

Authorship Guidelines

APPRENTICE (Acute Pancreatitis Patient Registry To Examine Novel Therapies In Clinical Experiences)

The APPRENTICE Consortium is a network of twenty-five international clinical sites whose goal is to prospectively recruit and follow up patients so as to collect demographic, clinical, laboratory, and radiologic data in acute pancreatitis. This data will serve to assess existing risks, predictive scores, and markers of severe disease, allocate patients in the two recent severity classifications based on their clinical course and evaluate the current management and outcomes of acute pancreatitis around the world. The principal study investigator, Dr. Georgios Papachristou, and the central coordinating center, are located at the University of Pittsburgh. This Consortium is supported by the Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research community (CAPER).

The creation and development of APPRENTICE and the creation and development of the REDCap-based electronic database are the products of a two-year effort by all consortium members of INSPPIRE, principally the main investigators at each site, under the guidance of Dr. Papachristou. It is recognized that a major strength of APPRENTICE is based on its membership in its entirety, and that the strength of any study idea and/or eventual manuscript(s) from the group is (are) based on the combination of all patients/data assembled at and collected from all participating centers (both data of inclusion and exclusion), and from the expertise of all members that has been shared at various teleconferences, meetings, e-mail correspondences, etc, from the time of inception.

Analysis & Publications Committee

The APPRENTICE Consortium collaborators have been regularly communicating in the form of webinars under the guidance of Dr. Papachristou since February of 2015. During one of these webinars the decision was made for the creation of an Analysis & Publication Committee, which consists of five members. The selection of the members was based on their previous experience on similar collaborations, initial enthusiasm and commitment to APPRENTICE as well as geographical considerations, so as all different continents to be represented in the Committee.

The tasks of the Analysis & Publication Committee include to set strict guidelines for authorship to honor investigator proposals and recognize centers that have contributed significantly in the enrollment of patients. All investigators are encouraged to provide the committee with their research proposals (Research question, Aim of the study, Preliminary data (if available), Brief methods; one page long). The Committee will review each proposal and assess its feasibility, novelty, and clinical impact. When a research proposal is considered worth pursuing, the committee will determine the exact variables and patient subset, which needs to be analyzed. The coordinating center's Data Manager will provide the principal investigator with the results. The publication committee will then set a strict time frame for the manuscript to be completed (6 months) and oversee the progress of the project in 2-month intervals. In case that appropriate progress has not been achieved, the Publication Committee may decide to assign other Consortium members to take over the project as leading investigators.

Current Publication Committee Members:

- 1- Silvia Cristina Gutiérrez (Hospital Nacional "Profesor A. Posadas", Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- 2- Vikesh Singh (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA)
- 3- Enrique de-Madaria (General Universitario de Alicante, Alicante, Spain)
- 4- Rakesh Kochar (Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India)
- 5- Georgios Papachristou (University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA; Committee Chair)

Members of APPRENTICE are required to follow the guidelines below to remain in good standing.

APPRENTICE fully adopts the Authorship Guidelines from International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), plus additional guidelines as listed below.

ICMJE Guidelines

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Additional Authorship Guidelines for APPRENTICE:

1. Site investigators who contributed to the APPRENTICE project by providing subjects, data and/or intellectual material are eligible to be authors. They are expected to be involved in drafting and/or revising the scientific products originating from APPRENTICE (abstracts, manuscripts) and approve the final version to be authors.
2. The order of primary authorship (first, second, third, etc.) and senior and corresponding authorship will be project based. The determinants of this will include: study conception, effort of writing and data analysis team and leadership for the project. The Publication Committee will make the final decision of the authorship order.
3. Additional APPRENTICE Consortium site investigators will be included as co-authors. An effort will be made for the site investigators at the top three quartiles (1st to 75th) in respect to number of patient enrolled in their center to be listed as co-authors. Those investigators ranking in the lower quartile (76th to 100th) in respect to patient enrolment will still be acknowledged. The order of co-authorship will be based on the number of patients enrolled in the site investigator's center (the higher the number of patients enrolled, the higher the rank of the site investigator in the co-authorship list). Each publication author list should end with the phrase "on behalf of the APPRENTICE Consortium".

4. Additional two non-consortium members (student, statistician, resident, fellow) and/or co-investigators of the center that leads a certain project who make a significant contribution to the manuscript content/ writing can be included within the first three-four authors; however, involvement of any non-consortium member(s) or site co-investigator and authorship order should be determined amongst the primary author assigned this certain project and the Publication Committee before starting the project.
5. The Analysis & Publication Committee will be responsible for assuring that adherence to the Authorship Guidelines.
6. The Publication Committee recognizes the wide variation in regard with experience in writing manuscripts between site co-investigators. Therefore, a writing group is going to be formed, which will be compromised by young enthusiastic APPRENTICE co-investigators with previous experience in writing manuscripts. The writing group will be available to investigators leading a certain project. The use of a writing group member on a certain project will be based on leading investigator's request as well the Committee's recommendations after reviewing the initial manuscript draft. When a member of the writing group is involved in the writing of the manuscript, then he/she will be included as one of the leading author of the manuscript along with the leading investigator.

Proposed Working Group members:

- Efstratios Koutroumpakis, MD; University of Pittsburgh
- Robert Moran, MD; Johns Hopkins
- Peter Lee, MD; Cleveland Clinic.

Special Considerations:

- A. *“Work product of exception”*: Should an author group feel that their product/ contribution to the work deviates significantly from what is stated above, and that the work is not a product of the contribution of the entire consortium, but rather work of a separate expert subgroup, and thus the authorship inclusion and order should deviate from the default, the group should submit a short summary of their proposed work to the APPRENTICE Publication Committee, with direct explanations why the authorship guidelines should be altered for this particular abstract or manuscript. The APPRENTICE Publication Committee will review the information provided (either via mail or teleconference, after requesting further information and participation of the involved authors if necessary), discuss/debate, and take a vote on the matter. The majority decision would be binding.

- B. *Abstract submission*: author inclusion list may be very dependent on maximal word count/space considerations for submission. Whenever possible, it is encouraged to include at least the top three quartile APPRENTICE consortium investigators (based on patient enrolment), in the order as specified above for manuscripts. In situations where there would be space/ word count constraints; it may be acceptable to only list significantly-contributing/ participating members, with the specification “on behalf of the APPRENTICE Consortium members”. As per routine measures, the authors’ names and abstract content must be reviewed and approved by the Publication Committee before final submission.