



## ***VASCERN Authorship Guidelines***

This document is the set of guidelines that should be followed when listing the names of authors/contributors in a VASCERN output.

Please use the appropriate VASCERN template that follows our visual identity guidelines (VASCERN PoK template, VASCERN Patient pathways template, etc.)

- 1) The names of all members of each RDWG (including ePAG co-chair and potentially other ePAG patient advocates) who participated in the creation or validation of an output will be included at the beginning of a document (i.e. title page), except in the case of PoKs, where they will appear on a slide at the end of the video (credits).**
  - a. A maximum of 2 representatives per HCP should be included unless an additional representative made a significant contribution to the output.
  - b. VASCERN Affiliated Partners will be listed together with the HCP representatives and not in a separate list.
  - c. Guests should be included in a separate list with the name "Cooperating Guests".
- 2) The names of members will be listed with their affiliated country in brackets.**
- 3) The names will be listed in the following order::**
  - a. The lead author (person who initiated the document, speaker of PoK, leader of a work package/ task force leading the document, etc.) will be in first position.
  - b. The RDWG Co-Chair and Chair are in the second-to-last and last positions, respectively
  - c. The remaining RDWG participating members are listed in alphabetical order by last name, going from A to Z alternately and from Z to A in reverse.

### ***Specific situations:***

- If the Chair or Co-Chair is the lead author, they will be in first position, followed by the rest of the group in alphabetical order.

- Membership in VASCERN is not a guarantee of authorship.

**4) In the case of an original document that is modified/recognised by VASCERN:**

**a. Document modified by VASCERN:**

- Add the following statement at the beginning or end of the document: "Updated by XX RDWG of VASCERN (list of authors, following our general author rules) based on a document by XX (list of authors, if exists, based on the rules of the original document)"
- "Revised" can be used instead of "updated" if extensive modifications are made

- b. For a document not modified but recognized by the group: add the existing list of authors (if it existed), followed by "validated/ approved by XX RDWG of VASCERN" and the names of group members following the same rules as above.**

**5) Flexibility with these guidelines will be considered for specific issues (e.g. formal scientific journal publications with specific rules, see point 6), but there should be a good reason not to follow the guidelines. These guidelines ensure that everyone who contributes to VASCERN is recognized.**

**6) For Scientific Publications sent to scientific journals for publication:**

**a. Scientific journal publications should follow the ICMJE rules:**

“All those designated as authors should meet all four criteria for authorship:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- 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.

And all who meet the four criteria should be identified as authors.”

- b. Include "VASCERN (RDWG abbreviation) European Reference Centre, + Country" to the publication list of each VASCERN member's affiliations.**

Example for full HCP reps:

<sup>1</sup> Department of Clinical Genetics and Cardiology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; *VASCERN HTAD European Reference Centre, Netherlands*

### **Example for affiliated partners:**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Clinical Genetics and Cardiology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; *VASCERN HTAD Affiliated Partner Centre, Netherlands*

- c. Please include the following statement in the acknowledgement section of the publication: *“This work is generated within the European Reference Network on Rare Multisystemic Vascular Diseases (VASCERN) funded by the European Commission and the French Ministry of Health.”*

**This acknowledgement is applied to all papers that have been discussed actively within the RDWG.**

### **7) Open access funding**

To be eligible for Open Access funding, a paper must meet the following criteria: it must be part of an RDWG project, explicitly acknowledge the ERN as described above, and include contributions from at least two Health Care Providers representing two different Member States, each from a different country. Please note that the budget for funding Open Access publications is limited.