

The Queens College Undergraduate Psychology Committee

Research and Authorship Quick-Guide

Fall 2022

Have research experience? **CHECK ** What's next?!

So now you have a research position and you are getting a hang of it...
What should I be thinking about now?!

Authorship and Posters!

A publication by Abbot et al.¹ demonstrated that undergraduate and graduate students had limited understanding of authorship, the requirements needed for authorship, and the politics and funding needed for publication. Further, there is a gap between the students' know-how in this process and the faculty's deprioritizing the initiation of this process for students.

As such, if you plan to pursue research as your long-term career endeavors, the execution of publications, posters, and conference talks is key to building your professional reputation! Here are a few steps to engage in the authorship process:

1. First, determine your expectations and goals!

- Do you want to (co-)author publications and/or a poster? Do you have time to do said goals? Which is most feasible to compete within your projected timeframe?

2. Then, advocate for yourself!

- Start the conversation with your principal investigator (PI)/lab supervisor/director.
 - They are constantly juggling projects, grants, classes, and meetings. It is not intentional, but an undergraduate authorship may not be their first priority.
- Establish your expectations with your PI/lab supervisor/director.
 - Understand that your expectations may or may not line up with them.
 - If your expectations are not being met, continue advocating for yourself or reconsider if that laboratory is a good fit for you.
- If your expectations are met, create a detailed plan and timeline for your aims.
 - ***Also, make sure you establish a plan to ensure credit for your efforts even after you have moved on from your laboratory!

3. Learn more about the authorship process (on your own and with your PI/supervisor)!

- **Journals:**
 - Have your PI/supervisor point out specific journals in the field.
 - Each journal has specific manuscript guidelines, impact factors, and publication costs that are critical to the selection of a journal. Get familiar with them!
- **Conferences:**
 - Research potential conferences in your field that you would like to present and attend!
 - These are great for sharing your findings and networking with people in your field of interest!
 - Consider also applying for travel grants for these conferences as travel and stay can get quite costly! Travel grants are available through your home institution or outside organizations.

These preliminary steps are great for introducing the topic of authorship between you and your PI/supervisor. With their support, you will be well on your way to becoming a well-rounded researcher!

Reference: ¹ Abbott, L. E., Andes, A., Pattani, A. C., & Mabrouk, P. A. (2020). Authorship Not Taught and Not Caught in Undergraduate Research Experiences at a Research University. *Science & Engineering Ethics, 26*(5).