

NYU Protein Analysis Facility Policies on User Fees, Authorship and Collaboration

The NYU Protein Analysis Facility (NYU PAF) does not have funding specifically designated to support collaborative work. Instead, to support its operation the facility must rely heavily on charges from labs who use the services and who do have funding to support the research. For this reason, all investigators must arrange payment via IOI (NYU Medical Center investigators) or Purchase Order (non-NYU Medical Center investigators) before submitting samples to the NYU PAF. We suggest that users of the facility include the costs of protein analysis in any grant proposals involving such research. A list of user fees can be found on the NYU PAF web site, and the facility director (Thomas Neubert) will be happy to provide a letter of collaboration for these grant proposals. We regret any inconvenience this may cause to our colleagues, but our financial realities permit no alternatives to this policy.

Acknowledgment and Authorship

We at the NYU PAF follow the guidelines established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and similar organizations as discussed by Huth (Huth, E. J. [1986] Guidelines on Authorship of Medical Papers, *Annals Int. Med.* **104**: 269-274) and Bailey (Bailey, B. J. [2001] What Is an Author? *Otolaryngol. Head Neck Surg.* **124**:2-3). In general, these guidelines suggest that if scientists from the PAF have helped to design or conceive the experiments, have done data analysis and interpretation of data, or both, they should be coauthors of papers that use data generated by the facility. In this case facility scientists should participate in drafting the paper or revising it for critically important content, and give final approval of the version to be published. Characterization of posttranslational modifications on proteins, and in some cases, extensive *de novo* sequencing of peptides followed by multiple protein identifications by homology searching are not routine, generally require extensive data interpretation, and in most cases constitute contributions meriting co-authorship. Simple acquisitions of mass spectra or routine protein identifications alone normally do not merit co-authorship but should be acknowledged (see below). If you are uncertain about co-authorship or have any questions or concerns about this, please discuss this issue with the facility director (Thomas Neubert) before submitting your samples for analysis.

If data from the PAF is used in a publication and PAF scientists are not coauthors, please acknowledge the PAF in the Acknowledgments section of the publication. Please send us a reprint of the paper, or an e-mail including the reference information for the publication. This helps the facility obtain funding to keep user fees lower than they would be without this funding.

Collaboration

If a project requires extensive mass spectrometry analysis, in some cases a collaboration between the PAF and another lab may be established. Collaborations usually entail co-authorship and in some cases modified fee structures, especially when numerous analyses of a similar nature must be carried out so that economy of scale may be achieved. In all cases, collaborations can only be established by mutual agreement of the heads the labs involved, including the director of the NYU PAF (Thomas Neubert).

Thomas Neubert

Director, NYU Protein Analysis Facility

August 29, 2001