

HepSEQ: Publication Policy and Authorship agreement

HepSEQ is a multi-centre initiative involving a number of laboratories, hospitals and centres. Whilst the major aims of the initiative are to support the surveillance and management of cases and outbreaks of Hepatitis B virus, the collation of comprehensive clinical, epidemiological and virological data from a number of sources potentially provides a powerful resource for research. There are therefore liable to be some opportunities for publications arising from this initiative. This document outlines the agreement of participants to ensure that contributors are duly acknowledged and that clinical governance and probity are maintained in relation to the specimens and information collected with the permission and consent of patients and within the research governance framework overseen by the network of ethics committees and research governance committees which have approved the study.

1. Proposals for research studies

Proposals for research studies that require use of HepSEQ data must be submitted to the HepSEQ Scientific Steering Committee (HepSEQ-SSC) as an expression of interest in order to limit the likelihood of parallel investigations and to encourage participation of the appropriate HepSEQ members.

2. Acknowledgment and citation

In all publications arising from the use the HepSEQ data:

- HepSEQ-SSC should be acknowledged.
- The HepSEQ resource should be cited in the following format:
- “We acknowledge the use of the HepSEQ-Hepatitis B resource (www.hpeseqresearch.org). Gnaneshan S., Ijaz S., Moran J., Ramsay M. and Green J. (2007) HepSEQ: International Public Health Repository for Hepatitis B. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, **35** (Database Issue): D367-70.”
- All involved HepSEQ participants, identified by HepSEQ-SSC, should be acknowledged

3. First authors, named authors and guarantors

First authors will be involved in and responsible for:

- Preparing a draft manuscript.
- Submitting the draft manuscript and, subsequently, a final edition to all HepSEQ participants via the HepSEQ-SSC.
- Obtaining agreement from all participants via HepSEQ-SSC prior to submission of a manuscript and the preparation of acknowledgements for publication.
- Preparing changes in a final edition resulting from HepSEQ-SSC comments.

Where appropriate the role of others within the group should be defined in terms similar to those used by the BMJ

(http://bmj.bmjournals.com/advice/article_submission.shtml#author).

4. Agreement on final submission for publication and sanctions

- Drafts of all papers should be circulated to all members of HepSEQ for comment by e-mail via HepSEQ-SSC.
- All named authors and HepSEQ-SSC must reach agreement taking into account the comments of HepSEQ participants. The HepSEQ-SSC has the final say on content and publishing if and when some individuals fail to respond within a reasonable period of time.
- If a paper is published without acknowledging HepSEQ and /or its constituent members and/or involved participants (this conduct being in breach of agreement) then HepSEQ-SSC will request the first author to submit a request for correction to the journal and if necessary will submit the correction itself. Future privileges for the use of HepSEQ research data will be withdrawn from the first author and their affiliated institution.

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