Microscopy Core Authorship and Acknowledgement Policy

Although authorship has different criteria in different fields, the Microscopy Core primarily services NIH funded investigators, so our authorship policy adheres to NIH authorship guidelines. According to the NIH Sourcebook: "The privilege of authorship should be based on a significant contribution to the conceptualization, design, execution, or interpretation of the research, as well as to the drafting or substantively reviewing or revising the research article. Authorship also conveys responsibility for the study" [1, 2]. If you have any questions about authorship or acknowledgement, please ask us for clarification during your initial project consultation or as soon as possible thereafter[3].

Acknowledgement: In most cases, Microscopy Core staff provide only a relatively brief (<1 day) training on instrument use or sample prep methods specific to your sample but according to well established principles and protocols. We may also provide a few sentences for a Methods section describing an instrument or settings that you used. In these cases, we would appreciate only your acknowledgement. For example: "We acknowledge [staff name] in the Michigan Medicine Microscopy Core for training and advice on [how we helped you]".

Authorship: In some cases, Microscopy Core staff will make a "significant contribution to the conceptualization, design, execution, or interpretation of the research" and may provide "drafting" of paragraphs of Methods describing novel procedures or analysis techniques. In these cases, we expect that the Core staff directly involved in the study will be included as a co-author(s) upon successful completion of your experiments. Core staff will discuss authorship with you before beginning your project or soon after you have been able to review initial results. Situations where authorship often becomes warranted include but are not limited to:

- Execution of novel image analysis strategies that require >1 day of custom coding or that incorporate novel or unpublished algorithms.
- Correlative light and electron microscopy. All CLEM techniques are very technically challenging, often requiring weeks of work and substantial methods development to trial different protocols and techniques until finding what works best for your particular sample. Challenging image processing is often required to precisely merge the LM and EM images.
- Other technically challenging EM protocols or imaging methods such as array tomography, TEM tomography, or FIB-SEM.
- If we make significant recommendations about new methods, reagents, instruments, or image analysis approaches that were previously unknown to you, teach you how to use these new methods, and use of these new methods results in data that becomes an important part of your research (such as a figure).
- We spend a significant amount of time (>1 day) collecting and analyzing data for you, where your role is solely to provide samples.

Authorship is <u>not</u> expected if the experiments are a technical failure, if the quality of the data we provide does not pass peer review, or if you decide not to publish the data. You determine the order of authorship.

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[1] https://oir.nih.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/sourcebook/documents/ethical_conduct/guidelines-conduct_research.pdf
[2] https://oir.nih.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/sourcebook/documents/ethical_conduct/guidelines-authorship_contributions.pdf
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