

How to Acknowledge a Biomedical Communicator



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Introduction

AMWA Position Statement

The American Medical Writers Association recognizes the valuable contributions of biomedical communicators to the publication team. Biomedical communicators who contribute substantially to the writing or editing of a manuscript should be acknowledged with their permission and with disclosure of any pertinent professional or financial relationships. In all aspects of the publication process, biomedical communicators should adhere to the AMWA Code of Ethics.

Purpose of the Position Statement

Through full disclosure of the roles and remuneration of all contributors, we hope to “unmask the ghost” by acknowledging the valuable contributions of professional writers and editors to biomedical communications.

What to Acknowledge^{1,2}

- Contributions that do not justify authorship
 - General advice, guidance, or supervision
 - Writing or editorial assistance or collaboration
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 - Manuscript preparation, including clerical services
- Technical help
 - Critical review of manuscript
 - Critical review of study proposal, design, or methods
 - Data collection or analysis; assistance in conduct of clinical trial
 - Statistical, technical, or research assistance or advice
- Financial, material, or grant support
- Relationships that may pose a conflict of interest

¹International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. Available at: <http://www.icmje.org/index.html#top>. Accessed August 1, 2003.
²Iverson C, Flanagan A, Fontanarosa PB. *American Medical Association Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. Baltimore, Md: Williams & Wilkins; 1998.

Examples

Sample Disclosure Form

Contributor	Role	Financial Relationship with Sponsor
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Author A	Served as principal investigator	Research grants
Author B	Created research protocol	Consultant
Author C	Designed statistical analysis	Research grants
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Adjunct Faculty	Critiqued study design	Part-time employee
Statistician	Reviewed statistical results	Full-time employee
Writer	Wrote manuscript drafts	Fee for writing and editorial services
Editor	Edited manuscript content	Contractor
Foundation X	Provided financial support	Research grant
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[†]Must give written permission to be acknowledged

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