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June 21, 2018

Review Panel:

I am writing this letter in support of "Improving reproducibility of recording and pre-processing experimental biomedical data ", a proposal submitted by Dr. Brooke Anderson and her co-investigators in response to *RFA-GM-18-002: Training Modules Training Modules to Enhance the Rigor and Reproducibility of Biomedical Research (R25)*.

In this proposal, Brooke and her co-investigators plan to create training modules that are accessible and useful to laboratory-based researchers seeking to improve the reproducibility of experimental data recording and pre-processing in their research projects. The evaluation and testing of these modules will be important to ensure they can reach laboratory-based biomedical researchers. My research group includes students (graduate students and undergraduates), postdoctoral fellows and a research associate who can help serve as a pool of potential early users for the training modules that this team proposes to develop.

My laboratory studies the role of regulated RNA stability on developmental biology (stem cell differentiation) as well as its role in RNA virus-host interactions. These studies (currently funded by three NIH grant awards) require the generation of large data sets from RNA-seq studies designed to determine regulated changes in RNA abundance as well as RNA half-lives at multiple points in viral infections as well as at multiple points along cell differentiation pathways. Thus we are particularly excited to apply these training modules to ensure the reproducibility and quality of our input data that serves as the basis for numerous downstream applications. My laboratory currently consists of 1 undergraduate, 1 masters student, 5 graduate PhD students, two postdoctoral fellows and 1 technician. Thus we possess the full range of trainees and feel that our laboratory will be an excellent environment for assessment.

In closing, I am excited about the series of training modules that Dr. Anderson and her collaborators propose to create through this project. These tools will provide important training to help laboratory-based biomedical researchers improve the reproducibility from the earliest stages of their research projects, including recording and pre-processing experimental data. I would be happy to encourage my trainees to participate in the regular user testing sessions that the team plans to conduct at CSU, to help provide feedback to ensure that the modules are useful, clear, and relevant to trainees in microbiology and immunology. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Wilusz, Ph.D.; Professor

Fellow, American Assn for Advancement of Science