Acknowledgments in Scientific Publications and Presentations

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First, get it spelled correctly...

There is no e following the g in the U.S. English spelling of acknowledgment

(Don’t believe me?—look at the acknowledgment page of any book published by a U.S. publisher)

British English spells it with the “e,” but we colonialists have our own rules

Some wimpy dictionaries may accord “acknowledgement” alternative status, but we have higher standards in physics
The *acknowledgment* is a formal printed statement that recognizes individuals and institutions that contributed to the work being reported

Contributions to the *research* should be acknowledged

Non-research contributions are generally not appropriate for acknowledgment in a scientific paper but may be in a thesis

### Acknowledge research contributions by people other than the authors

- Persons who gave scientific guidance, participated in discussions, or shared unpublished results
- Persons who provided samples or equipment
- Assistants who helped do the work
- Technicians at user facilities or labs

**Make it a simple statement of thanks, not a testimonial or dedication**
Do not acknowledge non-science contributors

- Persons who helped prepare the manuscript (e.g., typists, graphic artists)
- Persons who provided encouragement or moral support (e.g., Mom)
- Persons who provided non-technical services (e.g., grant coordinators, secretaries, purchasing agents)

These individuals might be acknowledged in a thesis, but not in a journal article, presentation, or poster

Acknowledge by name only

Do not use titles, honorifics, positions, or awards

Paul G. Kwiat
NOT
Professor Paul G. Kwiat, Bardeen Chair in Physics

Anthony J. Leggett
NOT
Sir Dr. A.J. Leggett, Nobel Laureate
Always acknowledge financial support of the research—always

Give the name of the funding agency and grant or contract number
Do not mention any title that came with the funds

A.C. acknowledges support from the Lorella Jones Summer Research Fund

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A.C. was a Lorella Jones Summer Research Fellow

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To Recap:

Get it spelled correctly

Acknowledge people who contributed to the scientific work but are not co-authors

Keep it a simple expression of thanks, not a testimonial

Acknowledge the use of special facilities

ALWAYS acknowledge financial support; conform to funder guidelines for language

Check with the funder about use of logos

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