

The Rockefeller University
Acknowledgment and Authorship for Scientific Resource Centers and Staff Members

In accordance with University policy and accepted academic and research publication practice and ethics^{1,2,3,4}, faculty members are asked to recognize the contributions of University Resource Centers in publications and presentations if the results reported relied — in whole or in part — on equipment, services, expertise and/or data generated at a Center.

Many of the Resource Centers provide access to instruments obtained through grants and/or gifts. As a term of most of these awards and gifts, resulting publications must include an acknowledgment of the use of the funded equipment. Identification of covered equipment and guidance on the wording for the acknowledgment sections of publications are available from the Resource Center Director. As appropriate, faculty are also encouraged to consider acknowledgment of specific Resource Center staff members.

Another important consideration during the process of manuscript preparation is methods reporting. Resource Center Directors can provide advice and assistance to ensure that reported methods accurately reflect the work conducted at or by the Resource Center.

In some instances, contributions made by Resource Center staff members may merit consideration for co-authorship. When these interactions by the Resource Center staff provide significant intellectual contribution to the design of the published experiments and/or substantial sustained contribution going beyond routine practices to the generation, analysis and/or interpretation of experimental data, co-authorship on resulting publications for the Resource Center staff may be appropriate. In such situations, the Resource Center Director should initiate a discussion with the laboratory principal investigator as early in the process as possible.

The responsibility for decisions regarding whether co-authorship and/or acknowledgment is appropriate resides with the principal investigator.

Appropriate acknowledgment of Resource Centers enables the University to demonstrate involvement of the Centers in the research of a large number of laboratories and aids the University in procurement of future equipment. Inclusion of Resource Center staff as authors and acknowledgment of Resource Center staff contributions, as appropriate, aid the University in recruiting and retaining the best possible scientific expertise and creates a more collegial and interactive research environment.

Publications that reference use of Resource Centers should be sent to the appropriate Director as a pdf copy, DOI or URL link.

¹ Committee on Publication Ethics (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>)

² The Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities
(<http://www.abrf.org/index.cfm/page/resources/Authorship.htm>)

³ Council of Science Editors (<http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3638>)

⁴ International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf>)