

## Editorial



# Endorsement of the Contributor Roles Taxonomy for the clarification of authorship

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While an average of 2 authors per article used to be the norm in academic publishing until the 1960s, multi-authorship is now common in scientific articles. The emergence of this phenomenon seems natural considering the current system of incentives for researchers and the greater ease of collaboration thanks to advances in technology. However, this has also led to some authorship-related issues, as discussed in the paper (<https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.1997.03550070071041>) published by Dr. Drummond Rennie and his colleagues in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In their article, they state that “the system of authorship has become inappropriate as the average number of authors of an article has increased; as the work of coauthors has become more specialized and relationships between them have become more complex; and as both credit and, even more, responsibility have become obscured and diluted. Credit and accountability cannot be assessed unless the contributions of those named as authors are disclosed to readers, so the system is flawed.” In order to address this problem, it is necessary to devise a more effective and suitable system to represent the varying degrees of contributions to publications. Rather than merely listing all the names of the authors involved, it is necessary to have a defined set of terms describing various contributor roles and mechanisms, which would allow authors to take credit or be held accountable for their work in a more specific manner.

The Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT) is a community-developed open-standard taxonomy of contributions that improves the understanding and communication of different kinds of contributor roles in research output. Its taxonomy consists of the following 14 types of contribution to scholarly work: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Software, Supervision, Validation, Visualization, Writing - original draft, and Writing - review & editing. Implementing this infrastructure in academic journals would eventually lead to the development of author-centric credit and impact tracking tools that would be able to fix the skewed authorship system that we have today.

As the *Journal of Periodontal & Implant Science* is in favor of this movement, it is our pleasure to announce that we will be putting CRediT in place in our journal starting from the first issue of 2017. As Editor-in-Chief, I sincerely invite all authors of reviews, research articles, and case reports to be on board with this vision and to familiarize themselves with the CRediT taxonomy to achieve transparency in author contributions.