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Research Article

Contribution Based Author Categorization to Calculate Author Performance Index

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Abstract

papers addressing unethical authorship practices. These are lack of (i) awareness about and (ii) compliance with authorship criteria, (iii) universal definition and scope for determining authorship, (iv) common mechanisms for positioning an author in the list, (v) quantitative measures of intellectual contribution; and (vi) pressure to publish. As a possible measure to control unethical practice, we have evaluated the possibility to adopt an author categorization scheme – proposed according to the common understanding of how first-, co-, principal-, or corresponding- author is perceived. Based on an online opinion survey, the proposed scheme was supported by ~80% of the respondents (n=370). The impact of the proposed categorization was then evaluated using a novel mathematical tool to measure “Author Performance Index (API)” that can be higher for those who might have authored more papers as primary and/or principal authors than those as coauthors. Hence, if adopted, the proposed author categorization scheme together with the API would provide a better way to evaluate the credit of an individual as a primary and principal author.

Q Key Words: [Authorship criteria](#) [corresponding author](#) [Hyperauthorship](#) [primary author](#) [principal author](#) [relative intellectual contribution](#)

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Conflicts of interest/Competing interests:

Authors declare no conflict of interest

Availability of data and material:

All data are submitted as supplementary material with the manuscript

Code availability:

Not applicable

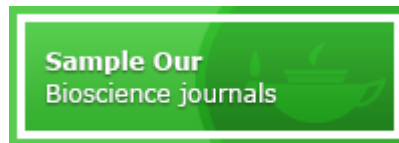
Authors' contributions:

MTR conceptualized the initial idea, drafted the initial manuscript, and devised the equation of API, **JMR** helped to refined the concept, and revised the manuscript, **NLAK** helped to draft the initial manuscript and helped to revise the manuscript, **MMK** helped to summarize the published papers to identify the reasons linked with the unethical practices of authorship assignment.

Supplementary Material

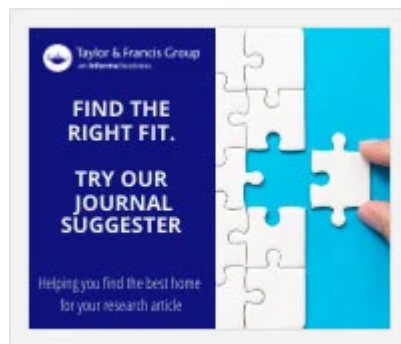
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