

Project MinE Publication Policy

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Document information

Date February 13th 2017

Version: 2

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Background

This document is based on the publication policy as drafted by the Mood Disorders working group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (MDD-PGC).

The MDD-PGC has much experience in publishing data derived from large international consortia. In their experience, for some of their PGC MDD colleagues (e.g., Germany, the Netherlands, and Australia), being listed in the .pdf of a publication is critical for various metric-based schemes that purport to assess “quality”. It is thus important that names appear either on the masthead or at the end of the paper (but always in the .pdf not just in PubMed).

It is important to note we have no influence on how journals handle this issue. It has to do with how journals and how PubMed works. It is cryptic and bewildering. For example, the 2011 PGC MDD paper in PubMed has had authors in 3 ways: (a) author=“PGC MDD”, no collaborators (when it first came online), (b) author=PGC MDD, collaborators=list of 100+ (about a year ago), and (c) author=PGC MDD and 100+ people (now). Why this happens and how it occurs is a mystery. The PGC did not request these changes – they just happened. Fortunately, the full list of authors is in the .pdf.

If the above authorship styles are critical, then the only way we can ensure this is by going to a traditional, named-author style.

Below are a few scenario’s that will help guide the publication policy in Project MinE. Crucial factors that determine the type of authorship are: is the study Project MinE only or are significant others involved, or is the study mainly performed by others and is individual level genotype data used, versus publicly available summary statistics.

Authorship policy

Studies using only summary statistics

By definition, Project MinE deals with whole genome sequencing derived data and results. This is separate from GWAS data we have generated in the past. GWAS results data consist of lists of SNPs with

alleles, positions, odds ratios, SE, p-values, etc. They contain no individual or identifying data. As is standard in the field summary statistics are all online (<http://databrowser.projectmine.com>, go to Publications), and there is no authorship needed when groups want to include these data in their studies. If individual level GWAS genotype data are to be used, these data can be requested at the MinE website (<http://databrowser.projectmine.com>, go to Request Data), and the PIs of those data will be included, as we have done in the past many times already.

WGS based summary statistics are defined by the genic burden results, we will be releasing through the Project MinE website. At this moment (Jan 2017), the Dutch burden results are online and accessible to anyone (<http://databrowser.projectmine.com>). This could help the community by including these results in their own research, where no authorship is needed for Project MinE, but a reference to the Project and browser. There is a Project paper in development as of this moment, that people can reference (it will also be on <http://biorxiv.org>).

These WGS-ed based summary statistics also allows the Project MinE sequencing Consortium to respond to research where these public results were not included. Authorship will be then be as below (“Main papers from Project MinE).

Main papers Project MinE.

These papers usually report the results of a Project MinE data freeze. Project MinE strives to always report on the latest and largest joint available dataset, to avoid contradictory, and concomitant different partial data freeze publications. The authorship style is:

- Project MinE ALS sequencing consortium group author name, with named authorlist in the PDF and in Pubmed according to these rules:
 - the more junior people who contributed most to the manuscript are in positions 1-3 the Project MinE PIs are at the end
 - all other individuals who made author-level contributions are listed alphabetically between the above
- If the group author name is not possible we will default to a names author list according to the same rules as above but the author list concludes with, “for the Project MinE ALS sequencing consortium”

The study PIs determine who from their group are authors on each specific paper. The standard criteria for authorship are simple and widely accepted: an author must be involved in: (a) study conception/design or data analysis/interpretation of data AND (b) drafting the paper or revising it critically for important intellectual content AND (c) final approval of the version to be published.

The numbers per site should be reasonable and not excessive. For example, 13 authors for 80 cases is not reasonable.

There should be no gratuitous authorships (e.g., a head of department who was not directly involved in the study).

Papers that use individual genotype data from Project MinE

An important aim of Project MinE is to foster research that compares and contrasts the genomics of ALS with other disorders and to help develop new genomics tools. These could be studies where external authors are involved, or even guiding the study, making it not a strictly Project MinE study anymore. The authorship style is:

- For our purposes here, all collaborators must be treated as traditional authors, meaning that Project MinE authors can be part of a larger named list on behalf of the Project MinE ALS

sequencing consortium if they had an important contribution, or, if no Project MinE authors had a significant contribution at all and all work was done by external groups after permission from Project MinE PIs, the group author name (“the Project MinE ALS sequencing consortium”) is part of the named authorlist only. First/last priority positions are determined by the group that did the analysis.

- Anyway, all Project MinE ALS sequencing consortium authors need to be listed in the .pdf version of such a paper and to appear on PubMed as a collaborator.
- ***Prior to submission, the lead author on such a paper that uses Project MinE data must do the following: document that they spoke with the editor of the target journal, conveyed our needs (all Project MinE authors need to be listed in the .pdf version of the paper and to appear on PubMed as a collaborator), and was clearly assured that the journal would comply***

When a Project MinE PI does not agree with a scenario above, the solution is simple (but undesirable): if a group does not agree with this policy, then they should opt out of a particular analysis.