SAIC | Frederick

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Dear Program Officers:

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of the Bioinformatics Support Group, in the Advanced Biomedical Computing Center (ABCC). We, the LMT genotyping group, collaborated with ABCC, and in particular Sherry He, to develop a Genotyping LIMS. After starting discussions in the fall of 2009, we had a working LIMS in the spring of 2010, which we found to be a fast turnaround time!

In the fall and winter, Sherry wrote several stand-alone Java programs that reduced our data handing times by about 80% while improving our reporting accuracy, allowing our group to be immediately more efficient and providing cost savings to our customers. Sherry met with us many times to understand the genotyping workflow even asking for labware and watching us set up reactions in the lab. She was always positive, cooperative, and quick to reply to questions.

This spring, with the functional Genotyping LIMS available, we estimate that it has improved the process efficiency by about 25% with report generation times specifically improved by 80% over the Java programs! Further, our lab process now follows the LIMS, producing a real-time glimpse of samples in the process while providing clear double checks with plate assignments, sample assignments, and assay set ups.

The user interface rivals many commercial systems and is clear and intuitive. The query functions provide easy access to data for generating metrics reports and graphs such as total samples processed, total genotypes, data turnaround times, and requests per customer. We are still working together to fine tune the system and bring the genotyping customers on line, but because Sherry is so quick and thoughtful, I am confident that the system will be a welcome addition to our genotyping customers as well.

I have highlighted just a few of the key reasons that make ABCC such an excellent and necessary resource. Our group will definitely seek their support with future projects.

Sincerely,

Kelley L. Banfield, Ph.D.