I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for authorship when publishing collaborative research projects.

II. SCOPE

This policy will apply to all housestaff in postgraduate training programs at the RUTGERS Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

III. DEFINITIONS

Housestaff – refers to all interns, residents and subspecialty residents (fellows) enrolled in a RUTGERS Robert Wood Johnson Medical School postgraduate training program. An individual member of the housestaff may be referred to as a house officer.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES/REQUIREMENTS

A. Housestaff are expected to conduct research and scholarly activity as part of their residency/fellowship training.

B. Housestaff are encouraged to collaborate, not only with faculty members, but also with housestaff and faculty of different departmental divisions, as well as other departments.

C. When such collaboration is anticipated, the housestaff should inquire about the interest of the relevant housestaff and faculty within their own departments and with other departments and the expectations of all parties should be agreed upon before the research begins. Authorship of abstracts, papers and presentations to local, national and international meetings should be discussed and agreed upon.

Each individual’s contribution should adhere to the RUTGERS Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Guidelines for Conduct of Research http://www.rutgers.rwjms.edu/acadweb/Guidelines.pdf

“Clear policies on authorship should be established by each laboratory and research group. Authorship should be limited to those who have made a substantial intellectual or technical contribution to the conception, planning, design and/or performance of the research, and/or to the analysis and interpretation of the data. If possible, all such individuals should participate in
drafting or revising the manuscript. In certain disciplines and in certain journals, the scope of the contribution of each author may be indicated in a statement or acknowledgment in the manuscript. Certain individuals who participate in or make specialized contributions to a study may more appropriately be acknowledged in the manuscript as having contributed materials, support, patients, advice, funds, etc., or as having collected the data, but should not be listed as authors. General supervision of the research group is not sufficient for authorship. Purely “honorary” or mandatory authorships (as in the case of non-contributing department chairs, section heads or supervisors) violate these principles and are not acceptable.

Ghost or guest authorship is also unacceptable, because authorship implies independent, substantial and fully disclosed participation in the research and in the preparation of the manuscript. However, a representative of a study sponsor may assist in drafting the manuscript if this activity is fully disclosed in the paper and to the journal.

The primary (submitting) author should have reviewed all primary data on which the manuscript is based, and be able to identify the specific contributions of each co-author. He/she has overall responsibility for determining co-authorship, for ensuring the review and approval of the final manuscript by each co-author, for defending the study if necessary, and for making responses to post-publication questions and challenges. Each author should review, approve, take responsibility for, and be prepared to defend his or her specific contributions to the research and those aspects of the publication in his or her area of expertise, even if no longer associated with the research group or laboratory. If possible, all authors should be able to agree with, take responsibility for, and defend the conclusions and interpretations of the entire manuscript. In collaborative work, scientists of each research group are expected to accept responsibility for the work done in their group; in such collaborations, authors should nevertheless review all aspects of the research.”

Approved by the GMEC 04/08/08