How to recognise potential authorship problems

Best practice to minimise authorship problems

**Authorship policies:**
Clear policies (that allow for transparency around who contributed to the work and in what capacity) should be in place for requirements for authorship and contributorship as well as processes for managing potential disputes.

For further details see: publicationethics.org/authorship

**Relevant COPE Flowcharts and cases:**
Flowchart: How to spot authorship problems.
https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.2.16
Flowchart: Suspected ghost, guest, or gift authorship.
https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.2.18
Flowchart: Request for removal of author after publication.
https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.2.11
Flowchart: Systematic manipulation of the publication process.
https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.2.23
Case 17-15: Stolen article.
https://cope.onl/case-stolen
Case 17-16: Authorship issues from disbanded consortium.
https://cope.onl/case-authorship
Case 17-14: Withdrawal request by an author.
https://cope.onl/case-withdraw

**Further reading**
COPE Discussion document on best practice in theses publishing.
https://doi.org/10.24318/LQU1h9US
COPE webinar 2017: Standards in authorship.
https://cope.onl/issues
eLearning module on authorship (members only).
https://cope.onl/elearn-author
https://cope.onl/good-practice
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0023477
McNutt MK, Bradford M, Drazen JM, et al. Transparency in authors’ contributions and responsibilities to promote integrity in scientific publication. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2018;115:2557-60.
https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1715374115
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0040019
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0040034

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