



## Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities

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### **Re: PRG2010 Proteomics Study Sample Request**

September 10, 2009

Dear Fellow ABRF Member:

An experiment frequently performed in proteomics laboratories today is confirmation of protein identity and determining qualitative differences among samples. Often these types of experiments involve proteins that are exogenously expressed for subsequent enzymatic and/or structural assays. In many cases, the presence of cloning tags, background proteins associated with affinity-enrichment, and/or the use of stable isotope labeling strategies can present unforeseen challenges and confounding factors. The Proteomics Research Group (PRG) of the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (ABRF) would like to invite you to participate in a study that explores the use of different approaches for determining sample composition and identifying unforeseen problems in otherwise 'straight-forward' analyses.

The PRG will provide the test samples along with sufficient information in a way that is consistent with a real-world sample being submitted to a core facility for analysis. The PRG anticipates that the samples can be successfully characterized by scientists with different levels of experience using a wide variety of proteomic approaches and platforms (*e.g.* shotgun, top-down, SDS-PAGE, gel free, ESI, MALDI, low resolution, high resolution, *etc.*) over a relatively short (1-2 week) timeframe. The primary goal of this study is to document the breadth of approaches used by the ABRF community and highlight the type of information obtained. In particular, the study will involve:

- several levels of experimental challenges to enable scientists with different levels of experience to assess their abilities,
- submission of results in an on-line survey format,
- comparison of best practices among respondents.

The PRG will compile descriptions of the experimental methods that were used and highlight methods that successfully characterized the samples, including known differences in the sample sets. This information will be presented at the 2010 ABRF Meeting (March 20-23, 2010, Sacramento, CA) and will be published on the ABRF website so that other researchers can compare results and adopt best practices. *This year's study is again open to both ABRF members and non-members.* However, the total number of samples is limited, and priority will be given to ABRF members. Non-members are encouraged to join the ABRF (For more information go to <http://www.abrf.org>).

The PRG expects to distribute the samples in mid-October 2009 and requests that the resulting data be returned by December 15, 2009. If your facility places restrictions on the types of biological samples it can receive, please include the text "more information" in the subject line of

your request and we will send you additional information about the nature of the study samples in order to expedite delivery.

Requests for samples must be submitted by e-mail to **ABRF.PRG2010@gmail.com** prior to September 28, 2009. Please include the words "PRG SAMPLE REQUEST" in the subject line to indicate that you are requesting samples for the PRG2010 Proteomics Study.

Because of the significant effort that goes into the preparation of the samples by the PRG, the research group asks that a sample set only be requested if there is a reasonable probability you will be able to return data by the deadline. Similarly, each participant should only request one sample set. As in the past, result submissions will be coded to ensure anonymity of the participating laboratories.

We thank you for your support of the ABRF and look forward to your participation in this study.

Sincerely,

The ABRF Proteomics Research Group

David B. Friedman (Chair) - Vanderbilt University  
Tracy M. Andacht – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Maureen K. Bunger – RTI International  
Allis S. Chien - Stanford University  
David Hawke – UT MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Jeroen Krijgsveld - EMBL  
Rob Moritz – Institute for Systems Biology  
Bob Settlage – Virginia Bioinformatics Institute  
Chris W. Turck (EB Liaison) - Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry