

Building Institutional Support for Healthy Authorship Practices & Dispute Resolution

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Elise Demeter, Ph.D., & Holly Holladay-Sandidge

Featured guest panelists: Jun Fudano, Ph.D., Sonia Maria Ramos de Vasconcelos, Ph.D., Elizabeth Heitman, Ph.D., Ana Iltis, Ph.D., & Lida Anestidou, DVM, MS, Ph.D.

AGENDA

Part I:

9:00-
10:25 AM

Introductions

Outline workshop goals

Theory of change model

Authorship policy



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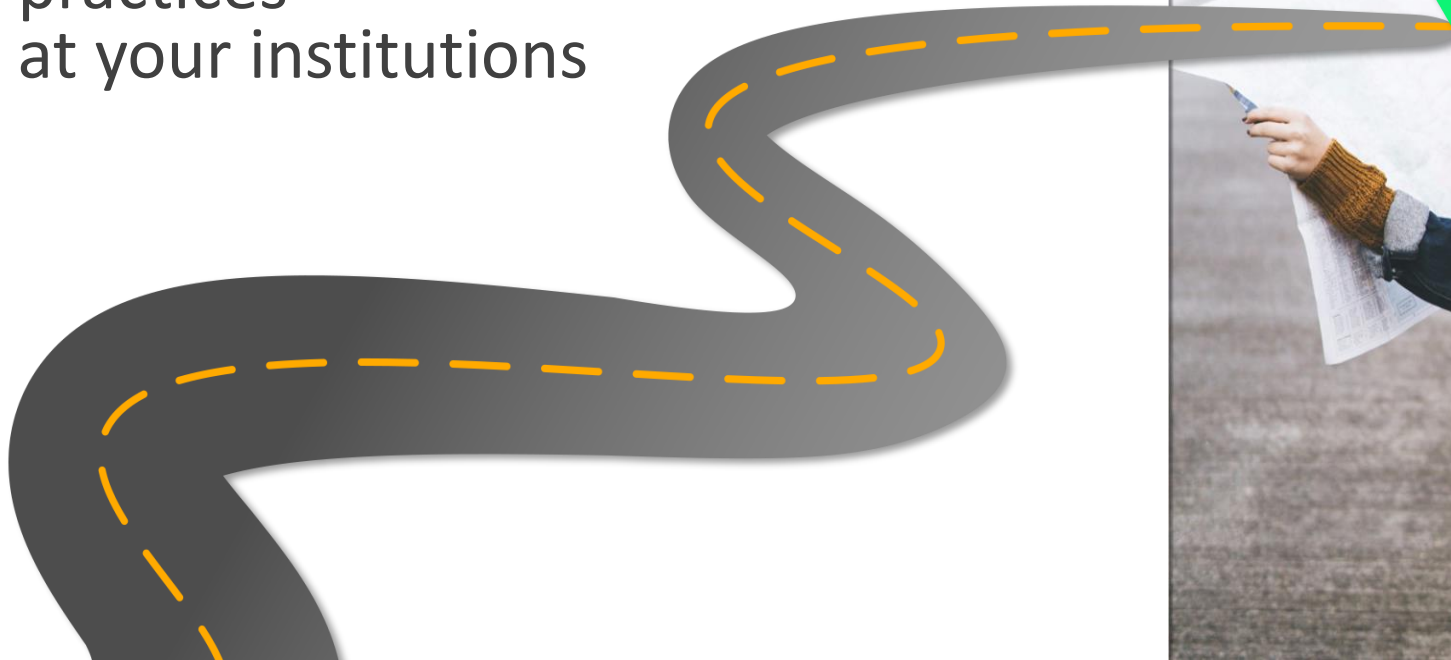
the authorship project



www.authorshipproject.org

Workshop goal

Provide a roadmap to facilitate open, transparent authorship practices at your institutions



Existing research suggests...

40% of UK-based survey respondents report experiencing issues with others taking credit for their work¹

53 of survey respondents in a global sample report authorship-related disagreements, either in naming or ordering²

58% of Norwegian survey respondents report having been involved in authorship disagreements³

only 27% of “first author” Japanese researchers surveyed met ICJME criteria for authorship⁴

Murky Waters:
Real Stories of
Academic Authorship



Theory of Change Model

MISSION:

Improve institutional ethical
authorship culture.



Increase visibility of leadership support.



Educate researchers on good practices.

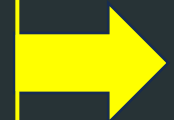


Increase visibility of good practices.

Research Culture

Researcher Knowledge & Perceptions

Researcher Practice



Incentivize the adoption of authorship agreements.

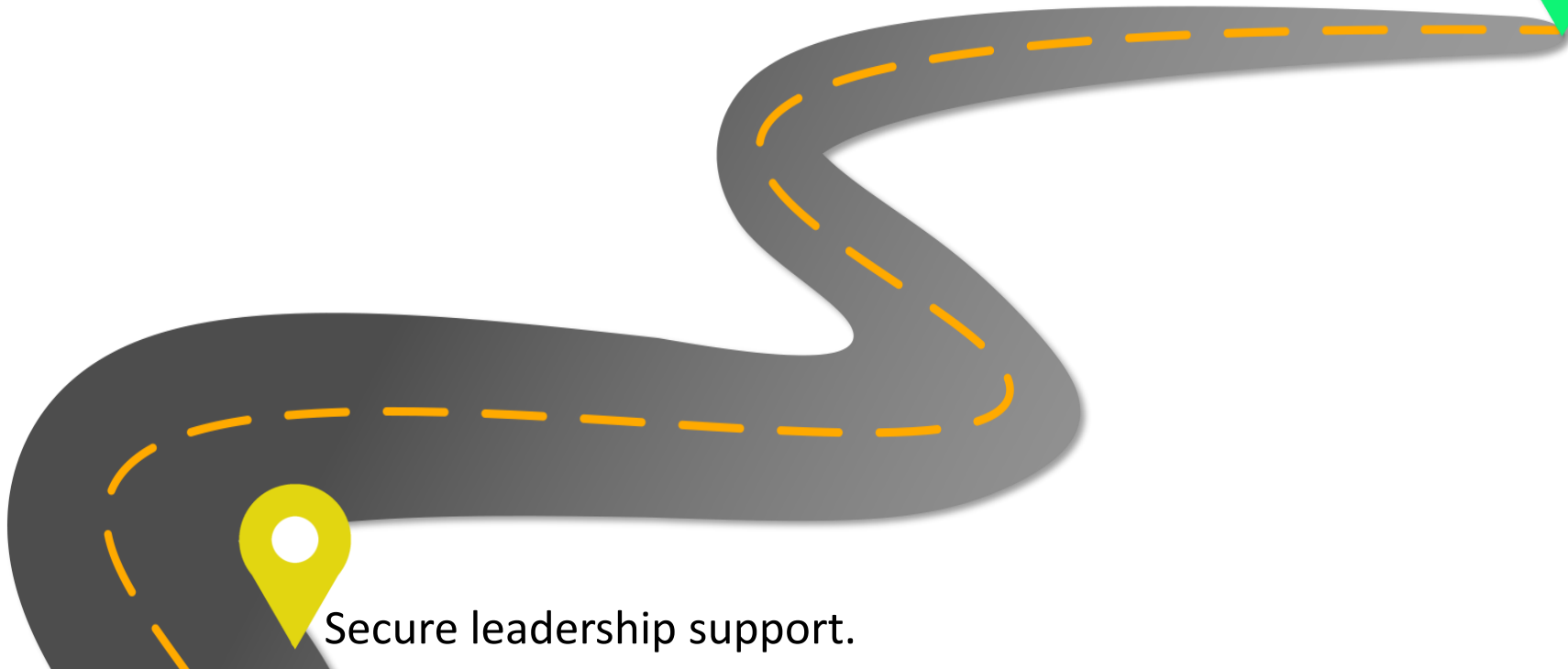


Share an authorship
experience with us!



Increasing the visibility of leadership support.

Stop #1



Secure leadership support.

Stop #2



Conduct environmental scan.

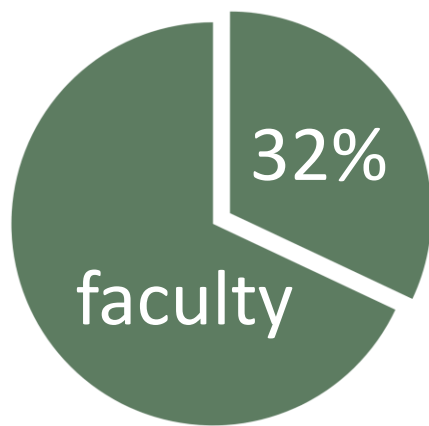
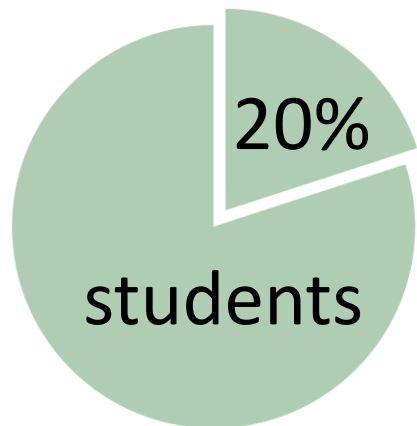


Secure leadership support.

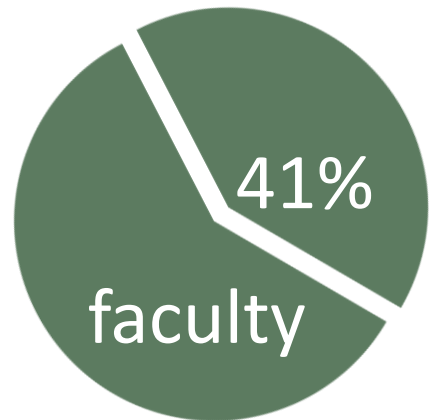
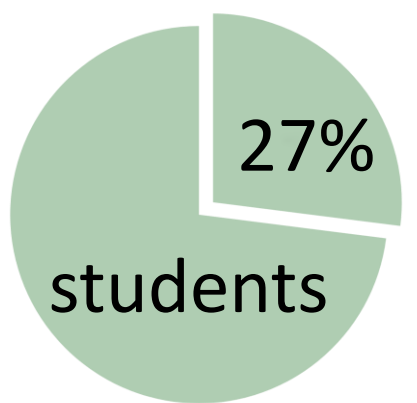




Author Naming Disagreement



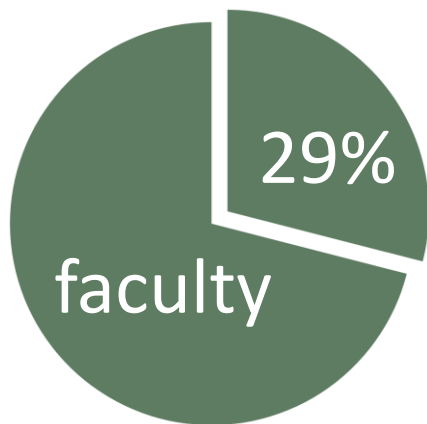
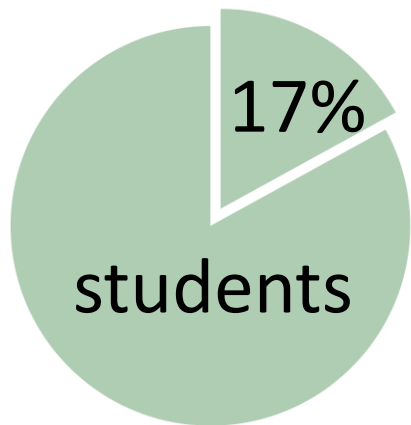
Author Order Disagreement



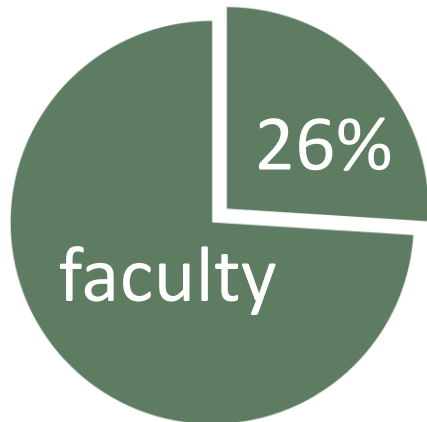
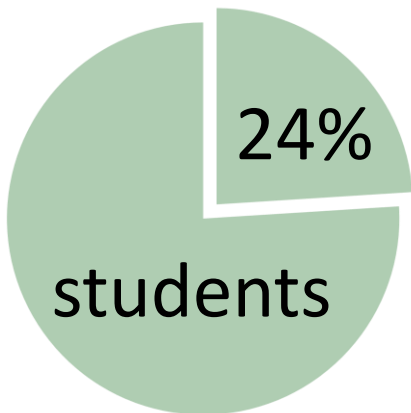
“I have had so many papers were [sic] I did the major [sic] of the work and even lead [sic] the project to have my name removed for some political or power reason. I...know many leave science because of it. It is unfair and destroyed careers of my peers as I climbed the ladder. Its [sic] not a few bad eggs [;] it is rampant. We must find a way to change it.”
-professor



Disappointed in Authorship Naming Decision



Disappointed in Order List Decision



“I had been working on the project the longest and had been responsible for keeping it together -- as well as being the institutional memory and primary contact person for the project. There was a push at the end from the other team members to list names in alphabetical order--and I thought this was unfair as my name then appeared second[,] and the person who had been on the team the least amount of time was now first.”

- professor

Stop #3



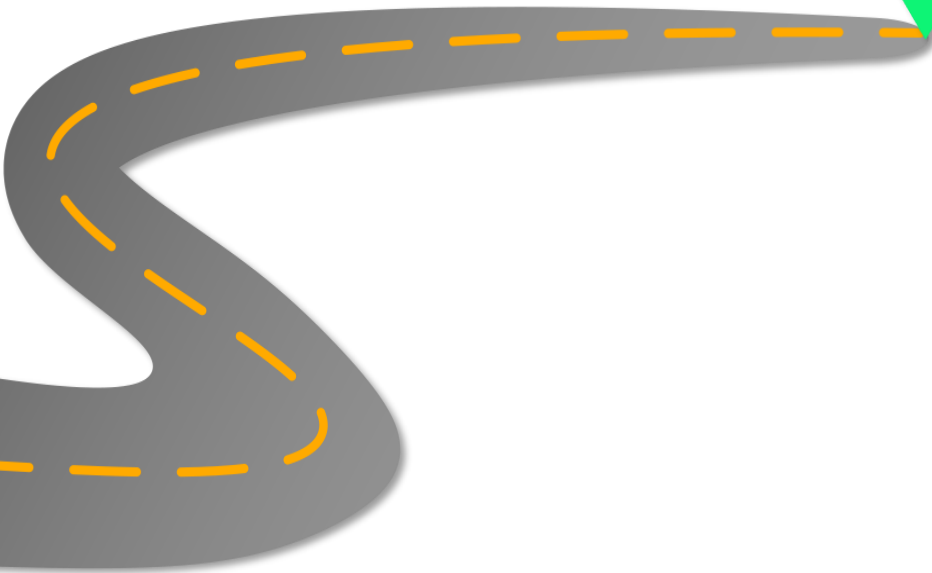
Conduct environmental scan.



Draft your policy.



Secure leadership support.





Stop #4

Conduct environmental scan.

Draft your policy.

Speak to different constituent groups.

Secure leadership support.



UNC Charlotte

Authorship Policy & Resolution Procedures



<https://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/up-318>

Table Discussion

1. What changes need to be made to our policy/process to fit your institution's specific context?
2. Identify 1 or 2 key problems to share/discuss at your table. Strategize solutions.
3. Pick 1 problem from your table to share with the room.

BREAK

Please return by
10:40!

AGENDA

Authorship
Agreements

Training

Marketing

Panel discussion

Key take-aways

Part II:
10:40AM -
NOON



Incentivizing the adoption of authorship agreements.

Our Authorship
Agreement



Authorship Agreement



Authorship on a paper, presentation, or other scholarly work indicates a substantial contribution to a project and accountability for the results. Authorship decisions often affect reputations and careers, and they can be a source of tension, even within healthy collaborations. This tool may help to facilitate open, transparent communication about authorship decisions among collaborators.

Authorship is often best discussed as early as possible in a project. Research projects can be long and involved, and parts of a project may be disseminated at different times. As a result, authorship on each part or product may vary; for example, if a project leads to more than one publication, each may have a different first author or list of authors. Even if roles have not yet become clear, early

conversations about authorship help to set expectations and to clarify the importance of open and honest discussion throughout the process. This agreement is meant to be a "living document"—one that can be revisited and changed as circumstances evolve over the course of a project.

Instructions.

The prompts and questions provided are designed to foster transparent conversations among collaborators in order to reach a shared set of expectations. All fields are required; however, acceptable answers include "not applicable" and "undetermined" if those responses best reflect the circumstances of your collaboration. A copy of this form should be distributed to all collaborators and/or stored in a shared location. If you plan multiple outputs (e.g., multiple publications; conference proceedings and articles, etc.) from one project, use a different form for each intended output. Please refer to [University Policy #318: Authorship Policy and Resolution Procedures](#) for additional information and resources.

Section 1.

Declaration of student project

Is this a thesis, dissertation, or other student-driven project? Yes No

For works derived substantially from student theses, dissertations, and other student-driven projects, a typical expectation is that the student should be listed as first author.

Is the student interested in pursuing dissemination of this project as an author? Yes No Unsure

Section 2.

Project background & publication goals

Working project title and description.

Possible conferences/publication venues for submission.

Authorship guidelines to be used (e.g., American Psychological Association)*

Approximate timeline for/date of submission.

*See the [CRediT Contributor Role Taxonomy](#) form as a widely adopted example. Some publication venues may have specific authorship guidelines or requirements.



Section 3.

Tentative author positions & tasks

Corresponding author:

Position	Name	Tasks/roles
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

[Add additional authors and contributors as needed. A supplementary page (page 4) with additional space is available.]

Section 4.

Acknowledgment of non-author contributors

Sometimes, contributions may warrant acknowledgment rather than authorship. Having conversations with contributors about acknowledging their contributions in final products is typically good practice.

Name & contribution	Has contributor agreed to acknowledgment?
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Section 5.

Non-responsive co-authors

Occasionally, someone initially involved in a project may cease to respond to communication about dissemination of results, despite interest in this pursuit amongst remaining collaborators. In such cases, collaborators may find it useful to set a timeframe within which they may hold each other accountable for communication.

If a co-author ceases to participate in discussions about dissemination within

months*

of completion of a project, collaborators mutually agree that that person will not be included as a co-author.

*In most cases, twelve months is a reasonable expectation, but some cases may warrant more condensed timeframes.

Disputes.

Despite best efforts, authorship disputes may sometimes arise. This document may be helpful in resolving such disputes, but if not, additional suggestions may be found in [University Policy #318: Authorship Policy and Resolution Procedures](#). The policy offers suggestions for informal resolution of disputes and outlines official steps for a more formal resolution.



Section 6.

Changes to current agreement

Sometimes roles, responsibilities, and contributions change, resulting in the need to change who will be an author and in what order.

Describe at what project stages this agreement will be discussed again (e.g., at midpoint of data collection, after an initial draft is written, prior to first submission, after any revisions to a manuscript under review at a journal).

Describe what process will be used to make authorship changes (e.g., decision by first author after consultation with others; majority vote, etc.).

Section 7.

Other items discussed by the team

Addenda.

Space for additional authors and addenda to this document is available on the supplementary page (page 4) provided at the end of this file.

Section 8.

Acknowledgment of discussion

Space for collaborators' signatures and two contact email addresses is provided below. Collecting second/backup email addresses is important as projects sometimes last longer than anticipated, even after some collaborators have left the institution or graduated.

By signing, you acknowledge that you have received and agree with the authorship plan as outlined in this document. As noted, this document is not binding and is subject to change with the evolution of the collaborative project.

Signature Date
e-mail 1: e-mail 2:

Signature Date
e-mail 1: e-mail 2:

Signature Date
e-mail 1: e-mail 2:

Signature Date
e-mail 1: e-mail 2:



Stop #5

Conduct environmental scan.

Draft your policy.

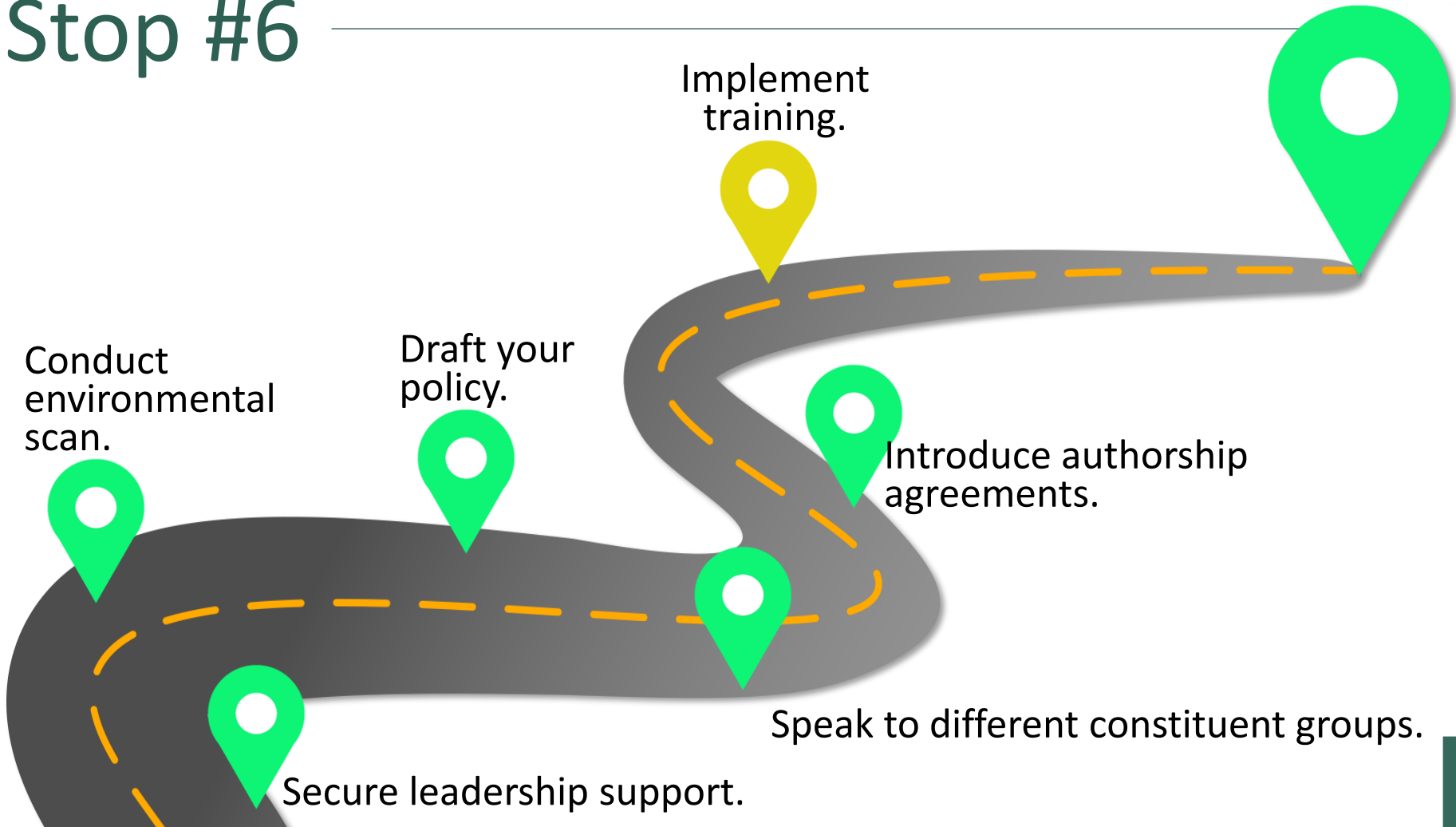
Introduce authorship agreements.

Speak to different constituent groups.

Secure leadership support.



Stop #6





let's talk about
authorship.

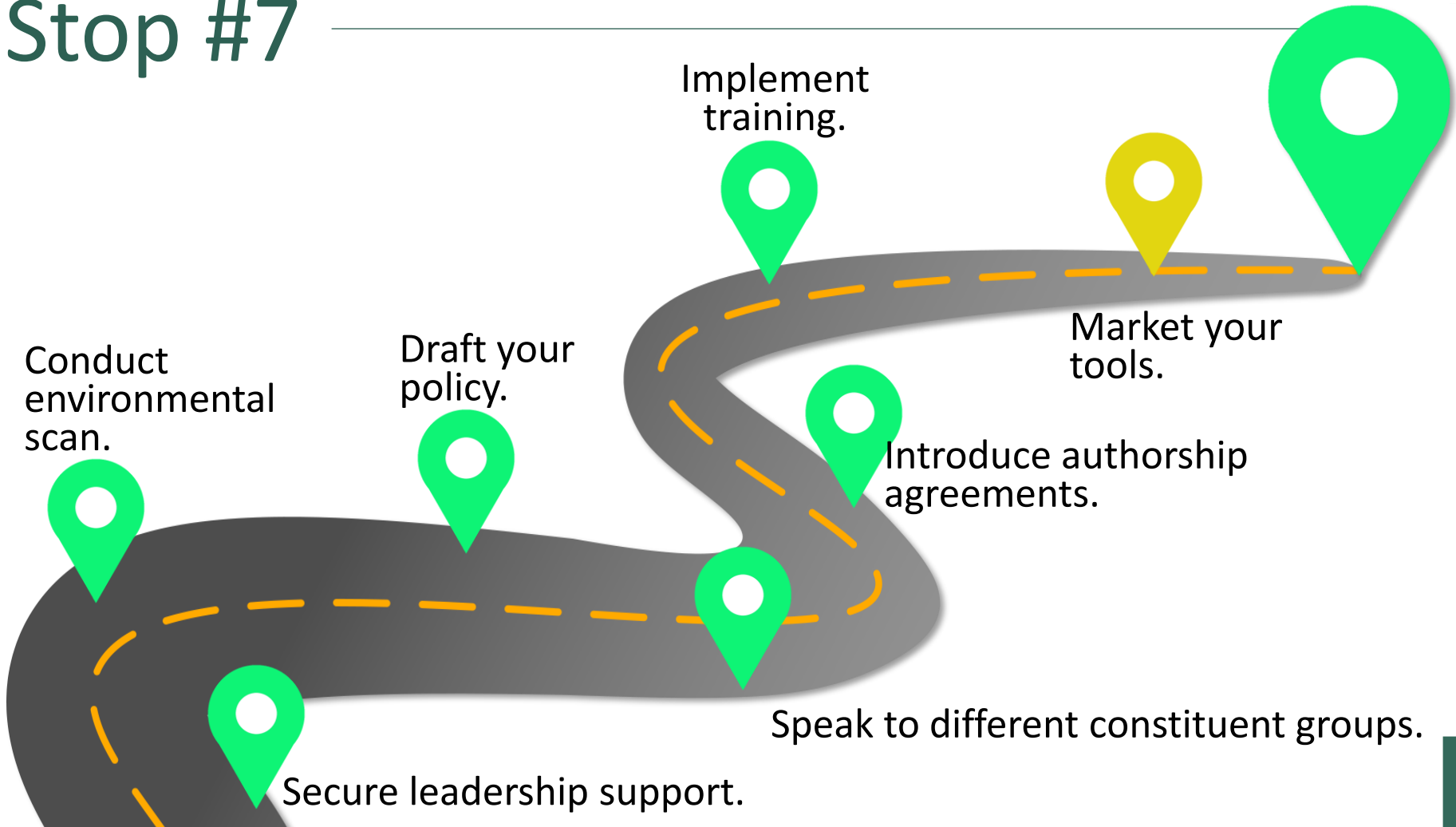
START

Training
courses

Academic Authorship Training



Stop #7





SPREAD THE WORD



PANEL REFLECTIONS

Concluding thoughts / Final Q&A

our “Top-down” journey:

- Secured leadership support
- Developed our policy
- Developed our authorship agreement
- Created training courses

Dissemination & sustainability:

- Will you encourage the use of authorship agreements? Will you design your own or use an existing one?
- Other long-term plans?
- How will your champions help you?

Use authorship agreements on their own (without a policy) for a more “bottom-up” / less formal approach!

Our fantastic partner:
the Graduate School...
who will yours be?

Your complete roadmap



Thank you!



Additional presentations:

Monday, June 3, 2024: 12:00pm-1:30pm

PP-056: Shedding light on a “hidden curriculum”: Designing engaging online content for graduate students

Tuesday, June 4, 2024: 10:30am-12pm —

MC3.3 Hall

OP18.4: Intervention to support healthy authorship practices in research



References.

1. Wellcome Trust Report. (2020). What researchers think about the culture they work in. (Figure 15, page 33). <https://wellcome.ac.uk/reports/what-researchers-think-about-research-culture>.
2. Ni, C., Smith, E., Yuan, H., Lariviere, V., and Sugimoto, C. R. (2021). The gendered nature of authorship. *Sci. Adv.* 7, [eabe4639](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abe4639).
3. Nylenna, M., Fagerbakk, F., & Kierulf, P. (2014). Authorship: attitudes and practice among Norwegian researchers. *BMC Medical Ethics*, 15(53). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6939-15-53>
4. Yukawa, Y., Kitanaka, C., and Yokoyama, M. (2014). Authorship practices in multi-authored papers in the natural sciences at Japanese universities. *International Journal of Japanese Sociology*, 23. [doi: 10.1111/ijjs.12016](https://doi.org/10.1111/ijjs.12016)

Additional Slides

Authorship disputes will occur.

Publishers push disputes back to institutions, but institutions are typically unprepared to mediate.

Dispute Panel

