



PELICAN

Prematurity's Effects on the Lungs
In Children and Adults Network

Data Access, Publication and Authorship Policy

Prematurity's Effects on the Lungs In Children and Adults Network (PELICAN)

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Version Control notes:

Version	Date	Change	Author
V1.0	17/04/2025	Initial draft	SS
V1.1	24/04/2025	Format and incorporate feedback	SS, DG, HM, NG
V2.0	22/05/2025	Edits and review from SSC	NG, HM
V2.1	03/12/2025	Formatting and review	HM, DG, SS
V2.2	12/01/2026	Minor amends and sign-off	HM, SS, DG

Introduction

The [PELICAN Clinical Research Collaboration \(CRC\)](#) was launched by the European Respiratory Society (ERS) in 2020, with the overarching objective to harmonise cross-sectional and longitudinal datasets globally, to describe the impact of preterm birth on lung health trajectories over the life course, and to determine which neonatal and lifetime exposures contribute to the progression of lung disease in this vulnerable population.

The project coordinating centre is at The Kids Research Institute Australia (Perth, Western Australia), and oversight is provided by an international Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). Day-to-day project operations are overseen by a local project team. Data from the PELICAN project cannot be made directly available beyond the project team, however data owner/contributors, members of the SSC, and other interested researchers can request to use data to answer scientific questions (with analysis being undertaken by the project team) via application in the [PELICAN Data Request Portal](#).

The purpose of this document is to outline the PELICAN publication process and to highlight expectations in terms of authorship and acknowledgements. The document is intended to be interpreted in the spirit of true collaboration and maximising impact for those surviving preterm birth.

Table of Contents

1. Glossary of Terms.....	3
2. Stages of PELICAN data release	4
3. Steps to access PELICAN data	5
4. Requirements for manuscripts	5
4. Requirements for conference abstracts	10
5. Requirements for theses and dissertations	11
6. Requirements for press releases	11
Appendix A: Key PELICAN contacts	12
Appendix B: Publication checklist for PELICAN manuscripts	14

1. Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
PELICAN Project team	The group of researchers and staff responsible for the overall management, coordination, data analysis, and administration of the PELICAN project, primarily based at The Kids Research Institute Australia.
PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee	A group of international experts (researchers, clinicians, members with lived experience) who provide strategic guidance, oversight, and decision-making support for the PELICAN project, including approval of data access and publication processes.
Data contributors	Researchers or research groups who provide data to the PELICAN project.
PELICAN data request portal	An online platform (REDCap) where researchers can apply to access analysed PELICAN data, submit research proposals, and complete related forms for data access and publication. Full URL: https://redcap.thekids.org.au/redcap/surveys/?s=X9977FJCN3H9H9DN
Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT)	A standardised system that specifies individual contributions to research projects, including roles such as data analysis, supervision, and writing, ensuring transparency in how authorship is assigned.
ICMJE Guidelines	A set of recommendations developed by the ICMJE to guide the ethical conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of scholarly work in medical journals.
Group authorship	An authorship model where a collective group, such as "PELICAN CRC," is credited for contributions to a publication, typically including data contributors who are not named individual authors.
Lead researcher	The primary investigator responsible for overseeing a research project using PELICAN data, coordinating the authorship team, and ensuring compliance with PELICAN policies.
PELICAN project collaborators	Researchers, data contributors, and associated staff who have contributed to the PELICAN project through data sharing, analysis, or other forms of support.

2. Stages of PELICAN data release

PELICAN data will be released in two stages, as indicated below:

Stage	Description
1. PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and data contributors	Analysed data will be made available to members of the PELICAN SSC and data contributors who will have 12 months to apply for 'advanced access' prior to other researchers, provided the proposal does not overlap with the main objectives of the initial grant that funded PELICAN (or other existing approved proposals). Researchers will be notified via email when applications are open for advanced access. Whenever there is a substantial update to the PELICAN master dataset (e.g., several new studies added), the 12-month advanced data access would be reinstated for the updated dataset.
2. General access	After the advanced access period, analysed PELICAN data will be available for use by external other researchers by application, in addition to the SSC and data contributors. Proposals must not overlap with the main objectives of the initial grant that funds PELICAN or other previously approved proposals.

3. Steps to access analysed PELICAN data

The process for applying and the terms and conditions are outlined in the **Application to Access Data** (available on the PELICAN [data request portal](#) or from the [project team](#)). To access PELICAN data, lead researchers will be required to follow the below process:

1. Lead researcher submits a research proposal and agree to the terms and conditions of use of the analysed data for their proposal.
2. If approved, data will be analysed by the project team at The Kids Research Institute Australia and provided to lead researcher or nominated person.
3. Lead researcher is expected to submit a publication within a 12-month period.
4. When this period is approaching its end, the lead researcher will be required to complete and return the **PELICAN Project Update Form** to the PELICAN project team via the [portal](#).

The project update form should indicate whether: (i) the project is complete; (ii) the project is still underway, and a 12-month extension is required; or (3) the project has been abandoned.

Should any issues with the data portal occur, forms may be sent to the PELICAN project team directly at pelican.network@ersnet.org.

4. Requirements for manuscripts

General principles

PELICAN follows the [Contributor Role Taxonomy \(CRediT\)](#) to describe author contributions where journals allow. Authorship must also align with the [ICMJE guidance](#), including the expectation that authors must review and be held accountable for the work produced.

Authors are either credited as named co-authors or in the PELICAN CRC group designation.

All fees associated with publication are the responsibility of the lead and/or corresponding author and will not be paid by the PELICAN team.

Process for manuscripts

Please adhere to the following process when seeking to produce manuscripts using PELICAN data:

1. [Contact the PELICAN project team](#) to ensure that:
 - a. Your research question(s) are consistent with PELICAN's objectives and can be addressed with PELICAN data

- b. Your research proposal will use data from at least three studies that have contributed to PELICAN
 - c. There is not a major overlap between your research question(s) and a research question(s) of a previously approved application
2. Prepare a draft proposal early into your project by completing the **Application to Access Data** on the PELICAN data request portal. This proposal can be finalised later when collaborators are confirmed.
3. Submit your draft proposal to the PELICAN project team using the [PELICAN data request portal](#). Please ensure you select 'draft' as the proposal status.
4. The PELICAN project team will advise which potential collaborators you should invite to be co-authors on your manuscript, based on the data you are requesting and the [Contributor Role Taxonomy \(CRediT\)](#). In the spirit of the collaborative nature of PELICAN and in recognition of the scale of the project, you will be required to invite the following to meet the requirements for co-authorship (as described by the ICMJE criteria), even if they subsequently do not take up the opportunity:
 - a. The nominated lead investigators/data owners of the individual studies that will contribute data to the PELICAN dataset you are given or their nominated alternative author
 - b. The PELICAN co-chairs and project team (see [Appendix A](#))
 - c. Members of the PELICAN SSC (see [Appendix A](#))



Please note that any invited co-authors or data owners/contributors who decline named authorship will still be included under a group authorship designation with the name 'PELICAN CRC'. See [Authorship Order](#) section for more details.

5. Email a draft copy of the proposal to the potential collaborators as advised by the PELICAN project team and invite them to join the authorship team for the manuscript.

For consistency, please use the following subject line on your email: "*Potential PELICAN collaboration: [your study title]*".

The individuals listed above in points 4a and 4b (Appendix A) should be included in the authorship team if they opt-in as co-authors due to substantial work involved in obtaining the data. Members of the PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee (4c) who are not data contributors for the proposed work but want to nominate themselves as co-authors will be

required to provide a statement about their expertise relevant to the manuscript and their potential contribution. The Lead Researcher of the proposed manuscript may accept or reject nominations from this group. Potential collaborators should be given 10 working days to opt-in and provide feedback on the draft proposal if desired.



By opting in to authorship, researchers agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work including investigating and resolving questions related to accuracy and integrity as per the [general principles](#).

6. The Lead Researcher should work with their new authorship team to agree on a final proposal and to decide roles and responsibilities within the team. It is expected that all co-authors identify their contributions with respect to CRediT and can meet the requirements for authorship according to the ICMJE guidance.
7. The final proposal is submitted by the Lead Researcher via the [PELICAN data request portal](#). Please ensure you select 'final' as the proposal status. Evidence of approval from an ethics committee needs to be submitted alongside final proposals;
8. The proposal will be reviewed by the PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee. This review process and outcomes are explained on the *Application to Access Data* form.
9. If your proposal is approved, you will meet with the project data analyst and discuss analytical approaches, timelines for completion and you may commence work on your manuscript. Throughout the project, the Lead Researcher is responsible for engaging with the authorship team and submitting any *Project Update Forms* that are needed;
10. All authors are required to approve and make contributions to the manuscript to retain authorship status. Collaborators who do not engage with the project beyond opting in as co-authors should be removed from the authorship list of the manuscript and included as group authorship 'PELICAN CRC' if data owner/contributor. Please allow at least 10 working days for co-authors to review the manuscript. Once your authorship team has approved the manuscript, please complete the *Publication Checklist* and then forward the manuscript and checklist to the [PELICAN team](#) (pelican.network@ersnet.org). The *Publication Checklist* is available in [Appendix B](#) of this document.
11. The PELICAN project team will review your manuscript to ensure that it is consistent with your proposal and to check that PELICAN acknowledgements have been provided correctly. Your manuscript will be confidentially.
12. Once you have received approval from the PELICAN project team you may submit the manuscript.

13. Inform the authors and the PELICAN project team of manuscript submission and final acceptance. Please email the following documents to all co-authors and to the [PELICAN team \(pelican.network@ersnet.org\)](mailto:pelican.network@ersnet.org) and upload to the following documents to the [PELICAN data request portal](#):

- a. Word-version of the submitted manuscript
- b. PDF copy of the 'Author accepted manuscript' manuscript (including all tables, figures, supplementary material, etc.) for institutional deposition.
- c. PDF copy of the final published version.

Authorship order

All manuscripts using PELICAN data should include the following groups of co-authors (in the following order):

1. The Lead Researcher who has taken overall responsibility for the research;
2. The core writing team (any other researcher(s) who conceptualised/directly worked on the manuscript - the order of individuals in this category is to be determined by the researchers);
3. Any PELICAN data contributors or team members who opted into the project and had their nomination accepted, as per Point 5 in the above process, and were not members of the core writing team. Individuals in this category are to be ordered alphabetically by last name, unless otherwise determined by the Lead Researcher;
4. The senior author of the manuscript, if applicable (e.g. primary supervisor for a PhD student or post-doctoral researcher);
5. The group author designation: "*On behalf of PELICAN*". This group authorship name must include members of the PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee and the PELICAN project team (when not named authors, see [Appendix A](#)), as well as any data contributors of studies that were included in analysis but who either:
 - (i) declined named authorship (i.e. actively withdrew); or
 - (ii) did not make any further engagement with or contribution to the project beyond opting in as co-authors (see Point 5 and 6 in the above process). The full list of PELICAN project collaborators to be acknowledged in manuscripts is included in the 'Acknowledgements' section (below).



All authors should strive to comply with these authorship principles. To avoid problems post-acceptance, authors should review the authorship guidelines of their target journal prior to submission. **The PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee expects authors to avoid journals that do not endorse the above authorship policies.**

Acknowledgements

The PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee have agreed on a standard acknowledgements section that should be included in all manuscripts that use PELICAN data. **All** of the acknowledgements listed below should be included (although wording/formatting can be slightly modified to suit journal requirements).

Required acknowledgements for manuscripts:

“We would like to thank the PELICAN Project Collaborators for contributing data to this study from the following projects: [Insert project names and data]. We also extend our gratitude to the members of the PELICAN SSC past (Jennifer Hallberg) and present (Shannon Simpson, Diane Gray, Amber Bates, James Gibbons, Lex Doyle, Petra Um Bergström, Enrico Lombardi, Sailesh Kotecha, John Hurst, Thomas Halvorsen, Maria Vollsæter, and Sanja Stanojevic). Additionally, we acknowledge the contributions of the PELICAN project team: [names from Appendix A].

The PELICAN project was supported by the Western Australian Government through the Western Australian Child Research Fund (project: HRE2021-0166). PELICAN is a Clinical Research Collaboration (CRC) supported by the European Respiratory Society (ERS).”

[Individual co-authors may have additional acknowledgement requirements (e.g. funders) which should be listed here if required]

Open Access

Although it is not a requirement, we encourage open access publishing for manuscripts that are published using PELICAN data. Open access fees will be the responsibility of the lead author and/or the core writing team and not the PELICAN investigators, scientific steering committee, or coordinating centre.

4. Requirements for conference abstracts

General requirements for all conference material:

Conference abstracts should be based on a draft, submitted or published manuscript that uses PELICAN data. You are only permitted to produce conference abstracts, presentations and posters based on the analysis approved in your **Application to Access Data**.

Additional requirements for conference abstracts and posters:

To comply with word/space limits, conference abstracts and posters may include an abridged list of co-authors consisting of:

- a. Researchers in the core writing team
 - b. The text “on behalf of the PELICAN CRC”
- Conference abstracts and posters do **not** need to be circulated to data contributors (unless they are listed as co-authors) prior to submission.
 - For conference abstracts and posters, please email a final version of the abstract to [the PELICAN project team](#) or upload to the PELICAN [portal](#) at least 3 working days prior to submission.

Additional requirements for oral presentations:

- Please include the PELICAN acknowledgement slide in your presentation (available on the PELICAN portal or by contacting the PELICAN [project team](#)).
- Please email a final version of your presentation slides to the project team or upload to the portal for archiving purposes.

5. Requirements for theses and dissertations

You are not required to circulate your thesis/dissertation to any PELICAN data contributors. However, please adhere to the following requirements:

- You are only permitted to include data/analyses based on your approved 'Application to Access Data'.
- Please notify the PELICAN team when your thesis/dissertation has been accepted and provide the student's name, thesis title and institution (email).
- Please include the following text in your acknowledgements section:

"This [thesis/dissertation] includes data from the Prematurity's Effects on the Lungs In Children and Adults Network (PELICAN). A full list of PELICAN Project Collaborators is available at: <https://www.thekids.org.au/projects/pelican>. The PELICAN project was supported by the Western Australian Government through the Western Australian Child Research Fund and a Clinical Research Collaboration (CRC) supported by the European Respiratory Society (ERS)"

6. Requirements for press releases

You are not required to circulate the press release to data contributors, however please adhere to the following requirements:

- You are only permitted to create press releases based on the analysis approved in your 'Application to Access Data'.
- Please include a reference and [link to relevant information](#) on to the "Prematurity's Effects on the Lungs In Children and Adults Network (PELICAN)" in the press release.

Please inform the PELICAN team via email of any related press interest for reporting purposes, and circulate the press release to pelican.network@ersnet.org for information. This is helpful for our own metrics and continued funding.

Appendix A: Key PELICAN contacts

PELICAN management team:

Role	Name	Affiliation	Email
PELICAN Co-Chairs	A/Prof Shannon Simpson	The Kids Research Institute Australia	Shannon.simpson@thekids.org.au
	Prof Diane Gray	University of Cape Town	Diane.Gray@uct.ac.za
PELICAN Project team	Dr Claire Shackleton	The Kids Research Institute Australia	Claire.shackleton@thekids.org.au
	Ms Neave Garland	The Kids Research Institute Australia	Neave.garland@thekids.org.au
	Ms Hannah L. Moore	The Kids Research Institute Australia	Hannah.lmoore@thekids.org.au
	Data Analyst TBC	The Kids Research Institute Australia	TBC
PELICAN Scientific Steering Committee members	Ms Amber Bates	The Kids Research Institute Australia	Amber.bates@thekids.org.au
	Dr James Gibbons	The Kids Research Institute Australia	james.gibbons@health.wa.gov.au
	Prof Lex Doyle	University of Melbourne	lwd@unimelb.edu.au
	A/Prof Sanja Stanojevic	Dalhousie University	Sanja.Stanojevic@dal.ca
	Dr Petra Um Bergström	Karolinska Institutet	petra.um.bergstrom@ki.se

	Dr Maria Vollseter	University of Bergen	maria.vollseter@helse-bergen.no
	Prof John Hurst	University College London	j.hurst@ucl.ac.uk
	Prof Sailesh Kotecha	Cardiff University	kotechas@cardiff.ac.uk
	Prof Thomas Halvorsen	University of Bergen	thomas.halvorsen@helse-bergen.no
	Prof Enrico Lombardi	Meyer University Hospital	enrico.lombardi@meyer.it

Appendix B: Publication checklist for PELICAN manuscripts

Prematurity's Effects on the Lungs In Children and Adults Network (PELICAN)

This checklist should be completed and returned to the PELICAN project team alongside your draft manuscript to be reviewed. Please email your signed checklist to pelican.network@ersnet.org and upload to [PELICAN data request portal](#).

Checklist:

- ☐ My manuscript adheres to the acknowledgement requirements that are detailed in the *PELICAN Data access, Publication and Authorship Policy*;
- ☐ I agree to adhere to the authorship requirements that are detailed in the *PELICAN Data access, Publication and Authorship Policy*;
- ☐ My manuscript cites the relevant PELICAN methods paper;
- ☐ I have included 'PELICAN' as a keyword in the manuscript;
- ☐ I agree to email the following versions to the following recipients;
 - A copy of the draft manuscript to all nominated PELICAN co-authors to review;
 - A final submitted manuscript and revised version to all nominated PELICAN co-authors
 - copies of the accept manuscript to all nominated PELICAN co-authors and the PELICAN project team (pelican.network@ersnet.org)
- ☐ I will advise the PELICAN project team when the manuscript has been accepted for publication;
- ☐ I will provide a short scientific summary of this paper if required by the PELICAN project team.

Signature of Lead Researcher: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____