

# Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

## FREE\* Newsletter

\*(Faculty Resources for Educational Excellence)

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#### Quote of the Month

"The two most engaging powers of  
an author are to make new things  
familiar [and to make] familiar things  
new."

- William Makepeace Thackeray

### Health Professions Education Scholarship & Authorship

Excellent news! You finally have the perfect topic for an education scholarship project and, even better, you have determined the perfect venue to present it as a poster! SCORE! [*Enter sticky wicket stage left*].

As you begin to draft, you recall that Dr. Smith (now far removed) had the original idea for the project, you know your boss really needs to improve her scholarly output (and she *was* super supportive of your work on the project), and your colleague reminds you that the statistician will likely want authorship. Self-doubt immediately creeps in. *Maybe this isn't the best project for a poster, or the best venue, or the best time? Maybe you should wait until you have more data?* STOP THAT!

There are guidelines to help with this wicket so sticky. These guidelines can help not only ease the stress of wondering if you are doing the "right thing," but, with practice, they can also help shift the culture so that basic questions of authorship are no longer an issue...or at least help you navigate your way through challenging conversations if they creep up anyway. Check out the tips below (gathered from numerous sources) and see if they help.

- All authors should meet the following three criteria, and all those who meet the criteria should be authors:
  - **Scholarship:** Intellectually contribute significantly to conception, design, execution, and/or analysis and interpretation of data.
  - **Writing/ Reviewing:** Participate in drafting, reviewing, and/or revising manuscript for intellectual content.
  - **Approval:** Approve the manuscript to be published.
- One author should take primary responsibility for the work as a whole. This author is typically listed as first or last/senior author.
- Honorary/guest authorship is not acceptable. All individuals that have contributed significantly to the work, but do not meet the criteria for authorship, should be recognized in the acknowledgements section. This typically includes those who provide:
  - Financial support
  - Technical skill
  - Writing or editorial assistance
  - Statistical advice
  - Data collection or supervision thereof
- All authors should be aware of institutional and journal-specific policies and guidelines regarding authorship.
- Determination of authorship and authorship order should be **discussed early** and be *consistent*, both within the current and other research groups.

Happy writing!

Shari A. Whicker, EdD, MEd

All attendees of June's Health Professions Educator (HPE) session were entered into a drawing to win the book "How Learning Works" by Ambrose et al.

#### Congratulations to the winners!

Dr. Susan Gladfelter (Pharmacy), Dr. Cheri Hartman (Psychiatry), and Ms. Kimberly Whiter (JCHS)