**Fair attribution for local authors on international research papers**

As co-signatories on a consensus statement released this week (seeB. Morton *et al.* *Anaesthesia*  doi: 10.1111/anae.15597; 2021), we call upon all scientific journals to adopt a similar system to promote fairness in author contribution assessments for research conducted in low-to-middle income countries (LMICs) by teams that include author(s) from institutions in high-income countries (HICs)**.**

The system consists of a structured reflexivity statement that asks authors to answer a series of open-ended questions that broadly follow established authorship criteria (see [www.icmje.org](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/Id6uCojolfX67LYSVzcNl?domain=icmje.org)). These help to ensure that LMIC researchers and other disadvantaged groups such as women and early-career researchers are properly represented.

Progress in addressing such imbalances has been slow (A. I. Obasi *Lancet* **396**, 651-653; 2020 doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31536-1). For example, a fifth of papers on COVID-19 in Africa contain no African authors and, among those that do, HIC authors almost always occupy the coveted first and last positions (A. V. Naidoo et al. *Br. Med. J. Glob Health* **6**, doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2020-004612; 2021).

Such reflexivity statements will encourage inclusive and open discussion of issues affecting equity, including capacity strengthening and research legacy in host countries.

**Angela I N Obasi1†, Seye  Abimbola2,  Ndekya Oriyo3, Ben Morton4, André Vercueil5, and Refiloe Masekela6**

1. Department of International Public Health, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine -ORCID 0000-0001-6801-8889
2. School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia -  ORCID **0000-0003-1294-3850**
3. National Institute of Medical Research, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - ORCID **0000-0001-6336-9911**
4. Department of Clinical Sciences, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK - ORCID **0000-0002-6164-2854**
5. King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK-  ORCID **0000-0003-1591-4131**
6. Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, School of Clinical Medicine, College of Health Sciences, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban, South Africa - ORCID **0000-0001-9665-2035**

†Corresponding author