MJM: the Author Agreement
Anatomy of the Agreement

1. Warrant:
   a. This is my original work...
   b. I have the lawful authority to enter into this Agreement
   c. This work does not infringe on anyone else’s rights
   d. I have cleared permissions for any embedded rights
   e. This work contains no obscene, defamatory, or otherwise unlawful material

2. Indemnify:
   a. If any of the above turns out not to be true and there are legal consequences arising, I hold the Publisher, etc., harmless

3. License:
   a. I grant the publisher a non-exclusive, perpetual license to publish the work under a Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial-ShareAlike license
   b. Publisher may act on my behalf to improve discoverability/accessibility
   c. Publisher may use my name in connection with this work

4. Affirm:
   a. I retain copyright
   b. Court in the state of Michigan has legal authority in any dispute
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On keeping your copyright:

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- **Students:** Students hold the copyright in works they author, unless they have authored works as EMPLOYEES or transferred their copyright in writing to the University or other entity.” (University of Michigan SPG 601.28)

- Any journal where you want to publish should present you with an author agreement. You may not always have the power to negotiate the terms, and sometimes the tradeoff (i.e., prestige) may be worth it--but always know what you are signing up for and what the implications are and retain a copy of the executed agreement. **Unless you have transferred copyright in the work in writing to another entity, YOU are the copyright holder.**

- This being said, publishers do need latitude to act in certain ways for the benefit of the publication and the publisher (e.g., distributing in new formats, approving indexing, potentially: granting permissions, etc.) Copyright transfer is the easiest blanket way to do this. In this agreement we try to ask for only the permissions we need.
MJM: the Author Experience
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Notice the theme: Michigan Publishing staff contact with authors is minimal (nonexistent)
Michigan Publishing Journals and Authorship

Rebecca Welzenbach
Journals Coordinator, Michigan Publishing
Medical Writing and Editing, August 19, 2015
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