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RE: Letter of Support for work performed by the Bioinformatics Support Group,
Advanced Biomedical Computing Center (ABCC)

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to acknowledge the outstanding scientific computing support by the Bioinformatics Support Group (BSG) at the ABCC in support of the Urologic Oncology Branch, NCI. I have been working with Dr. Natalia Volfovsky over the past 5 months on two projects involving data analysis.

The first collaborative project involved analysis of data generated from eight GS Titanium FLX 454 sequencing runs. The BSG combined data from two sequencing facilities, performed a quality check and analyzed the data using in-house software. Well organized, user-friendly excel files were generated, in which SNP variants that were filtered to remove common polymorphic variants, were organized and subclassified into those which affected the protein and appeared in at least 2 of 4 samples. These files will be crucial to identification of kidney cancer-associated variants in the families under study and will lead to new kidney cancer gene discovery. Additional analysis was provided to assist us in determining the quality of the sequence reads.

In my interaction with the BSG staff, I have been impressed with their professionalism, and outstanding expertise, not only in the area of computing as would be expected, but in their broad understanding of the next generation sequencing technology and experimental approaches. Since I am new to this area of research I appreciated the many literature references provided by the BSG staff to assist me in data analysis. I also valued the time spent prior to initiation of the work discussing the project overview, and best approaches for data analysis.

The second collaborative project involved analysis of micro RNA sequencing data generated from 16 normal and tumor mouse and human samples produced by the NCI Sequencing Facility Core. All of the sequencing data has not been received yet so analysis has not begun but communication between myself and the BSG has been frequent, and we are hopeful that data analysis will begin shortly. These data will provide insights into the role micro RNAs may play in the initiation and progression of kidney cancer.

Both of these collaborative projects are ongoing and I look forward to continued fruitful collaborations and exciting gene discoveries from these data. I have been extremely satisfied with the computing services provided by the Bioinformatics Support Group at the ABCC and strongly recommend the BSG to the NCI research community for computing needs in their research.



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