

August 19, 2026 – 11:00am-12:00pm ET

Building Transparency and Trust through Author Agreements

ISMPP Ethics & Standards Committee



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**September 17
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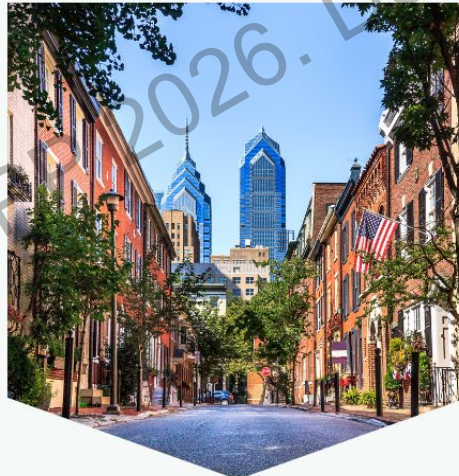
Call for Abstracts &
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**September 29-30
Philadelphia, PA**

Registration is Open!

Call for Abstracts &
Proposals Closed



**January 25-27
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Registration Opens Aug. 20

Call for Proposals: Aug. 5 - Oct. 2
Call for Abstracts: Aug. 5 - Oct. 16



**May 3-5
Orlando, FL**

Registration Opens Oct. 14

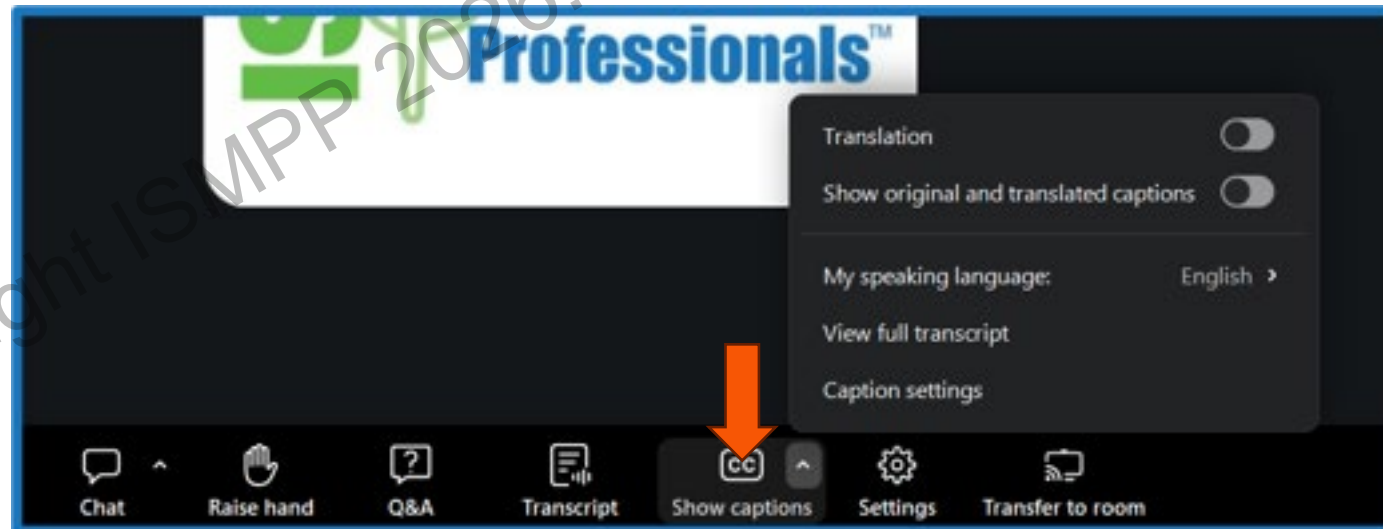
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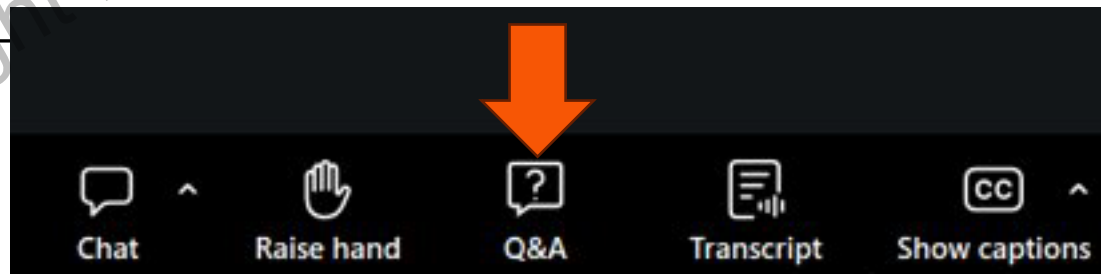
How to ask questions

Feel free to ask a question at any time; however, all questions will be held until the end of the presentation.

To ask a question, open the Q&A window and type your question into the Q&A box. **Click "Send"**

Note: Check **"Send Anonymously"** if you do not want your name attached to your question in the Q&A

We will make every effort to respond to all questions live (out loud)



Disclosures

The following presentation reflects the personal knowledge and opinions of the faculty and does not necessarily represent the views of their current or past employers.

ISMPP endorses the Author Agreement Toolkit which is available on the ISMPP Website as member benefit.

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Educational Objectives

- Describe **best practices** for engaging authors through a written agreement.
- Analyze key considerations for using the **ISMPP author agreement template and guidance** documents.
- Evaluate how the ISMPP author agreement template and guidance documents can help teams anticipate, prevent, and manage common **publication challenges**.

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Why do we need Author Agreements?

AUTHOR AGREEMENTS

Written documents—also called Letters of Agreement or Publication Agreements—that define the roles and responsibilities of authors and sponsors, along with their rights, obligations and requirements related to the publication.



Recommended

Good Publication Practice (GPP)¹ and Corporate Integrity Agreements²



Niche

Cover publication-specific details that other agreements skip



Guardrails

ICMJE³



Real life experience

¹ DeTora LM, Toroser D, Sykes A, Vanderlinden C, Plunkett FJ, Lane T et al. Good Publication Practice (GPP) Guidelines for Company-Sponsored Biomedical Research: 2022 Update. Ann Intern Med.2022;175(9):1298-1304. doi:[10.7326/M22-1460](https://doi.org/10.7326/M22-1460).

² Rodino FJ. Corporate Integrity Agreements: What They Say about Publications, Publication Planning, Transparency and ICMJE. Ther Inn Reg Sci 2013; 47(1): 50 -6.

³ International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals. Updated April 2025. www.icmje.org. Accessed August 8, 2025.



Real Life Experience

1 Unresponsive Author

- Author is unresponsive and has not reviewed the publication after multiple reminders

2 Transfer of Value Amnesia

- Author files a dispute with Open Payments because there was a transfer of value reported to their name

3 Author is Not in Good Standing

- Author disciplined for misconduct with removal of their license

4 Inadequate COI Disclosures

- Author indicates "No conflicts to disclose"

Audience poll

Does your Company use Author Agreements for Publications?

- Yes, author agreements are mandatory
- No, author agreements are never used
- Author agreements are used rarely or inconsistently
- Other



How we built the ISMPP Author Agreement Toolkit

1

Joined forces

Two ISMPP committees — Global Transparency and Trends and Ethics and Standards — formed the Author Agreement sub-committee

2

Listened first

Surveyed ISMPP industry members¹ to capture best practices

3

Built the toolkit

Turned survey insights and experience from sub-committee members into the Author Agreement template and guidance document endorsed by ISMPP

Thank you to all the volunteers

The people behind the template and guidance

- **Bhakti Kshatriya**
Committee Lead
- **Sonia Schweers**
Project Lead
- Radhika Bhatia
- Lisa DeTora
- **Rikke Egelund Olsen**
- Clair Fisher
- Keith Goldman
- Taija Koskenkorva
- **Jackie Marchington**
- **Tam Nguyen-Cao**
- Shannon Stahl

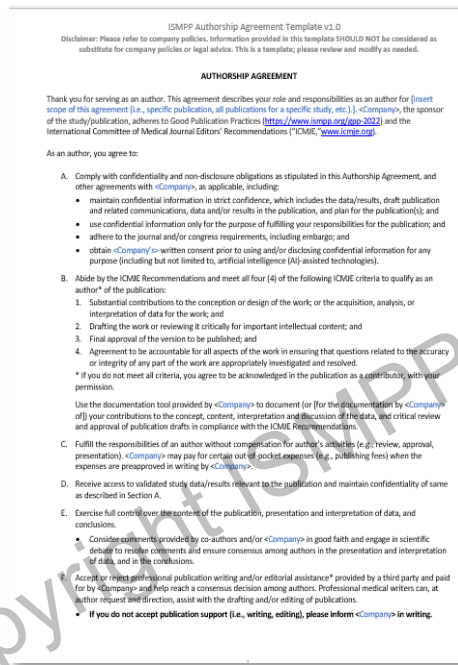
¹Schweers SA, Fischer C, Nguyen-Cao T, Bhatia R, Marchington J, Goldman KH, Stahl S, Kshatriya on behalf of ISMPP Author Agreement Sub-Committee. Current practices in author agreements for industry-sponsored publications. *Curr Med Res Opin* 2023, 39(sup1),S16.

ISMPP Author Agreement Toolkit

1

ISMPP Author Agreement Template

Purpose: Ready to use template to facilitate company evaluation and alignment



2

ISMPP Author Agreement Guidance

Purpose: Support implementation of the template

- Benchmark current practices
- Understand risks minimized by agreement
- Share best practices for implementation



ISMPP Author Agreement Template



ISMPP Learning Hub Courses
Your home for medical communications education

International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP)
Authorship Agreement Template v1.0 (released January 2026)

Disclaimer: Please refer to company policies. Information provided in this template SHOULD NOT be considered as substitute for company policies or legal advice.
This is a template; please review and modify as needed.

AUTHORSHIP AGREEMENT

Thank you for serving as an author. This agreement describes your role and responsibilities as an author for [insert scope of this agreement (i.e., specific publication, all publications for a specific study, etc.)]. <Company>, the sponsor of the study/publication, adheres to Good Publication Practices (<https://www.ismpp.org/gpp-2022>) and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' Recommendations ("ICMJE," www.icmje.org).

As an author, you agree to:

- A. Comply with confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations as stipulated in this Authorship Agreement, and other agreements with <Company>, as applicable, including:
 - maintain confidential information in strict confidence, which includes the data/results, draft publication and related communications, data and/or results in the publication, and plan for the publication(s); and
 - use confidential information only for the purpose of fulfilling your responsibilities for the publication; and
 - adhere to the journal and/or congress requirements, including embargo; and
 - obtain <Company>'s written consent prior to using and/or disclosing confidential information for any purpose (including but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies).
- B. Abide by the ICMJE Recommendations and meet all four (4) of the following ICMJE criteria to qualify as an author* of the publication:
 1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
 2. Drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; and
 3. Final approval of the version to be published; and
 4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

* If you do not meet all criteria, you agree to be acknowledged in the publication as a contributor, with your permission.

Use the documentation tool provided by <Company> to document (or [for the documentation by <Company> of]) your contributions to the concept, content, interpretation and discussion of the data, and critical review and approval of publication drafts in compliance with the ICMJE Recommendations.
- C. Serve as an author without compensation for the author's activities (e.g., review, approval, presentation). <Company> may pay for certain out-of-pocket expenses (e.g., publishing fees) when the expenses are preapproved in writing by <Company>.
- D. Receive access to validated study data/results relevant to the publication and maintain confidentiality of same as described in Section A.
- E. Exercise full control over the content of the publication, presentation and interpretation of data, and conclusions.
 - Consider comments provided by co-authors and/or <Company> in good faith and engage in scientific debate to resolve comments and ensure consensus among authors in the presentation and interpretation of data, and in the conclusions.
- F. Accept or reject professional publication writing and/or editorial assistance* provided by a third party and paid for by <Company> and help reach a consensus decision among authors. Professional medical writers can, at author request and direction, assist with the drafting and/or editing of publications.
 - If you do not accept publication support (i.e., writing, editing), please inform <Company> in writing.

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International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP)
Authorship Agreement Template v1.0 (released January 2026)

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This is a template; please review and modify as needed.

- Publication support or expenses reimbursement provided hereunder are not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an offer or payment made (whether directly or indirectly) to induce the referral of patients; the purchase, lease, or order of any item or service; or the recommending or arranging for the purchase, lease, or order of any item or service.
 - <Company> reserves the right to reevaluate and prioritize publication activities including ongoing publication assistance.
- G. Acknowledge the <Company>'s reporting of transfers of value (e.g., publication writing and/or editorial assistance) in accordance with the <Company>'s policy related to financial transparency reporting relevant to the author's country. [If applicable to US or other countries' HCPs]
 - H. Disclose conflicts of interest and support, and acknowledge contributors.
 - Adhere to the policies of the journal/congress for disclosures (e.g., conflicts of interest, support, use of AI) and/or other industry standards (e.g., ICMJE Disclosure of Interest form, www.icmje.org).
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 - Additional information about <Company>'s handling of personal information can be found at [website URL, if available]. Any questions or concerns regarding the processing of such personal data, including requests for deletion, can be addressed to [Company's Data Protection Officer or personnel responsible for Data Protection Policy].
 - K. Confirm that you have a healthcare professional license in good standing or are retired. You will promptly notify <Company> in writing should the status of your license change; <Company> will have the right to reassess authorship status for ongoing publications. [For US HCPs only]

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Excerpt from ISMPP Author Agreement Toolkit



Author Agreement Template Responsibilities and Commitments

AUTHORS

- [Confidentiality and embargo](#)
- [ICMJE authorship criteria](#)
- [Responsibility for the publication](#)
- [Disclosures](#)

COLLABORATION

- [Compensation and reimbursement](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Permissions](#)
- [Author debarment \(US\)](#)

SPONSOR

- [Access to study data](#)
- [Publication process](#)
- [Publication support](#)
- [Transparency obligations](#)

Publication Support



Author Agreement template

As an author, you agree to accept or reject professional writing and/or editorial assistance provided by a third party and paid for by <Company>,* and help reach a consensus decision among authors. Professional medical writers can, at author request and direction, assist with the drafting and/or editing of the publications

- **If you do not accept publication support (i.e., writing, editing), please inform <Company> in writing**
- Publication support or expenses reimbursement provided hereunder are not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an offer or payment made (whether directly or indirectly) to induce the referral of patients; the purchase, lease, or order of any item or service; or the recommending or arranging for the purchase, lease, or order of any item or service

* <Company> reserves the right to reevaluate and prioritize publication activities including ongoing publication assistance.



Recommendations, best practices

- Sponsor should inform authors if writing/editorial support funded by the sponsor will be offered and if there are any restrictions¹
- Disclosing if publication support will be reported as a transfer of value is an important factor to allow authors to make an informed decision. See [Transparency and Privacy Obligations](#)
- Authors must accept or reject the publication support unanimously during the kickoff for the publication¹



72% of ISMPP industry members surveyed include professional writing support in author agreements²

Confidentiality and Embargo



Author Agreement template

As an author, you agree to comply with the confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations as stipulated in this Authorship Agreement, and other agreements with <Company>, as applicable, including:

- Maintain confidential information in strict confidence, which includes the data/results, draft publication and related communications, data and/or results in the publication, and plan for the publication(s); and
- Use confidential information only for the purpose of fulfilling author's responsibilities for the publication;
- Adhere to the journal and/or congress requirements, including embargo; and
- Obtain <Company's> written consent prior to using and/or disclosing confidential information for any purpose (including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies)



Recommendations, best practices

- Authors and sponsor should have an agreement that covers confidentiality and embargoes¹
- Publications submitted to journals are confidential property of authors, and authors may be impacted by premature disclosure²
- It is important to determine whether an existing agreement (e.g., clinical trial agreement) covers confidentiality or if one is needed early in the publication process
 - Confidentiality of the publication is critical to meet the journal/congress embargo requirements and to minimize competitive risks
 - Remind authors of their obligation to keep the publication, its data, and publication plans confidential until final publication/presentation
- Requiring written consent prior to any public disclosure (e.g., publication or data) is an opportunity for Company to discuss potential breaches to embargoes and review disclosures for medical accuracy and intellectual property protection
 - Written consent prior to using AI-assisted technologies helps maintain confidentiality and adherence to journal/congress requirements



82% of ISMPP Industry Members surveyed included confidentiality terms in Author Agreements³

¹DeTora et al. *Ann Intern Med* 2022;175(9):1298-1304. doi:[10.7326/M22-1460](https://doi.org/10.7326/M22-1460).

²Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals. Updated April 2025. www.icmje.org. Accessed August 8, 2025.

³Schweers SA, Fischer C, Nguyen-Cao T, Bhatia R, Marchington J, Goldman KH, Stahl S, Kshatriya on behalf of ISMPP Author Agreement Sub-Committee. Current practices in author agreements for industry-sponsored publications. *Curr Med Res Opin* 2023, 39(sup1),S16.

Permissions



Author Agreement template

As an author, you agree to give permission to <Company> to:

- Submit the publication and/or execute copyright transfers, open access agreements or publication licenses with the publisher on behalf of all authors,
- Reuse presentations for educational purposes, and
- Pursue encore presentations (i.e., repeat presentations of the same content to other audiences)



Recommendations, best practices

- Including permissions related to the presentations in the agreement provides greater transparency in the collaboration with authors and maximizes efficiencies
- This approach also acknowledges the authors' control of the publication and that they retain the copyrights to certain publications

Note: Copyright permissions may be needed from the publisher



30% of ISMPP Industry Members surveyed included permission to encore in Author Agreements¹

► Putting it to work



ISMPP Author Agreement Toolkit

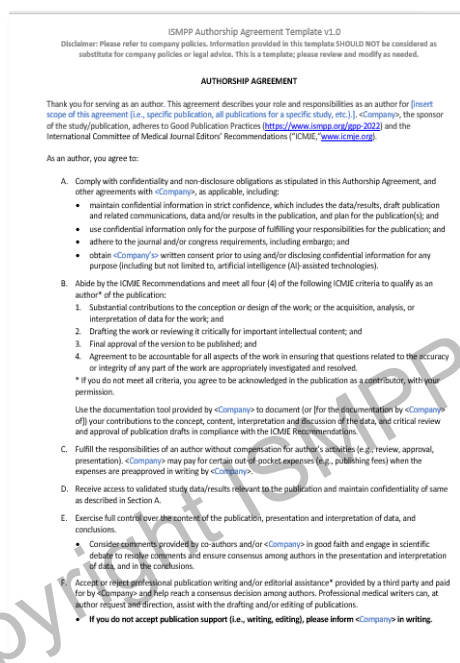


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1

ISMPP Author Agreement Template

Purpose: Ready to use template to facilitate company evaluation and alignment



2

ISMPP Author Agreement Guidance

Purpose: Support implementation of the template

- Benchmark current practices
- Understand risks minimized by agreement
- Share best practices for implementation



ISMPP Author Agreement Guidance

Using Author Agreements is a best practice for company publications and recommended by GPP. The ISMPP Author Agreement toolkit answers key questions to facilitate implementation:

What

- How many publications does it cover?
- What types of publications are covered?
- What research types?
- Are different types of agreement needed?

Who

- Which authors complete the agreement (e.g. internal, external)?
- Who sends the agreement to the authors?

When

- How long should the agreement last?
- When should authors complete the agreement?

How

- Is the agreement a legal document?
- How should authors respond to the agreement?
- How should it be sent to authors?

Using the Author Agreement Toolkit

- Consult your company Legal/Compliance teams and/or Publication SOPs
- Ensure author agreements are in place before publication development begins
- Incorporate clear responsibilities for all parties consistent with GPP and ICMJE
- Monitor feedback regularly and update agreements as needed

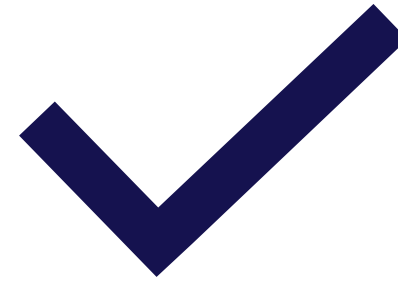


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Using the Author Agreement Toolkit



Companies ***without*** existing author agreements



Companies ***with*** existing author agreements

How Long Should the Author Agreement Last?



Recommendations, best practices

- No pre-set duration; single-use
 - Each agreement covers a single abstract/presentation, manuscript, or review article
 - Pro: Terms are presented to authors for each publication and are easy to update
 - Con: Agreement may be perceived as repetitive and low value
- No pre-set duration; study specific
 - Agreement covers all publications for a specific study; regardless of time
 - Pro: fewer touch points
 - Con: Authors may not remember terms
- Specific duration (1–3 years)
 - Agreement covers all publications in a specific time period
 - Pro: Fewer touch points
 - Con: Authors may not remember terms



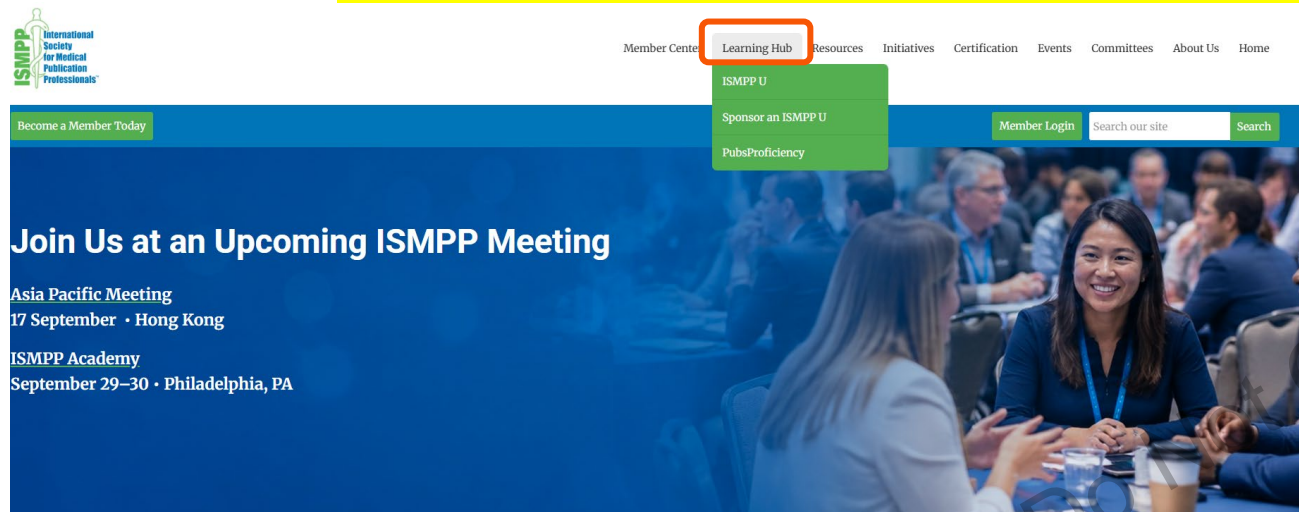
Benchmarking among ISMPP members

- ISMPP industry members responding to a survey about their Author Agreement reported¹
 - 42% (32/77): Specific publications are covered by the Author Agreement
 - Each new abstract or manuscript requires a new agreement
 - 36% (28/77): All publications for one specific study are covered
 - 12% (9/77): All publications during a specific period of time are covered
 - 10% (8/77): Other

Author Agreement Toolkit is Live at the ISMPP Learning Hub

Learning Hub >> Guidelines, Compliance and Ethics >> Agreement

Requires ISMPP membership for access



The image shows the ISMPP Learning Hub home page. The top navigation bar includes links for Member Centre, Learning Hub (highlighted with a red box), Resources, Initiatives, Certification, Events, Committees, About Us, and Home. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for 'Join Us at an Upcoming ISMPP Meeting' with details for the Asia Pacific Meeting (17 September, Hong Kong) and the ISMPP Academy (September 29-30, Philadelphia, PA). A large image of a group of people in a meeting is also visible.

Explore Courses



The image shows a grid of course tiles under the 'Explore Courses' header. The tiles are arranged in two rows. The first row includes: Strategic Planning Pubs/Comms, Practical Implementation Pubs/Comms, Patient Partnerships, Evidence & Insight Generation, Digital & Visual Enhancements, and Guidelines, Compliance & Ethics (highlighted with a red box). The second row includes: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Open Science, Member Research, Industry Awareness, and ISMPP. An orange arrow points from the 'Guidelines, Compliance & Ethics' tile to the right.



The image shows the search results page for 'agreement' in the ISMPP Learning Hub. The search bar at the top shows 'agreement' and the results are filtered under 'Guidelines, Compliance, & Ethics'. The results list includes 'ISMPP U Webinar: Building Transparency and Trust through Author Agreements' and 'ISMPP | Authorship Agreement Guidance & Template'. The 'Authorship Agreement Guidance & Template' resource is highlighted with a red box. Below the results, it states 'This resource is comprised of both a guidance'.

Audience poll

How likely is your organization to adopt or update its Author Agreement based on the ISMPP template and guidance?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Unlikely
- Not applicable to our organization
- Other



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Summary

- Author Agreements are an important component of Good Publication Practice, to ensure transparency in roles and responsibilities of authors and sponsors and minimize risks
- The ISMPP author agreement template and guidance document aim to increase best practice sharing among publication professionals
- Companies should consult their policies, evaluate their processes, and seek advice to make informed decisions about Author Agreements

Use of Author Agreements is a best practice for scientific publications

Your Call to Action

- **Adopt:** take the ISMPP template back to your team
- **Adapt:** align it with your company policies, SOPs, and Legal/Compliance guidance, then embed your tailored template into your company SOPs
- **Advocate:** make Author Agreements a standard, pre-kickoff step for every publication (or study, or group of publications!)
- **Evolve:** the publications landscape is constantly shifting. Contact us with update requests, enhancement suggestions etc. This template is not cast in stone!



Question & Answer



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Register for our Next ISMPP U Webinar!

October 14th, 2026 - 11:00 ET

ISMPP U - From Insight to Action: Embedding Data-Driven Decisions in the Publication Planning Workflow

Approved for 1.0 CMPP Credit



This webinar will enable participants to:

- Identify key publication planning decisions that can be improved through the integration of diverse data sources.
- Evaluate which data types (e.g., author networks, engagement metrics, clinical insights) most effectively inform publication strategy.
- Develop a structured approach for embedding data-driven decision-making into publication planning workflows.



Jon Prashaw, MODERATOR,
Director, Consulting at
Mavens



Andrew Steedle, Practice
Lead, Scientific Publications at
Mavens



Dr. Mike Taylor, Head of
Insights at Altmetric

Check out our Podcasts!



Upcoming Podcasts	Release dates
CMPP – Behind the Exam Curtail	8/18/2026
The Social Media Tightrope: Compliant Messaging and Strategy for Publication Communications	9/1/2026
What Does “Being Strategic” Really Mean? Pharma & Agency Perspectives	9/15/2026
Patient Centricity in Pharma	9/29/2026

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to find the answer



JUN 9, 2026 | POLLS & PERSPECTIVES | 0 COMMENTS

Poll Results — When AI Shapes the Narrative: Do Pubs Teams Have a Responsibility to Act?

Poll Results



Building Transparency and Trust through Author Agreements

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