



Proposed authorship policy framework for the DISCOURSE Consortium, adapted from ENIGMA's structure while incorporating ICMJE guidelines and best practices from collaborative research consortia:

DISCOURSE WG Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) pertains to the *DISCOURSE Working Groups*, hereinafter referred to as WG. At present, there are 5 WGs.

- Computational Working Group is chaired by *Dr. Sunny Tang and Dr. Alban Voppel*. The e-mail addresses of the WG chairs: stang3@northwell.edu and alban.voppel@mail.mcgill.ca
- Clinical Harmonization Working Group is chaired by *Dr. Frederike Stein and Dr. Sunny Tang*. The e-mail addresses of the WG chairs frederike.stein@staff.uni-marburg.de and stang3@northwell.edu
- Clinical Translation Working Group is chaired by *Dr. Valentina Bambini and Dr. Susan Rossell*. The e-mail addresses of the WG chairs: valentina.bambini@iusspavia.it and srossell@srossell.com
- Mechanisms/Models Working Group is chaired by *Dr. Gina Kuperberg and Dr. Maria Francisca Alonso Sanchez*. The e-mail addresses of the WG chairs: gina.kuperberg@tufts.edu and mariafrancisca.alonso@uv.cl
- Stakeholders Working Group is chaired by *Dr. Natalia Mota and Dr. Julianna Olah*. The e-mail addresses of the WG chairs: natalia.mota@ipub.ufrj.br and juli@psyrin.co.uk

The WG chairs are herein after referred to as Chairs.

The Overall DISCOURSE PI is Dr. Lena Palaniyappan, herein after referred to as Consortium PI. Lena.palaniyappan@mcgill.ca. The activities of DISCOURSE consortium are sponsored by generous support from Tannabaum Open Science (TOSI) and Monique Bourgeois Foundation Chair, and more recently, a Wellcome Team Grant held by the consortium PI. The members of Working Groups and the participating sites and their PIs are listed on the DISCOURSE website.

Individual subject level Working Group data will be stored at *the McGill University's Douglas Mental Health Institute, Northwell Hospital and University of Marburg*. Individual subject level speech data will be stored at the TalkBank.org or at the McGill University, DISCOURSE lead PI (Dr. Lena Palaniyappan) site, and/or sites with approved secondary proposals. Together these sites are hereinafter referred to as *Working Group Data Storage Sites*.

In all publications that use the DISCOURSE Working Group data, that are not able to list all working group members, the text “*for the DISCOURSE [name of WG] Working Group*”, will appear near the end of the author list.

What Constitutes a DISCOURSE Working Group Publication?

DISCOURSE Working Group publications are papers or abstracts that either use data gathered by the Working Group’s efforts (e.g. from Psychosis Talkbank or crowdsourcing from members) or rely substantially on intellectual resources or information obtained through Working Group membership, such that the work would not be possible or would be fundamentally different without this contribution.

What is NOT a DISCOURSE Working Group Publication?

Members and participating sites may freely publish or present findings from analyses conducted exclusively with their own site’s data and independent hypotheses, as long as these analyses do not overlap with the aims, datasets, or analytic strategies of any ongoing DISCOURSE Working Group project to which the site is already signed up for. Such publications are regarded as independent site contributions, not Working Group outputs.

If a site is already conducting a similar analysis to one proposed for a DISCOURSE Working Group project, it must disclose any ongoing or planned work before joining the Working Group effort or when new proposals are tabled. This ensures transparency and helps avoid overlapping submissions.

By agreeing to contribute data to a DISCOURSE Working Group analysis, members commit not to publish or publicize (e.g., in media or online platforms) any results derived from ongoing analyses until the official Working Group manuscript is published.

Secondary analyses using Working Group findings (e.g., examining imaging correlates of a speech feature identified by a DISCOURSE analysis) must remain unpublished until the primary Working Group paper is accepted, to prevent duplicate or overlapping submissions that could jeopardize the primary publication for which collective efforts are being made.

Conference presentations based on analyses under the Working Group’s scope require prior consultation with DISCOURSE Working Group chairs to ensure compliance with embargo policies of high-impact journals and to safeguard all members’ interests.

Guidelines for DISCOURSE Working Groups

Definition of Primary Publications

Primary publications are those in which an analysis is conducted for the first time by the DISCOURSE Working Group on a specific speech-related phenotype (e.g., a new approach applied via WG collaboration).

Definition of Secondary Publications

Secondary publications rely on data generated through primary DISCOURSE publications but involve new analyses, techniques, or clinical questions (e.g., relating the values derived from a primary publication to exploring new clinical phenotypes).

Proposal Submission Process

Proposal Requirements:

- Proposals must outline specific research questions, hypotheses, and detailed data analysis plans tied to a single scientific paper (not multiple papers or broad research lines).
- Additional analyses outside the approved plan require submission of a new proposal, even if related to similar topics or datasets.
- Proposals must be submitted to DISCOURSE chairs using a proposal plan form (available from WG chairs on request).
- Non-Working Group members may submit proposals after consulting with DISCOURSE WG chairs and agreeing to the Memorandum of Understanding below regarding authorship and publishing.
- Chairs will evaluate proposals based on scientific merit, feasibility, overlap with existing projects, and resource availability.
- Approved proposals will be circulated among members for feedback within 14 days. Feedback may include clarifications, concerns, or objections.
- Each proposal will be discussed during a conference call before initiation. Project leaders can then invite sites to participate.
- Data sharing requires explicit consent from each site's PI, who may impose conditions or limitations on data use.
- Participation in projects is opt-in; no member is required to contribute data or resources to any given project. Chairs will assist in recruiting collaborators and coordinating tasks.
- Proposals must reflect actual plans for publication within a reasonable timeframe specified in the submission (e.g., 6 months). If no progress occurs within this period, the topic may be released for other interested parties, and the original proposal will be considered defunct.
- Avoiding Overlap: To prevent overlap between manuscripts from different proposals, analyses and results reported in each manuscript must align with its approved analysis plan.
- Broad Participation: Proposals will be shared via calls and emails to encourage broad participation across consortium members.
- Acknowledgment: All contributing members who do not qualify for authorship should be appropriately acknowledged in every publication.

DISCOURSE Consortium Authorship Guidelines

1. Pre-Submission Approval

- All manuscripts must be submitted to DISCOURSE Workgroup chairs and co-authors for approval before journal submission
- Required documentation of co-author approvals through tracked responses (e.g., Google Forms/Sheets or email)
- For multi-group analyses:
 - a. Present preliminary results on WG conference calls before drafting
 - b. Final draft review by chairs to ensure data plan compliance

2. Authorship Criteria

Authors must contribute substantially to at least one of the first 3 criteria below:

- Measurement/processing of speech/language data
- Clinical/non-clinical data generation
- Conception, design, or interpretation
- Drafting/revising manuscript content (mandatory)
- Final approval of publishable version (mandatory)

3. Authorship Order

- First/senior positions reserved for primary contributors to:
 - Study design
 - Data analysis
 - Manuscript writing

4. Invitations

WG chairs, consortium PI and contributing members always invited as co-authors, and included if they satisfy the Authorship Criteria

5. Consortium Attribution

- Include "for the DISCOURSE [name of WG] Working Group" in author byline when full contributor list isn't possible
- Use consortium website as affiliation: [DISCOURSE Website URL]

5. Funding Acknowledgement

"The DISCOURSE Consortium acknowledges support from Tannenbaum Open Science Institute, Fondation Françoise Bourgeois and Wellcome Trust grant ^{314138/Z/24/Z} to Lena Palaniyappan for network infrastructure development."

If data deposited in the TalkBank is used the following text must be added "We acknowledge support from the TalkBank coordinated by [Brian MacWhinney](#) (macw@cmu.edu)"

6. First Author Responsibilities

- Ensure adherence to authorship guidelines
- Verify accurate methodology description
- Cite previous DISCOURSE publications appropriately

Conference Abstracts with limits to number of authors

List: Presenter, WG Chairs, Consortium PI, Senior Author + "for DISCOURSE WG"

Add note: "Full contributor list available at [Consortium URL]"

Poster/Slide Acknowledgements | List all contributors regardless of abstract limits

Symposium Submissions

1. ****Presentation Attribution****

- Lead with "On behalf of the DISCOURSE Working Group"
- Include contributor reference in abstract:
"Complete author list available at [Consortium URL]"

2. ****Slideshow Credits****

- Dedicated acknowledgement slide listing all contributors
- Follow consortium branding guidelines for visual presentation (logo + URL or QR code MUST be used)

Implementation Recommendations

1. Establish a ****master contributor registry**** tracking

- Individual contributions
- Contact details
- Approval documentation

2. Implement ****contribution statements**** using CRediT taxonomy:

" Author Contributions: X.X conceptualized study; Y.Y analyzed speech data; Z.Z drafted manuscript; all authors edited and approved final version".

This framework combines ICMJE authorship criteria with consortium-specific needs for thought, language, communication and speech data research, emphasizing transparency in contribution tracking and equitable attribution practices. Regular policy reviews will align with evolving team science standards.

Guidance derived on the basis of:

ENIGMA Schizophrenia Working group

Brubaker L, Nodora J, Bavendam T, Connett J, Claussen AM, Lewis CE, Rudser K, Sutcliffe S, Wyman JF, Miller JM. A policy toolkit for authorship and dissemination policies may benefit NIH research consortia. *Accountability in research*. 2024 Apr 2;31(3):222-40.

Vasilevsky NA, Hosseini M, Teplitzky S, Ilik V, Mohammadi E, Schneider J, Kern B, Colomb J, Edmunds SC, Gutzman K, Himmelstein DS. Is authorship sufficient for today's collaborative research? A call for contributor roles. *Accountability in Research*. 2021 Jan 2;28(1):23-43.

Hosseini M, Holcombe AO, Kovacs M, Zwart H, Katz DS, Holmes K. Group authorship, an excellent opportunity laced with ethical, legal and technical challenges. *Accountability in Research*. 2024 Mar 8:1-23.

Oliver SK, Fergus CE, Skaff NK, Wagner T, Tan PN, Cheruvellil KS, Soranno PA. Strategies for effective collaborative manuscript development in interdisciplinary science teams. *Ecosphere*. 2018 Apr;9(4):e02206.

<https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

<https://www.rsc.org/journals-books-databases/author-and-reviewer-hub/authors-information/prepare-and-format/data-sharing/>

<https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/open-access/data-sharing-citation/data-sharing-policy.html>

<https://academic.oup.com/toxres/pages/authorship-guidelines>

<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

<https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/editorial-policies/authorship>