Boston Children's Hospital
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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
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Core Facility Acknowledgement

If members of the core facility contribute above and beyond the standard service agreement for experimental work and/or makes a substantial intellectual contribution beyond routine sample or data interpretation, the parties may discuss whether it is appropriate to include her/him in the acknowledgments or to name that staff member on the publication just as any other co-author in accordance with academic custom.

Acknowledging Core Facilities in Research Publications

Guidelines from the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities

Personnel in core facilities provide essential services and guidance for users and it is important to recognize their contributions to the scientific advancement of the projects. The type of recognition that is most appropriate may be different for individual projects, depending on the contribution that core facility personnel provides.

Important reasons for acknowledging contributions from core facilities in publications, by co-authorship or by formal mention in the acknowledgments section, include:

1. Core facility personnel are scientists. When they make a substantial intellectual and/or experimental contribution to a publication they deserve to be acknowledged just as any other co-author.
2. The existence of core facilities depends in part on proper acknowledgment in publications. This is an important metric of the value of most core facilities. Proper acknowledgment of core facilities enables them to obtain financial and other support so that they may continue to provide their essential services in the best ways possible. It also helps core personnel to advance in their careers, adding to the overall health of the core facility.

The ABRF recommendation was previously published in Angeletti et al. in 1999 (FASEB Journal, 13:595), “Intellectual interactions between resource and research scientists are essential to the success of each project. When this success results in publication, a citation in the acknowledgments section of a manuscript may be appropriate for routine analysis. However, contributions from resource scientists that involve novel resource laboratory work and insight, experimental design, or advanced data analysis that make a publication possible or significantly enhance its value require co-authorship as the appropriate acknowledgment.”

More information on activities for which authorship or acknowledgement are recommended, including examples, please visit: https://abrf.org/authorship-guidelines