APPENDIX 3 – Policy for Authorship on Thesis or Defense Committee

Serving on a thesis committee is, in itself, not sufficient reason for an individual to be listed as a coauthor on the student’s publications. If however, the faculty member on the committee makes substantial intellectual or hands-on contributions to the student’s work consistent with the uniform code of authorship described below, authorship is appropriate.

It is important that such co-authorship be discussed with the student and the thesis committee in a formal manner before work is done. In the absence of such a discussion and approval by the committee, the default understanding should be that the committee member will not be a coauthor on the student’s papers.

The following points are from http://PAREonline.net/getvn.asp?v=5&n=1 (retrieved June 7, 2008): Syrett, Kristen L. & Rudner, Lawrence M. (1996). Authorship ethics.Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation, 5(1).

Presented here is a summary of key ethical standards outlined in the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals," developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

Adopted by over 500 scientific and biomedical journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Science, and Lancet, these ethical standards are effective guidelines for educational publications.

Authorship

All persons listed as authors must have made a substantial intellectual contribution to the overall study and accept public responsibility for it. In other words, the author must give input beyond general supervision or instruction of a research group, have a clear understanding of the methodology and implications of the work, and be able to defend the contribution against academic challenge.

Specifically, individuals identified as authors should have made significant contributions:

1. to the conception and design, or analysis and interpretation of data, or both;

2. to drafting of the manuscript or revising it critically for intellectual content; and

3. on final approval of the version of the manuscript to be published.

All three conditions must be met. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding or the collection of data does not merit authorship status.

In cases where more than one person meets the qualifications for authorship of a manuscript, the order of authorship should be a joint decision of the co-authors. The submission should be accompanied by a form stating that the manuscript has been read and approved by each of the co- authors. By signing this form, the authors verify that the manuscript represents honest work. The co-authors share responsibility and accountability for the results. Deceased persons who meet the criteria for inclusion should be listed, with a footnote reporting the date of death. No fictitious name should appear as an author.

Multiple authors often result in complications. Chances for errors may be greater when the number of persons responsible for a submission is increased. Differences in roles and status compound the difficulties of according credit. Junior scholars may seek to gain automatic acceptance of their work by associating it with the name of an established scholar. This practice leads to an uncritical and inappropriate acceptance by other co-authors, the reviewers, or the readers.

Acknowledgements

Persons who made significant contributions to the work but did not justify authorship may be listed in the Acknowledgment section along with their function or contribution. Authors should be responsible for obtaining written permission from all persons being acknowledged by name. Technical help should be acknowledged in a separate paragraph from those acknowledging intellectual contributions.

Authors have an obligation to use journal space wisely and efficiently. Including extensive and repetitious lists of acknowledgments is not a good use of journal space and is of little value to the readers of a journal. Unlimited lists undermine the meaning of authorship and the value of an acknowledgment.