

## Editorial

*Dear Readers,*

*At the outset, the editorial board of ijopp wishes you all a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2013!*

*A good research should always lead to a publication to share the researcher's work. Earlier, a research paper had one or two authors but in the present time when researchers collaborate for a work, there can be many people and 'authorship' (who gets the credit and how much) is debatable.*

*In biological sciences, at the end of the author list, the principal investor who guides the project is credited, the student who actually does the work goes first and the middle order depends on their degree of involvement.*

*The international committee of medical journal editors, at Philadelphia has developed authorship guidelines that are used by many journals.*

*According to this, to be listed as an author, a researcher must have involved in designing the project, collect data or analyze the results, must have participated in drafting or revising the manuscript and they must have approved the paper that is being sent for publication.*

*There are unethical practices such as ghost authors or guest authors. For examples, some pharmaceutical companies may engage medical writers to draft and publish manuscripts about their drugs. These are ghost writers who are not listed as authors on the paper but a famous academician would give his/her name. This guest author would have not contributed to the paper in any way intellectually.*

*Disagreement regarding authorship can be avoided by careful understanding of each one's role even before the research is started. Ethics play an important role in authorship.*

**Dr. Shobha Rani R Hiremath**

**Editor-in-Chief  
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