

Research projects carried out in conjunction with the EARS-IGERT cohort will potentially be included in a trainee's dissertation. Therefore, it is important to clearly identify the leader and first author for a project as early as possible and throughout project development. This decision will be reached through an open discussion between all associated EARS-IGERT trainees and faculty. A project leader will be designated for each project. The designated project leader has the responsibility to organize other trainees and sub-projects within the larger research context. Subsequent order of authorship will be decided by discussion among all those intellectually involved in the project; the lead author will head the discussion. Here we will utilize the definition of intellectual contribution provided by the Harvard Medical School Faculty Council; that is, a person that has contributed to the conception, design, analysis and/or interpretation of data. If author order cannot be easily established, it will be the right of the lead author to make the final decision. In the instance of equal contributions, authors will be listed alphabetically. The group will decide and agree upon a timetable for manuscript development and publication; it is the responsibility of the lead author to keep the project on track for publication. As projects are completed, all participants will also sign written statements recognizing the percent effort of each contributor. These written affidavits will be available for legal purposes in the event that research efforts lead to the creation of a patent.