



Support from DNA-lab technicians at NHM

General guidelines regarding acknowledgement and authorship

Introduction

The DNA lab at NHM is a lab providing lab equipment, instruments, analyses and methodology for molecular genetics primarily intended for non-model organisms. One of the key element in the job description for the technicians at the DNA lab, is to provide support to the scientific personnel. The technicians aim to provide this support, guidance, analyses and other lab work at a high international level. The support includes routine based analyses and maintenance of instrument park. In some projects, the contribution by the technicians will be of such importance that authorship may be considered. In this document, general guidelines regarding acknowledgements and authorship is outlined.

Acknowledgement

As a general rule, authorship should not be considered when standard routine based analyses have been performed by the technician. In such instances the technicians should be acknowledged by name after providing lab support to a project. This will be relevant for analyses without any new developments of protocols or other scientific contributions have been performed.

Authorship

Authorship may be considered when the contribution by the technician harmonize with the standards and ethics given in the 'Vancouver convention' by the ICMJE. The Vancouver convention recommends authorship should be based on the following criteria:

- “1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.”

Supported on these criteria, authorship for technicians may be relevant when technicians have made considerable scientific contributions by i.e. design and development of protocols and workflows. Authorship may also be considered when substantial contributions regarding data acquisition, data analyses and/or data interpretation have been given.

If authorship is considered, it is important that this is discussed by the project leader and relevant technician at an early stage in the project. The respective technician should also be involved in all relevant discussions and communication related to the publication process.