MOHCCN Publication and Authorship Policy v1.1

Table of Content

1. Introduction

The vision of MOHCCN is to bring together leading Cancer Centres across Canada to collaborate on precision medicine to benefit cancer patients and drive innovation. The goal of the Network is to apply advanced technologies such as genomics, high-powered imaging, and artificial intelligence (AI) to advance precision oncology and improve cancer diagnosis and management.

The Data Policies and Standards Committee (DPSC) is responsible for setting policies and protocols for the collection, standardization, exchange, and analysis of MOHCCN data sets. As such, its mandate includes setting policies for publications undertaken within the TFRI MOHCCN Network ("the Network"). This document sets out the principles for publications authored by members of the Network using Network data, including authorship.

2. Definition of a MOHCCN Network Publication

For the purposes of this policy, a MOHCCN Network publication **includes** any paper that meets the following criteria:

- It utilizes MOHCCN data that were generated using MOHCCN funds provided to one or more of the contributing authors

  OR

- It utilizes MOHCCN data that were accessed through Network privileges (i.e. that were publicly embargoed at the time they were accessed)

  OR

- It is a MOHCCN "marker" or "wrap-up" paper as described in section (3).

Note that the rules for access to pre-public embargo data imply that publications covered by this definition will be authored by MOHCCN Consortium members or other designated Network participants.

This definition specifically **excludes** publications initiated by MOHCCN Consortium members that do **not** use clinical, genomic, or other data generated using MOHCCN funding, irrespective of whether the publication involves a cohort enrolled in the MOHCCN. This ensures that researchers are not bound by this policy when publishing results derived from non-MOHCCN-funded data from their own cohort-based studies.

3. Types of publications

We consider three types of publications in this document.

- ***Marker and wrap-up papers***. These are authoritative publications initiated by the MOHCCN Network Council and/or its subcommittees. The marker paper appears towards the beginning of the project and provides readers with a description of the MOHCCN, its goals, and the resources that it will generate, and explains the data access rules and any usage restrictions. Wrap-up papers, in contrast, appear towards the end of the project when the data set is complete, or nearly so. Wrap-up papers will present a comprehensive analysis of the entire MOHCCN data set, attempt to draw cross-cohort insights, and will typically direct the reader to resources generated by the project. A wrap-up publication may also take the form of a "lessons learned" paper.
- ***Cross-cohort analysis papers.*** These are inter-institutional collaborations spanning multiple institutional members of the Network, usually designed to explore a particular

research question that requires cross-cohort analyses. In contrast to wrap-up papers, these papers can be initiated at any time during the project.

- **PI-initiated papers.** These are papers initiated by researchers at one or a small number of participating institutions. They may focus on a single MOHCCN cohort, or multiple cohorts.

3.1. Marker and Wrap-up Papers

Governance. Marker and wrap-up papers are initiated by the MOHCCN Steering Committee and authorized by the MOHCCN Network Council. Execution of the papers will usually be delegated to a writing committee.

Authorship. These papers have a single named consortium author, "The Terry Fox Research Institute Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network." The paper will be accompanied by a supplementary file listing all members of the Network, organized into teams in the following categories:

- Writing team
- TFRI Executive Team
- Network Council members
- Subcommittees and working groups
- MOHCCN consortia (e.g. PM2C, BC2C, etc)
- DHDP and CanDIG development staff, and other infrastructure development staff

Each team is responsible for choosing the inclusion/exclusion criteria for its membership and determining the ordering of authors within its section of the supplementary file. A separate acknowledgements file can be used to recognize contributions from team members who did not rise to the authorship level (see below). The TFRI MOHCCN Scientific Writer will be responsible for compiling and maintaining this acknowledgement file.

The Network should negotiate with potential journals to submit the contents of the Consortium author list to PubMed for indexing, such that the paper shows up when any contributing author's name is searched.

3.2. Cross-Cohort Analysis Papers

Governance. These papers are conceived and executed by cross-institutional collaborative teams and authorized and monitored by the Network Council. They will each have a writing committee responsible for the design, execution, and submission of the research paper.

To initiate such a paper, the senior author(s) of the writing committee shall submit a publication proposal to the TFRI MOHCCN Scientific Writer, who will provide it to the TFRI MOHCCN Steering Committee. The proposal shall include the publication's working title,

lead and corresponding authors, abstract, and a list of cohorts and/or consortia whose data will be drawn from. The Steering Committee may request modifications, make suggestions, or seek additional information prior to making an approval decision. Approved proposals are relayed to the Network Council for final authorization.

Authorship. These papers will have a traditional named author list, with membership, ordering, and corresponding author(s) determined by members of the writing committee. The final senior author will be "The Terry Fox Research Institute Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network" and will reference an updated version of the full authorship supplementary file described in (3.1).

3.3. PI-initiated papers

Governance. These papers are initiated and executed by individual Network researchers. Researchers must respect the MOHCCN data access policy, including the data embargo period.

In the interests of academic courtesy, researchers who are intending to perform cross-cohort analysis are required to send a description of the proposed research to the TFRI MOHCCN Scientific Writer, who will distribute it to the Network mailing list. A one-week timeframe will be allowed for other Network members to volunteer ideas or assistance. In addition, the PI is expected to individually contact the leads of each cohort included in the proposed analysis in order to ensure that the cohort lead is aware of the inclusion of their cohort's data and to provide an opportunity to the lead to request a collaborative/co-authorship relationship.

These notifications are not to be construed as "marking" an area of research that other researchers are excluded from, or to create an obligation for the originating PI to accept additional Network authors; however, as Network members, all PIs will promote the MOHCCN Researcher Code of Conduct principles of respect, integrity, and collaboration.

Network members who feel that a violation of the Code of Conduct may have occurred may submit a written complaint to the MOHCCN Steering Committee for examination of the complaint and dispute resolution. This complaint must be submitted within 30 days of the complainant's learning of the alleged violation.

Authorship and acknowledgements. Authorship is a traditional named author list. It is not required to include a consortium author but must acknowledge "The Terry Fox Research Institute Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network" and cite the marker paper, once published.

The following acknowledgement statement can be used or modified to suit your needs: "The data presented in this paper were [partially] funded by the Terry Fox Research Institute's Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network (MOHCCN)".

4. Brand Identity

In order to promote brand identity and increase public awareness of the TFRI MOHCCN, each paper published by a Network member using Network data is encouraged to include the text "TFRI MOHCCN" in its title, abstract, or keywords.

The senior author(s) of papers that include TFRI MOHCCN in the title, abstract, or keywords should notify the MOHCCN Scientific Writer and provide them with a draft of the manuscript either prior to initial submission to a journal or during the review process. This will allow the Network to track publications arising from its work and promote them on the MOHCCN website once published, and to ensure that the network affiliation is being used appropriately.

5. Other Considerations

Choice of journals. This policy does not place constraints on the lead authors' choice of journals to submit to.

Preprints. Submission of Network-affiliated publications to bioRixv or similar preprint servers is encouraged, but not required.

Publication Costs. TFRI MOHCCN will defray publication costs for marker, wrap-up, and cross-cohort analysis papers. PI-initiated papers are not subsidized in this way.

6. Acknowledgements

For all types of papers, the acknowledgement text (or file, depending on the length) recognizes the members whose contributions did not rise to authorship levels. The lists must include but are not limited to members of the following groups that are not listed as authors on the paper:

- Patients participating in the research (acknowledged as a group)
- Patient partners
- Pathologists
- Clinicians
- Data analysts

7. Published abstracts and presentations

The authorship guidelines outlined in this document also apply to published conference abstracts and presentations (oral or poster).

Document revision history

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DPSC	Steering Committee	Network Council	Mar 1, 2024	V1.1	n/a
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