As a PhD student you work in a project with a foreign collaborator A. A helped assembling the hardware that enabled the research. A also instructed you how to use it to generate the data, but since then A has made no further contribution, although A knows a lot about the field.

Your project is funded by B. The funding requires international collaboration with A as a renown researcher in the field.

Your supervisor insists in including A and B in all publications as coauthors, even the most recent ones that describe a novel approach to analyze the data you collected yourself. Your supervisor is keen on keeping a good relation with A.

Your next paper is ready for submission. What would you do?
Our preferred solution: **Do not include A and B as coauthors (but mention them in acknowledgements)**

**What would be the possible ethical problems / conflicts of your actions?**
Your supervisor could be very upset and your relationship with him could be damaged. Moreover, his relationship with A and B could also be damaged. These could result in loss of funding for further research or access to the hardware.

**Are there any alternatives?**
Yes, include A and/or B.

**Who are the involved actors in this scenario?**
You, your supervisor, A, B, the universities, the funding agency, and society.
Which values are involved in your decision / alternatives?
Fairness (what is the work threshold for being included as coauthor), future collaboration with A, future funding from B.

How does your solution affect these values?
Our solution prioritizes fairness at the possible expense of future collaboration and funding. Including A as coauthor keeps good relationship between A and your supervisor, but collides with fairness. Similar for B but with funding at stake.

How do you make sure your solution is ethically optimal?
Discuss the problem with A, B and your supervisor, and explain your decision to them before submitting the paper. For the next time, discuss the authorship in advance (before the project is developed) and establish an agreement on the amount of work each actor is expected to contribute.