

Supporting E&MCR co-authorship: Ideas for research groups



NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY CARE
HEALTH SCIENCES



Plan publications and identify authorship early in a project; prioritise writing as soon as the data are available.



Lead authorship can be daunting: early support from a more experienced writer can help scope out the paper and clarify the story.



Are there opportunities for secondary data analysis (e.g. archive of qualitative interview collections on 120 conditions/topics held by HERG) or methods pieces that E&MCRS could be encouraged to lead author? This can be a good way to develop a CV.



Protect time for writing—this could be ‘golden writing hours’ once or twice a week. Switch off your phone/don’t look at emails during this time. You wouldn’t if you were teaching, so why not protect time for writing?



Group writing retreats could involve a morning in a library, a full day retreat or (if the project or team have the funding), one or more nights away on a writing retreat. Start by telling each other what you hope to achieve and then meet again at the end to report on progress.



Invite (and give) critical feedback on drafts from colleagues—ideally those who also write/review articles for the target journal.



Few people write excellent first drafts—good writers are often those who allow a few days to revise, refine, and polish before submission.