

Authorship and Publication Policy

This document serves as guidance only for publication rules for scientific projects based on the ENETS Database. The respective Principal Investigator may adapt these rules as appropriate for the individual study.

1. General Principles

Project lead / Principal Investigator

- Each ENETS database-based project shall be led by **one Principal Investigator (PI)**.
- The PI must
 - be an **ENETS member**; and
 - be affiliated with an **established European NEN referral centre** that holds a valid contract for use of the ENETS Database (i.e. is eligible to contribute data to the ENETS Database).
- The **project lead (PI)** is expected to represent one of the **top five recruiting centres** for the respective study.
- A **significant and visible role** in authorship will be assigned to **other top recruiting centres**, based on both **quantity and quality** of data contribution.
- The PI is responsible for securing the **funding** required to cover all costs arising in connection with the project, including publication fees and statistical support.
- ENETS maintains its own official journal, the **Journal of Neuroendocrinology (JNE)**. However, PIs are not required to publish ENETS Database studies in JNE and are free to submit their work to any appropriate peer-reviewed journal of their choice.

Participating centres

- Participation in ENETS database studies is **voluntary and free of charge**, and subject to the independent decision of each participating centre.
- Each participating country and centre is **fully responsible** for:
 - compliance with **national and local regulatory and ethical requirements**, and
 - the **accuracy, completeness, and quality** of the data entered into the ENETS database.

2. Authorship Criteria and Order

Authorship will follow the **ICMJE recommendations** and the specific ENETS rules outlined below.

2.1 Author Roles and Hierarchy

- **First Author**

- Chairperson or PI of the ENETS study group responsible for the individual study
- Typically includes the **study designer(s)** and/or **methodologist(s)**
- **Second Author**
 - The **best recruiting centre** (based on both patient numbers and data quality)
- **Third Author**
 - Second or third best recruiting centre; **or**
 - Methodologist or statistician with major analytical contribution (including pathological or imaging review, or dedicated exploratory analyses)
- **Subsequent Authors**
 - Representatives of the third, fourth, or fifth highest recruiting centres; and / or
 - Ranked according to **methodological contribution**
- **Last Author**
 - Co-lead (if applicable); or
 - One of the **top recruiters**

2.2 Institutional Representation

- In principle, **only one author per institution** should be listed.
- **Multiple authors from the same centre** may be included at the discretion of the Principal Investigator and should be based on the number and quality of patients contributed to the study.
- The **overall number of authors must be proportionate** to the size, complexity, and recruitment volume of the study.
- The **First Author** is responsible for justifying the number of authors to the target journal, where required.

In general, authorship positions should primarily reflect the quantity and quality of data contributed by each centre; however, the final decision regarding the number and positioning of authors rests with the Principal Investigator.

3. Acknowledgements

- Criteria for inclusion in the **Acknowledgements section** (e.g. minimum recruitment thresholds or specific contributions) will be **defined individually for each study**.
- Any **pharmaceutical or industry acknowledgements** must be:
 - disclosed transparently, and
 - reviewed and approved by the **ENETS Executive Committee (EC)** prior to submission.

4. ENETS Attribution

- All manuscripts arising from scientific projects based on data from the **ENETS Database** must clearly attribute and acknowledge the contribution of the ENETS Database and network through explicit textual reference in the manuscript.
- This attribution should ensure that ENETS is identifiable on the publication, for example by:
 - reference to **ENETS** in the publication title,
 - inclusion of the **ENETS logo**, where appropriate and subject to journal policies, and/or
 - the wording “on behalf of ENETS centres”.
- The exact form of attribution may be adapted to the requirements of the target journal.

5. Manuscript Review and Approval Process

- Prior to submission, the **final manuscript must be circulated to all centres that enrolled patients** in the study.
- Participating centres must be given the opportunity to:
 - review the manuscript, and
 - formally approve the content related to their data contribution.
- The final manuscript must also be **submitted to the ENETS Executive Committee for formal approval** via the ENETS Database team (database@enets.org).
- Final responsibility for submission rests with the **First Author and the PIs**, following completion of this approval process.