment of the PSG and its original DATATOP study, it has been the policy and practice to publish the primary reports of PSG studies under the byline authorship of the **Parkinson Study Group**. This byline has been appropriately linked to a full detailing of the role of the participating investigators, coordinators, consultants and staff, typically in the form of an appendix of the report referable to the PSG byline.

This communication is intended to reaffirm, reiterate, update and clarify the PSG policy for the peer-reviewed reporting of all PSG studies, with special emphasis on the primary study report. This document has been prompted by recent trends of some biomedical journals to limit the

length and numbers of authorship citations. The PSG authorship policy has been in effect for the past 16 years, under the direction of PSG Steering Committees and the scrutiny of the PSG Publication Committee and Executive Committee. The PSG's authorship policy is in full compliance with the October 2001 updating of authorship policies as part of the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals* [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, <http://www.icmje.org> (accessed March 9, 2003)].

PSG Authorship Policy for Primary Reports: Procedures

1. Title Page

The authorship byline should be listed as **Parkinson Study Group**, with an indication that the complete listing of PSG authors and other participants is detailed in the appendix or in a similarly appropriate and referenced part of the report. The corresponding author for the report (to whom editorial communications should be addressed), including institutional affiliation and addresses, should be listed on the title page.

2. Appendix

The appendix should list all participating PSG authors or participants according to subheadings:

- a) *Steering committee*, with corresponding author, principal investigator, co-principal investigator and other members of the steering committee, including ex-officio members.
- b) *Investigators and Coordinators* in (descending) order of the number of research participants enrolled at their site.
- c) *Staff* of coordination, biostatistics and other PSG centers
- d) *Consultants* (e.g. data monitoring committee)
- e) *sponsor authors or participants*
- f) *writing committees* as designated and appropriate

All PSG investigators and coordinators who are listed as authors in the appendix should fulfill the requirements for authorship as set forth in the 'authorship section' of the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals* <http://www.icmje.org> (specific requirements of journals may vary slightly) and as outlined below:

1. substantial contribution to one or more of the following:
 - a) study concept and design
 - b) acquisition of data
 - c) analysis and interpretation of data

2. and participation in one or more of the following:

- d) drafting and final approval of the manuscript for submission
- e) critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content, and final approval of the manuscript for submission.

In addition, acknowledgements of specific contributions by individuals who do not qualify for authorship may be made in one or more of the following: statistical analyses; obtaining of funding; administrative, technical, and material support; other contributions.

All authors must complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure (see PSG Policy on Conflict of Interest)

3. Examples and References

A recent example of PSG byline authorship of a primary report “A Controlled Trial of Rasagiline in Early Parkinson’s Disease” (*Arch Neurol* 2002; 59:1937-1943) is attached [see Adobe file]. A recent article confirming the appropriateness of publication under the Parkinson Study Group byline “Authorship for Research Groups” (*JAMA* Dec 25, 2002; 288: 3166-68) is also attached [see Adobe file].

4. Abstracts

The authorship policy for preparation and submission of primary reports in abstract form (poster, platform) of PSG studies is the same in principle as for primary full reports. In practice, space and text entry are usually limited for full listing of authors in abstract submissions. In such instances, the abstract should be submitted with authorship designated as the Parkinson Study Group (with the name of corresponding or presenting author following in parenthesis). The abstract submission should also indicate that a full listing of the PSG authors of this report will be detailed at the poster or platform presentation.

5. Timeliness and Flow of Data Analysis, Review, and Reporting

The Principal investigator (PI) and steering committee (SC) of PSG studies are obliged to publish the peer-reviewed results of their studies in a timely fashion. The need for timeliness of publication applies especially because of the therapeutic and public health implications of PSG studies.

The PI and SC are responsible for overseeing the analysis of study data, in consultation with the PSG Coordination and Biostatistics Centers (and their representatives on the SC), and for ensuring that the

investigator-authored drafts of the primary report are adequately and diligently reviewed by all study researchers (including from sponsor) who qualify for authorship. The PI and SC should designate a corresponding author of the primary report (who may or may not be the PI) who is responsible for ensuring that the drafting and review proceed efficiently and expeditiously. The corresponding author, in consultation with the PI and SC, may delegate the drafting of portions of the primary study report to other study investigators (writing committee), but remains responsible for preparing and completing the primary report within an expected timeline.

When the database of a PSG study has been certified by the PI, and SC representatives from the Coordination and Biostatistics Centers, as 'cleaned and locked', the data should promptly be reviewed. Ordinarily, the PI (or corresponding author) and SC would be expected to review internally the primary data within 3 months of the database lock and subsequently with the full group of study investigators within the next 3 to 6 months. Although face-to-face review meetings involving the authors are preferable, all or part of the data review may be conducted by conference call, email or shared electronic data presentation. It is expected that all primary reports of PSG studies will be prepared, reviewed and submitted for peer-reviewed publication within 9 to 12 months of the database lock.

Prior to journal submission, the full draft of the primary report must be reviewed by the PSG Publications Committee (a process that should ordinarily take no more than 5 working days) to ensure compliance with the PSG Authorship and Publication Policy. Corresponding authors and principal investigators are encouraged to share the PSG authorship policy with journal editors at the time of submission of the primary study report to avoid misunderstanding in authorship attribution and help facilitate the review process.

After submission of the primary report, the PI (or corresponding author) and SC remain responsible for ensuring timely replies or re-submissions to the journal editors, including proposed revisions and modifications of the report, and necessary communication, consultation and review with all the authors of the report. When accepted for publication, the PI (or corresponding author) should accordingly advise all study authors and the PSG Publications and Executive committees, including information available about expected publication date and any plans for a press release or news conference.

7. Exceptions to the PSG Authorship and Publications Policy

All PIs, corresponding authors and SCs of PSG studies should agree to and abide by the PSG Authorship and Publication Policy.

However, mindful of the complexities of multi-center research studies, extraordinary circumstances may require exceptions to the policy. Any deviations from the policy must be justified by the PI (or corresponding author) and have the prior approval from the PSG Publications and Executive Committees in advance of the final acceptance of the report for publication.

Authorship Policy for PSG Publications Other than the Primary Report

The authorship of reports of PSG studies other than the primary report is less straightforward. In secondary reports of PSG studies, in addition to the individual authors of the report, the PSG should be: 1) listed in the authorship byline and referenced appropriately to a full listing of PSG authors in the appendix or a published reference to a full listing of PSG authors or 2) acknowledged specifically with a published reference to a full listing of PSG authors of the primary report. Details of such authorship citations should be agreed to in advance of manuscript preparation by the individual steering committees and reviewed by the PSG Publications or Executive committees.

Authorship Policy for Reports using PSG Data Provided by One of More PSG Steering Committees

Increasingly, two or more databases of individually analyzed and reported PSG studies have been requested for cross-study or meta-analyses. In principle, the PSG supports such analyses and publications after the analyses, review and primary report of the individual study has been completed. The appropriate PSG steering committees, as well as the PSG Executive committee, should approve provision of the database. The PSG Publication Committee should agree to the authorship/publication policies for such analyses prior to submission of the peer-reviewed publication. In such multi-database PSG reports, the PSG should be included in the byline authorship, including a full listing or a published reference to a full listing of the individual names of all PSG authors as cited on the primary published report.

Attachments:

1. Arch Neurol (Dec, 2002) TEMPO report

2. JAMA (Dec 29, 2002) editorial on Group Authorship



TEMPO.12.02.Arch
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