



Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities

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Dear Fellow ABRF Member,

A significant challenge in proteome informatics is accurate and concise reporting of protein identification data that result from mass spectrometry-based proteomic workflows. The Paris Guidelines (1, 2) represent the proteomics community's efforts to devise a standard methodology for reporting protein identification data. Given these guidelines, the Proteome Informatics Research Group (iPRG) proposes to assess the consistency of protein identification analysis.

The iPRG of the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (ABRF) invites you to participate in a collaborative study focusing on evaluating the ability of proteomics laboratories to determine the identities of a complex mixture of proteins present in a single mass spectral dataset.

The primary goals of this study are to provide each participating laboratory an opportunity to evaluate its capabilities and approaches with regard to:

- Bioinformatics tools used to make and consolidate protein identifications derived from a common data set and a common reference database
- Report those identifications using common reporting criteria

Laboratories requesting permission to participate will receive detailed instructions and passwords to access the mass spectral data, the reference database, and a template for reporting study results. The iPRG will also request that along with the final list of identified proteins, participants complete a web-based questionnaire summarizing methods used.

This year's study is open to both ABRF members and non-members. However, the total number of participants may be 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 iPRG anticipates distributing study materials in the second week of November 2007, and requests that the resulting data be returned in mid

December, so that sufficient time will be available to tabulate the results and to present them at the 2008 ABRF Meeting (Feb. 9-12, 2008 in Salt Lake City, UT).

Requests to participate must be submitted by e-mail to iPRG2008@gmail.com prior to Monday, Nov. 19, 2007. Please include the words "iPRG Study'08 request" in the subject line and provide contact name and affiliation in the body of the message. Because of the significant effort that goes into the analyses conducted by the iPRG, the research group asks that permission to participate only be requested if there is a reasonable probability you will be able to return data by the deadline. As in previous ABRF studies, result submissions will be coded to insure anonymity of the participating laboratories. A summary of the results of this study will be presented orally and as a poster at the ABRF '08 meeting, subsequently posted on the ABRF website, and ultimately published in a peer reviewed journal.

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

Sincerely,

The ABRF Proteome Informatics Research Group

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William S. Lane – Harvard University

Alexey I. Nesvizhskii – University of Michigan

Brian C. Searle – Proteome Software, Inc.

David L. Tabb – Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Jeffrey A. Kowalak (Executive Board Liaison) – National Institutes of Health

References

- (1) http://www.mcponline.org/misc/ParisReport_Final.shtml
- (2) <http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/5/5/787>