

Publication guidelines for EPIC related studies

This document outlines guidelines for publishing peer-reviewed papers that present results attained from the use of Material and/or Data from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) study. These guidelines are governed by the EPIC Steering Committee (email: epic-sc@imperial.ac.uk) composed of two members from IARC, two representatives of each country participating in EPIC, designated by their national coordination committee, and of the EPIC Coordinator.

Publication policy

i) Publications based on laboratory analysis of Material from the IARC biobank (e.g. plasma, serum, red blood cells or DNA samples), and/or pooled data from the central master database located at IARC (2 centres or more):

- Will be planned and supervised by the Steering Committee. Proposals for which specific topics will lead to data analysis and publication of results may be put forward by the Steering Committee members as well as by any other researcher participating in the EPIC study.
- The analysis of the data and preparation of manuscripts for publication relative to a given topic will be entrusted to an ad hoc working group – to be decided upon by the Steering Committee – including researchers from the collaborating centres and IARC, with one researcher being responsible for the coordination of the group.
- The Steering Committee has the authority to decide whether specific papers shall be published with the complete author list (as indicated in Authorship rules below), or under the EPIC acronym with the individual names in appropriate electronic forms or footnotes.
- In principle, for the major cancer research topics as identified by the Steering Committee, if one (or more) EPIC partner identifies a subject in order to prepare a paper using EPIC resources, he/she will notify the EPIC Scientific Committee thereof and produce the said paper within 24 months from receiving the data and/or biospecimen. No other EPIC partner will publish or try to publish with respect to the subject duly stated during the said period of time. This period of time may be renewed once, upon request of the EPIC partner(s), and after justification of effective work already made on the intended paper. Should no publication on the stated subject be made within the above mentioned period of time, even prorogated, another EPIC partner or another group of EPIC partners may retain this subject. A new period of time may be open.

ii) Publications based on Material or Data from a single nation

- Publications based limitedly on national data will be under the responsibility of national researchers.

For the avoidance of doubt, national data provided by an EPIC partner to the central database shall remain under the sole control of this EPIC partner. National data are made available to EPIC partners for EPIC purposes on a non-exclusive basis and the providing EPIC partner shall remain free to use them for its own use or through projects with third parties.

In all publications, due acknowledgment will be made of funding bodies, as applicable. In publication of pooled data, due acknowledgment will be made of national funding sources.

Approvals of manuscripts

Any manuscript based on EPIC Material/Data must be approved by EPIC steering Committee members before being submitted to a scientific journal for peer-review. Once a manuscript has been prepared and agreed upon within the writing group, it must be circulated within the Steering Committee (email: epic-sc@imperial.ac.uk) with a request for approval and assignment of co-author representatives from the EPIC centres according to the authorship rules below, along with their comments.

When circulating the paper and asking for comments, please ask authors to:

- a. State any conflict of interest, and
- b. Check whether affiliations and acknowledgments are still correct and up-to-date.

Note

As a rule, the co-authors should have at least 2 weeks to comment on the manuscript.

Authorship rules

Peer reviewed EPIC papers reporting results originating from the use of EPIC materials/data can be categorized as either 1) papers reporting on EPIC materials/data alone, or 2) consortium based papers. As a rule, EPIC authors for either of these categories should be assigned according to the description below. **Any departures from these rules in specific projects are subject to the approval of the EPIC Steering Committee.**

1. Papers reporting on EPIC materials/data alone. Authorship guidelines for peer reviewed publications where materials/data from EPIC only is included

- i) The writing group members should occupy the initial author positions. As a general guidance, this group should be limited to 5-7 members, but can be expanded if deemed necessary.
- ii) Following the writing group members, the representatives of the individual centres should be listed, grouped by country, in alphabetical order of country, and according to the agreed number of authors per centre as indicated in Table 1. The final author positions should be occupied by IARC, ICL, and the senior author (if applicable).

Notes

- a. As a general rule, where a particular centre has not contributed data, collaborators from this centre will not be included in the author list. Exceptions based on individual contributions to a specific paper may be considered.
- b. Authorship rules may vary for other EPIC cohorts, such as EUR-Gast, EPIC-Elderly.

Table 1. Maximum number of author representative for EPIC papers by country and centre (excluding writing group members)

Country	Centre	Maximum number of authors (excluding writing group)	Total per country
IARC	IARC	3	3
UK	Imperial College	3	3
France	France	3	3
Germany	Heidelberg	2	4
	Potsdam	2	
Denmark	Copenhagen	2	4
	Aarhus	2	
Spain	Asturias	1	6
	Barcelona	1	
	Granada	1	
	Guipuzcoa	1	
	Murcia	1	
	Navarro	1	
UK	Cambridge	2	4
	Oxford	2	
Greece	Greece	3	3
Italy	Florence	1	5
	Milan	1	
	Ragusa	1	
	Turin	1	
	Naples	1	
Netherlands	Bilthoven	2	4
	Utrecht	2	
Sweden	Malmö	2	4
	Umeå	2	
Norway	Tromsø	3	3
Overall		46	46

2. Consortium based papers. *Authorship guidelines for consortium-based peer reviewed publications where materials/data from several studies - including EPIC - are included*

i) In addition to potential writing group members, EPIC should be represented with up to 12 authors; one author per country, and one author each for the IARC and Imperial College centres.

Note

- a. As a general rule, where a particular country has not contributed data, collaborators from this centre will not be included in the author list. Exceptions based on individual contributions to a specific paper may be considered.