

## A LACK OF ATTRIBUTION

When writing a manuscript, determining the order of authors can be difficult at times. Identifying the first and corresponding author is usually easy, but deciding who should be the second or third author can lead to debate and, occasionally, hard feelings. And then there are those who contribute materials or single experiments to a study: should they be authors, or should they be only acknowledged for their contributions? These situations create particular attribution challenges, but fortunately there are loose guidelines when it comes to author attributions, although interpretation of these guidelines varies.

Still, when someone contributes in an intellectual or technical fashion to a particular study, that person should be recognized either as an author or in a formal acknowledgment at the end of the article. For the longest time, I thought this was obvious, since author listings and Acknowledgments sections exist for this reason. So you can understand my surprise when I learned that for those working in core laboratories at universities and research institutes, this is not the norm. Often, core facility scientists providing technical support to researchers are often not even acknowledged within the manuscript.

One might suggest that core facility staff members are paid for their work, which should be sufficient reward. But while researchers usually do pay to use a core facility, it is also true that governmental grants to these facilities often reduce overall user costs. Given this, it only makes sense that any researcher using a core facility acknowledge that core and the federal funding received to defray research costs; this is critical information that helps funding agencies understand the extent and impact of core facility usage.

Another important consideration when it comes to acknowledging core laboratories is methods reporting. Knowing that researchers processed their samples or obtained sequence data from a core facility that uses standard workflows and operating procedures can help other scientists seeking to employ these methodologies or verify results.

In the end, attribution should be given to everyone involved in generating data, interpreting results, or funding a research study. Leaving out key players does nothing to further the scientific process. We hope that in the future all *BioTechniques* authors will mention use of core facilities in the Acknowledgments sections of their manuscripts. To this end, starting in November we will ask authors during final acceptance if they worked with a core laboratory.

We welcome any comments or questions regarding this new policy at [bioeditor@biotechniques.com](mailto:bioeditor@biotechniques.com).

---

**BioTechniques** is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the publication of original laboratory methods, related technical tools, and methods-oriented review articles that are of broad interest to scientists engaged in basic and applied life science research. Complete Instructions for Authors are available at [bt.EditorialManager.com](http://bt.EditorialManager.com), BioTechniques' website for online manuscript submission. All manuscripts should be submitted at this site.

## BioTechniques Staff

### Editorial, Production & Circulation

**Editor-in-Chief:** Nathan S. Blow, Ph.D.

**Managing Editor:** Amy R. Volpert

**Senior Editor/Commercial Editor:** Patrick C.H. Lo, Ph.D.

**Senior Editor/News Editor:** Kristie Nybo, Ph.D.

**Contributing Writers:**

Jeffrey M. Perkel, Ph.D., and Sarah A. Webb, Ph.D.

**Production and Creative Manager,**

**BioScience Group:** Genevieve McCarthy

**Director, Operations and Audience Development,**

**BioScience Group:** Nora Pastenkos

**Marketing Manager,**

**BioScience Group:** Damon Mastandrea

### Sales & Business Offices

**Publisher:** Tamaryn Hankinson,  
[tamaryn.hankinson@informa.com](mailto:tamaryn.hankinson@informa.com)

**Sales Director/East Coast:** Dan Cooke, 646-957-8973  
[dan.cooke@biotechniques.com](mailto:dan.cooke@biotechniques.com)

**Midwest:** Bob Zander, 312-925-7648  
[bob.zander@informausa.com](mailto:bob.zander@informausa.com)

**West Coast:** Kayla McCutchan, 212-652-2667  
[kmccutchan@biotechniques.com](mailto:kmccutchan@biotechniques.com)

**Europe/Asia/Latin America:**

Joshua Nathan, +44 (0) 207 017 5472  
[joshua.nathan@informa.com](mailto:joshua.nathan@informa.com)

**Manager, Advertising and Production Services,**

**BioScience Group:** Christine Briglia [christine.briglia@informausa.com](mailto:christine.briglia@informausa.com)

**List Rental:** Amy Miller • [amiller@ibcusa.com](mailto:amiller@ibcusa.com)

## Editorial Board

**Bill Brizzard**, Indiana University Research and Technology Corp.

**Bruce Budowle**, UNT Health Science Center

**Piotr Chomczynski**, Molecular Research Center

**Rita R. Colwell**, University of Maryland-College Park and Johns Hopkins University

**Joshua J. Coon**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Manel Esteller**, Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO)

**Jeffrey Felton**, Western University of Health Sciences

**Ron M. Fournay**, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

**Ivar Giaever**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Richard A. Gibbs**, Baylor College of Medicine

**Erica A. Golemis**, Fox Chase Cancer Center

**Peter M. Gresshoff**, The University of Queensland

**Yoshihide Hayashizaki**, RIKEN

**Jörg Hoheisel**, German Cancer Research Center

**Leroy Hood**, Institute for Systems Biology

**Paul Keim**, Northern Arizona University

**Pui-Yan Kwok**, University of California, San Francisco

**Rachael L. Neve**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Peter J. Oefner**, University of Regensburg

**Stephen W. Paddock**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Scott D. Patterson**, Amgen, Inc.

**Leonard F. Peruski, Jr.**, Centers for Disease Control

**John Quackenbush**, Harvard School of Public Health

**Pier Giorgio Righetti**, Polytechnic University of Milan

**John Rossi**, City of Hope

**Herbert P. Schweizer**, Colorado State University

**Jay Shendure**, University of Washington

**Barton Slatko**, New England Biolabs

**Steve S. Sommer**, MEDomics, LLC

**Igor Stagljar**, University of Toronto

**Mathias Uhlen**, The Royal Institute of Technology

**Timothy Veenstra**, SAIC-Frederick, Inc.

**Kent E. Vrana**, Penn State College of Medicine

**Michael Weiner**, AxioMx