**PUBLICATION STRATEGY, Version 1 – January 27, 2019**

Steering Committee per January 27, 2019 in alphabetical order:

Bouchardy Judith, Lausanne

Bouma Berto, Amsterdam

Dos Laura, Barcelona

Gabriel Harald, Vienna

Gallego Pastora, Sevilla

Greutmann Matthias, Zurich

Ladouceur Magalie, Paris

Schwerzmann Markus, Berne

Tobler Daniel, Basel

The wish of the Steering Committee is to make EPOCH a project that

* has a high impact on clinical practice and research in adult congenital heart disease (ACHD)
* sets the signal for a good international collaboration among different specialists in the field of ACHD for the years to come
* stimulates the different specialists in the field of ACHD to increase output of ACHD research

In order to optimize the potential of this project, a strategy for publications and authorship is provided in this document. Guidelines for authorship for EPOCH are based on published recommendations for authorship in multicenter studies.1, 2 The present publication strategy follows the one used by Approach-IS Consortium.3, 4

## 1. Outcome papers

We will write articles that summarizes the overall cardiac outcomes (mortality and morbidity) with a minimal of 3 year of follow-up of studied patients’ cohorts. Predictors of mortality and morbidity will be the primary study endpoints.

***Authorship on the main outcome papers:***

* Outcome papers have a shared first authorship and a shared last authorship
* The shared first authors may not come from the same country
* The shared last authors may not come from the same country
* The first authors are responsible for writing and submitting the manuscript
* The distribution of shared first and last authorships must be balanced among the participating countries.
* First and last authorships have to be determined before data analysis; order of authorship will be determined by the Steering Committee and confirmed beforehand in writing.
* If not already included as co-author from a participating center, the Steering Committee and the research fellow(s) must also be included.
* For large centers a second co-author may be included; these co-authors will be confirmed beforehand in writing by the Steering Committee.

Furthermore, the entire EPOCH Consortium will be acknowledged by including the statement “on behalf of the EPOCH Consortium” at the end of the author list, and by referring to the Consortium as contributors at the end of the manuscript.

## 2. Publications on collaborative sub-studies

Collaborative sub-studies are highly advocated. These sub-studies can be done using the entire dataset or with a sub-section of data. Numerous topics for collaborative sub-analyses can be proposed to the Steering Committee. For proposing sub-studies, please fill out the document at the end to this file and indicate the responsible applicant.

After review (to avoid duplication) and contacting Consortium members who proposed ideas, the topics will be assigned by the Steering Committee to the responsible applicants. However, if a collaborative sub-study has not been submitted for publication within 36 months of acceptance, any sub-study may be available for re-assignment to other EPOCH researchers. Responsible applicants of sub-studies have to confirm the acceptance of the publication strategy.

***Authorship on collaborative sub-studies:***

For publications on collaborative sub-studies, the following authorship rules apply:

* The responsible author can invite up to 3 co-authors.
* One co-author from each participating center of which data have been used in the sub-analyses must be included.
* If not already included as co-author from a participating center, the Steering Committee and the research fellow(s) must also be included.
* If sub-studies refer to data from imaging labs, one representative from these labs can be included as co-authors when there is substantial contribution to the manuscript (eg. re-analyzing data from other centers; collaboration with specific imagining protocols)
* All authors should adhere to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines on authorship (http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html).
* The EPOCH Consortium is acknowledged by including the statement “on behalf of the EPOCH Consortium” at the end of the author list, and by referring to the Consortium as contributors at the end of the manuscript.
* The responsible author is free to select who will have the first, second, third or last position on the byline.
* The order of authorship for the remaining co-authors depends on the contribution of each co-author to the project, i.e. coordinating/executive role and/or number of patients/data provided. The order in which authors are listed should be explained in a footnote to accurately describe the meaning of this order (Vancouver protocol: http://www.research.mq.edu.au/about/research\_@\_macquarie/policies,\_procedures\_and\_conduct/documents/Vancouver.pdf).

Exceptions for authorship rules can be requested by email to the Steering Committee.

## 3. Additional conditions for authorship on all EPOCH manuscripts

The following procedure should be followed to ensure timely review and manuscript submission to journals for peer review:

* Upon finalizing the manuscript, the main authors will send it to all co-authors for review and approval.
* Review and approval from an invited co-author must be given within two weeks.
* If the invited co-author does not respond within two weeks, it will be presumed that this individual agrees with the manuscript.

## 4. References

1. Barker A, Powell RA. Authorship. Guidelines exist on ownership of data and authorship in multicentre collaborations. Bmj 1997;**314**(7086):1046.

2. Bourbonniere MC, Russell DJ, Goldsmith CH. Authorship Issues: One Research Center's Experience With Developing Author Guidelines. American Journal of Occupational Therapy 2006;**60**(1):111-117.

3. Apers S, Kovacs AH, Luyckx K, Alday L, Berghammer M, Budts W, Callus E, Caruana M, Chidambarathanu S, Cook SC, Dellborg M, Enomoto J, Eriksen K, Fernandes SM, Jackson JL, Johansson B, Khairy P, Kutty S, Menahem S, Rempel G, Sluman MA, Soufi A, Thomet C, Veldtman G, Wang JK, White K, Moons P, consortium A-I, International Society for Adult Congenital Heart D. Assessment of Patterns of Patient-Reported Outcomes in Adults with Congenital Heart disease - International Study (APPROACH-IS): rationale, design, and methods. Int J Cardiol 2015;**179**:334-42.

4. Apers S, Kovacs AH, Luyckx K, Thomet C, Budts W, Enomoto J, Sluman MA, Wang JK, Jackson JL, Khairy P, Cook SC, Chidambarathanu S, Alday L, Eriksen K, Dellborg M, Berghammer M, Mattsson E, Mackie AS, Menahem S, Caruana M, Veldtman G, Soufi A, Romfh AW, White K, Callus E, Kutty S, Fieuws S, Moons P, consortium A-I, Isachd. Quality of Life of Adults With Congenital Heart Disease in 15 Countries: Evaluating Country-Specific Characteristics. J Am Coll Cardiol 2016;**67**(19):2237-45.