

The Victorian ECMO Service Research Network

The Victorian ECMO Service acknowledges that significant gaps remain in medical research evidence relating to women, gender-diverse people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and other historically under-represented populations.

We are committed to fostering a research culture that values equity, inclusion, and representation. Through our research activities, collaborations, and data collection practices, we seek to improve understanding of the unique experiences, outcomes, and healthcare needs of diverse populations requiring ECMO and advanced critical care.

Research Proposal and Expression of Interest Process

VECMOS encourages collaboration and supports investigators, clinicians and researchers, who wish to undertake research using VECMOS data, resources, or through VECMOS-supported collaborations.

Individuals interested in initiating a research project should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) via email to admin@vecmos.org.au. The EOI should include a brief description of the proposed project, its objectives, anticipated collaborators, and any proposed use of VECMOS data or resources.

The VECMOS Research Lead will be responsible for presenting this information to the VECMOS Data, Quality and Research Working Group, for consideration of relevant ethical, data access, requirements and approval.

All publications, presentations, abstracts, and scholarly outputs arising from VECMOS supported research must adhere to the VECMOS Authorship Guidelines outlined below. Authorship will be determined in accordance with these guidelines to ensure transparency, fairness, accountability, and appropriate recognition of contributions.

Authorship Guideline

Purpose

VECMOS is committed to recognising the diverse contributions that clinicians and other healthcare professionals make to ECMO research. This guideline outlines inclusive authorship criteria, differentiates between authorship and acknowledgments, and ensures that all contributors receive appropriate recognition.

Authorship Criteria

To be listed as an author, individuals must meet the following four criteria, adapted from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE):

1. Substantial Contributions:

Involved in the conception or design of the work, or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data. This includes the crucial role clinicians play in contributing valuable data and insights from clinical practice.

2. Intellectual Contribution:

Actively participate in drafting the work or critically reviewing it for important intellectual content, thereby contributing to the manuscript's development.

3. Approval of Publication:

Provide final approval of the version to be published, ensuring it meets the necessary standards and reflects the collective insights of all contributors.

4. Accountability:

Agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work, especially regarding questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part, and commit to investigating and resolving any issues that arise.

Distinguishing Between Authorship and Acknowledgments:

Authorship:

- Reserved for those who meet all four criteria listed above. Authors collectively share responsibility and credit for the work.

Acknowledgments:

- Individuals who contribute to the study in ways not meeting the full authorship criteria should be acknowledged. This includes clinicians and staff involved in data collection, providing resources, analysis assistance, or administrative support. Acknowledging these contributions highlights their importance and provides transparency in the research process.
- VECMOS sites are responsible for providing and maintaining their site-specific acknowledgement lists, which will be used as the standard acknowledgement template for all VECMOS publications

Inclusivity in Authorship:

- Encourage the inclusion of clinicians and other healthcare professionals as authors when they meet the specified criteria, recognising their critical role in generating real-world evidence and improving ECMO practices.

- Transparency in discussing authorship at the start of any project is crucial, and contributors should be informed of the criteria and their potential role as authors or in acknowledgments.

Responsibility:

Authors are responsible for ensuring that all contributors to the work are appropriately named either as authors or in the acknowledgments. Every author should have a solid understanding of the significant elements of the research and a sense of ownership in ensuring integrity throughout the process.

Adherence to High Standards:

We adhere to the Nature Portfolio authorship guidelines and expect authors to maintain high ethical standards, ensuring that contributions are honest and accurately represented.

Endorsed by: The Victorian ECMO Service Executive Committee

Date: Tuesday 21st July 2026