

High Containment Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory Core Acknowledgement and Publication Authorship

Rationale. Research Cores are under increasing pressure to validate their worth in the academic enterprise. An observable standard of the contribution of core facilities is the number of Core-contributed publications. Thus, proper acknowledgement of these contributions in publications and in grant proposals is essential for their continued support. Personnel in the HCLAB facility provide essential services and collaborate with investigators to ensure successful research outcomes and scientific advancement. While the core facilities must charge for services rendered according to OUHSC cost accounting practices, it is important to recognize the core scientist for their contribution to publications. The type of recognition that is most appropriate may be different for individual projects, depending on the contribution that core facility personnel provides.

Summary. As HCLAB scientists provide essential services for researchers using the facility, it is important for users to recognize the contributions of core scientists to investigators research projects. The appropriate recognition (acknowledgement vs. authorship) depends upon each individual project and the HCLAB scientist's contribution. If possible, the level contribution and type of recognition should be established at the commencement of the project, ensuring that both the HCLAB scientist and the user are aware of the others contributions. However, often research projects, and along with them expectations, change. Considering this, expectations should be a constant dialogue throughout the project.

This policy is intended to help both the user and the HCLAB scientist facilitate discourse regarding contribution and recognition. The outlined guidelines are to serve as reference for determining the appropriateness of acknowledgement vs. authorship when recognizing HCLAB scientists in a publication.

Guidelines. The following guidelines are offered as a measure to ensure that research performed in the HCLAB is appropriately recognized and cited, though the principal investigator of the project ultimately decides authorship.

Authorship – The following activities should warrant authorship

- Conception, experimental design, critical project input, or original intellectual input
- Analysis and interpretation of acquired data beyond routine practices
- Analysis or interpretation of data requiring unique expertise or skills
- Drafting or significantly revising a manuscript for intellectual content
- Development of novel procedures for the acquisition of data
- Intellectual contribution to a manuscript including materials and methods
- HCLAB scientist produced a figure (and figure legend)

Acknowledgment – The following activities should warrant acknowledgement

- HCLAB scientist provided routine services for the user
- HCLAB scientist collected data for the user that required a specific skill set, but did not involve interpretation of the data
- Review of the manuscript by the HCLAB scientist for content without significant contribution

The following language would be appropriate for acknowledgement of HCLAB's contribution to the project:

For the **Materials and Methods** section, “_____ was performed by the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center High Containment Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory Core (Oklahoma City, OK).”

At the **end of the manuscript Acknowledgement** section, “We thank the High Containment Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory Core at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (Oklahoma City, OK), which provided _____ service.”

It may also be appropriate to consider specific HCLAB scientist, depending upon the level of contribution, and include their name specifically in the acknowledgements.

Reference Material.

The Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (ABRF) Authorship Guidelines
(<https://abrf.org/authorship-guidelines>).

Guidelines on Authorship of Medical Papers. (Huth, E. J. *Annals Int. Med.* 1986; 104 :269-274)
(<http://www.annals.org/content/104/2/269.extract>).

Harvard Medical School Authorship Guidelines
(<https://hms.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/assets/Sites/Ombuds/files/AUTHORSHIP%20GUIDELINES.pdf>)

Yale Guidance on Authorship in Scholarly or Scientific Publications
(<https://provost.yale.edu/policies/academic-integrity/guidance-authorship-scholarly-or-scientific-publications>)