



Dear PFA Team

Thank you very much for considering Publication Fee Assistance. The first and last authors on the paper 'PhyloPi: an affordable, purpose built phylogenetic pipeline for the HIV drug resistance testing facility' are joint appointed between the South African National Health Laboratory Services and the University of the Free State. Our 'day job' is actually virology pathology. PhyloPi, started as a side project in our spare time to help with quality control of HIV sequence data for drug resistance inference. In time it proved so helpful and valuable in our laboratory that we decided to make it available to a bigger audience. Our University does give a publication allowance 10 000 ZAR which is a lot of money here, but due to our currency's value only equates to approximately 840 USD currently. We used the word affordable in our title and at this time the Raspberry Pi 3 (the hardware used for this project) is on sale for 35 USD. Therefore, we never requested funding for this project. Also, if you consider which countries have the highest number of people living with HIV, a cheap solution is very valuable.

We hope that you can assist us with paying for this publication if it gets accepted. However, if you really cannot help us with this, all is not lost, I still have two kidneys.

Yours sincerely

Phillip (PA Bester)

5 February 2018



