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| Logo_Left |
| Department of Statistics  Room 327, Ross Hall •  Dept. 3332 • 1000 E. University Ave. Laramie, WY 82071  (307) 766-4229 • fax (307) 766-3927 |

November 21, 2016

Editors-in-Chief

Microbiome

Dear Editors-in-Chief,

My co-authors and I are submitting a manuscript entitled ‘Intensity Plots and other options for Visualizing Microbiome Data’. This work is a result of our reading various papers where human microbiome data were analyzed but the analysis was based on too drastic a reduction in dimension of the OTU table. The article is an attempt to bridge the gap between recommendations from the statistics literature to practice in the microbiome literature. Most microbiome analyses are conducted with some sort of dimension reduction and visualization of the OTU table, and given this, we would like to make available the code and methods that we have developed. One part of the code is making it easier for researchers to take ordination output from R and input it into the QIIME pipeline. Another set of code is for other visualizations that we developed.

Of the two datasets, one is openly available while the other one is currently not. If the manuscript is accepted, we will pursue obtaining the second dataset for publication.

As this manuscript is attempting to bridge a gap, we request that the manuscript be reviewed by a combination of statisticians and scientists who work with microbiome data. A couple of possible statisticians are,

Dr. Lingling An,

Associate Professor of Biometry

Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

1177 East Fourth Street

Shantz Bldg #38, Room 403

The University of Arizona

PO Box 210038  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0038

Phone: (520) 621-1248

Email: [anling At email Dot arizona Dot edu](mailto:anling@email.arizona.edu) 

Dr. Michele Guindani

Associate Professor of Statistics

Department of Statistics   
Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences   
University of California, Irvine   
Irvine, CA 92697-1250

Phone: 949-824-5968

Email: [michele.guindani@UCI.edu](mailto:%20michele.guindani@UCI.edu)

The manuscript has not been published or submitted elsewhere, and all the authors have read and approved the current version.

Sincerely,



Snehalata V. Huzurbazar

Professor of Statistics