CMVM Fair Publication Policy

It is important to recognise the contributions of technical staff to research in all instances. Core facilities in particular provide the wider research community with state-of-the-art instrumentation and expertise, which actively adds to and improves research outputs and funding bids, and without which the College could not operate.

The following fair publication policy applies across the College.

1. **All publications** resulting from the use of instruments and/or expertise within a facility should, **at the very least**, acknowledge the **core facility by name**, in the acknowledgements section e.g. *'the authors gratefully acknowledge the [core facility name] for their expertise & assistance in this work'*

2. Where users have had significant help from a **particular member of [core facility] staff**, this staff member should be **acknowledged by name**, alongside the facility, e.g. *'the authors thank *** of [core facility name] for their expertise & assistance in this work'*

3. Development or adaptation of protocols to suit samples or materials, (re)designing experiments, extensive data analysis and interpretation are **not routine** and **merit co-authorship** on publications that use the data generated. (For clarity, simple acquisition of raw data or initial training on instrumentation alone would not merit co-authorship but the facility and/or staff member should still be acknowledged.

We appreciate that authorship decisions are generally made at the preparation stage of a manuscript. With this policy in mind, please inform core facility staff of any publications being prepared, and allow them to contribute to the manuscript where appropriate. It is ultimately the senior author's responsibility to ensure fair acknowledgement and/or co-authorship of core facility staff.

We expect post-doctoral researchers, postgraduate students and clinical research fellows to agree to this Fair Publication Policy with their supervisor before engaging with core facilities and conducting their experiments.

Please send a preprint of the manuscript to the core facility manager so that they can include it in their metrics; this is essential.

If core facility staff consider that this policy is not being followed, they will first raise this with the senior author of the paper. If this does not resolve the problem, they will approach the relevant Institute Director, and finally the College Dean of Research.

Posters, presentations and grant applications

If posters, presentations or grant applications include images or data derived from equipment managed by a core facility, please acknowledge the facility.

The rationale for a Fair Publication Policy

It is important to acknowledge contributions from technical staff and core facilities in publications because:

1. Technicians and core facility staff are scientists. When they make an intellectual and/or experimental contribution to a publication they deserve to be recognised and acknowledged

2. The continued existence of core facilities depends on proper acknowledgment of the facility in publications. This is a tangible measure of the impact of the facilities on our research environment and can help to secure ongoing support and funding. These are essential for the retention of staff and of technical skills.

3. If core facility staff are considered as co-authors where deserved, it will reduce the risk of data misinterpretation and ensure the data and the methodology are accurately conveyed and described.

Fair Publication policy as part of the Technician Commitment

The Technician Commitment is a university and research institution initiative, led by a steering group of stakeholders and supported by the Science Council and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation's campaign "Technicians Make It Happen".

The Commitment aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians working in higher education and research across all disciplines. The University of Edinburgh became a signatory to the Technician Commitment in 2017 and has pledged an action plan to address the key challenges affecting our technical staff. All staff will have a part to play in achieving these aims, whether in a technical, academic or a leadership and management role.

A Fair Publication policy is key to delivering our Technician Commitment aims. Core facility staff should, at the very least, be acknowledged on publications resulting from facility use, and where they have made an intellectual contribution to the research, they should have the opportunity to participate in drafting the pertinent part of the paper, and give final approval to the wording and conclusions drawn before publication.

We risk widening the gap between academic and technical staff if prior practices and non-acknowledgement are allowed to continue. The research community as a whole should work towards our common goal of research excellence across the University. **Acknowledgement of everyone's efforts in presentations and publications must be an accepted baseline**