

Review of: "Honorary Authorship in Biomedical Journals: The Endless Story"

Martin Thomas Falk¹

¹ University College Southeast Norway

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting and relevant topic.

Honorary co-authorship can come in different forms. For example, it can be a one-time bonus for a scientist who sponsored the study but was not actively involved in it. This situation is less problematic. However, a bigger problem is posed by so-called writing clubs, which divide the writing of articles among themselves and in this way can reach an unnatural number of articles per author in a year.

Please explain the definition of honorary co-authorships. There are related terms such as "gift co-authorship" or "predatory co-authorship". Please cite further literature if space is available (see below).

From my point of view, writing clubs should be the focus. If there are more than three or four authors, a distinction should be made on the title page between major and minor contributors. This could lead to a reduction in the number of authors per paper.

Please also discuss the "CRedit" author statement introduced by Elsevier a few years ago.

Please take a look at the proposed measures. Editors don't have much power to fight with influential writing clubs.

Publishers are also not that active because they want to make money. Perhaps you mention [retractionwatch.com](https://www.retractionwatch.com).

Honorary co-authorship is not a reason to retract an article, but "paper mill" is.

References

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