



Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities

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Re: PRG2008 Qualitative Proteomics Study Sample Request

September 10, 2007

Dear Fellow ABRF Member:

A common challenge for proteomics laboratories today is determining qualitative differences among samples. Not infrequently, the samples are putatively the same but produce different results in functional or biological assays. Often, there are questions about the identities of the proteins present and any differences in these proteins among the samples submitted for analysis. Resolving these issues can require the optimization of methods to maximize sequence coverage in addition to manual examination of the data. The Proteomics Research Group (PRG) (Note: not the sPRG) 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 qualitative differences between two similar samples.

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.*). 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. Participants will be asked to:

- Identify the proteins present in two similar samples
- Determine any qualitative differences between the proteins in the samples
- Provide information about methods used to maximize protein sequence coverage

When submitting their results, participants will be asked to report both the identities of the major protein components in the samples and any alterations that were detected. The PRG will compile descriptions of the experimental methods that were used and highlight methods that successfully determined known differences in the sample sets. This information will be presented at the 2008 ABRF Meeting (February 9 – 12, 2008, Salt Lake City, Utah) 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 October 2007 and requests that the resulting data be returned by December 1, 2007. 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 abrfprg2008@yahoo.com prior to September 28, 2007. (Note – the PRG will accept sample requests after the Sept. 28th submission date) Please include the words “PRG SAMPLE REQUEST” in the subject line to indicate that you are requesting samples for the PRG2008 Qualitative 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

Nathan A. Yates (Chair) - Merck & Co. Inc.

Allis S. Chien - Stanford University

David B. Friedman - Vanderbilt University

Jeroen Krijgsveld - Utrecht University

William S. Lane - Harvard University

Kathryn S. Lilley - University of Cambridge

Michael MacCoss - University of Washington

Nicholas E. Sherman - University of Virginia

Susan T. Weintraub - Univ. of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

H. Ewa Witkowska - UCSF

Chris W. Turck (EB Liaison) - Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry