BOLD Authorship Guidelines

The overall goal of this document is to define as clearly and as simply as possible guidelines for authorship that are fair and reasonable. The primary authorship criteria are based on the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals and International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines (http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html)

1) Criteria for Authorship (each author must meet criteria a, b, and c below):
   a) Substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
   b) Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
   c) Final approval of the version to be published
   d) Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship
   e) All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed
   f) Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content

2) BOLD-specific points:
   a) Increasingly, authorship of multicenter trials is attributed to a group. The name of the grouped investigators for all BOLD publications will be the BOLD Investigators
   b) All members of the BOLD Investigators group who are named as authors should fully meet the above criteria for authorship/contributorship
   c) Site investigators (both PIs and co-investigators) are included as BOLD Investigators group authors if they meet criteria 1a,b, and c above
   d) If some authors are to be named individually and others listed as the BOLD Investigators group, the first author shall decide which authors to name individually
   e) The site PI may designate another investigator at that site (such as a junior colleague) as a named author, providing that the individual met criteria 1a,b, and c above
   f) Members of the BOLD Investigators group will be individually named in the way mandated by the journal (e.g., in the Acknowledgements section, in footnote, etc.).
   g) Contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship will be listed in an Acknowledgments section

3) Author order guidelines
   a) 1st author: person who drafts the manuscript and/or has made the greatest contribution to the work
      i) We will attempt to give each co-investigator the opportunity to be a lead author on a manuscript.
ii) If more than one person wants to be the first author on a specific manuscript, those individuals will be encouraged to discuss this and reach a satisfactory agreement; if the involved authors cannot come to a satisfactory agreement, the BOLD Publication Committee will decide who will be the lead, making an effort to equitably distribute lead authorships.

b) Subsequent author order is decided by the lead (1st) author. Suggested guidelines for author order:
   i) 2nd author: person who makes the most substantial contribution, after the first author
   ii) Last (senior) author: person who has general responsibility for the project
   iii) 3rd author: person who makes the next most substantial contribution, after the first two authors, if this is clear; if this is not clear and for remaining authors, list in random (not alphabetical) order

c) Consider group authorship (as the BOLD Investigators) for manuscripts with >15 authors

4) Authorship Concerns and Disputes
   a) The lead author will attempt to resolve any concerns or disagreements regarding authorship inclusion or order
   b) If the lead author is unable to resolve authorship concerns/disputes, the Publication Committee will address the issue. The decision of the publication committee will be final.

5) Publication Committee:
   a) The publication committee consists of Richard Deyo, Janna Friedly, Patrick Heagerty, Jeffrey Jarvik, and Judith Turner
   b) If a member of the publications committee leaves the project, then the committee will decide as a group with whom to replace that member

6) Other issues
   a) For each BOLD manuscript considered, the lead author will submit to the Publications Committee a brief outline that includes the manuscript aims/objectives and a timeline for completion and submission. This will help ensure the coordination of BOLD manuscripts and avoid potential redundancy. If a manuscript is delayed beyond the originally proposed timeline, the Publications Committee may suggest replacing the lead author.
   b) The lead author must obtain approval of EACH co-author before submitting a manuscript to a journal. If an individual co-author does not provide approval in a timely manner, the lead author may ask the Publications Committee to resolve the issue.