**Personal Testimonials**

1. Sanger sequencing and qPCR have been a focal point in many of my peer reviewed scientific publications over the last 20 years. Most of my research would not have been possible without these resources and the expertise of Dr. Herke.
2. I have been immensely benefitted by the sequencing facility as we do a lot of cloning and sequencing is key to move our experiments forward. In addition to the sequencing service, we are very satisfied by the inputs provided in case of sequence failure.
3. I very frequently use the sequencing facility in the LSU GF. It is very beneficial for my research as it is very convenient to send the sample anytime I need to. I get back the results too in 1.5-2 days max. My labmate and I have recently started to use the qPCR service too. It is very easy to coordinate with Scott and discuss any issues regarding sample preparation or analyzing results.
4. The facility provides a cost efficient service to the department. Especially for small scale sequencing verification projects, the cost of having samples process here is less than the shipping costs alone for external services, and the results are returned in a timely manner. Additionally the time saved from having to package and ship samples is beneficial.
5. My lab routinely uses the bioanalyzer and qubit to examine quality of RNA for RNA-sequencing experiments and qPCR to validate expression of target genes. These are critical to our research program.
6. The genomics facility is an amazing facility. Dr. Herke always provides me with top notch sequencing data and fast turn around times. He also helps me interpret the results. The facility helps to keep my experiments running smoothly and on time. I am so grateful to have it on campus.
7. I have run qRTPCR multiple times and I have got excellent results. This facility has contributed a lot to the success of my experiments involving qRTPCR. I also request a lot of sequencing services from the facility and I have enjoyed those services given that you can submit your samples any time. This is convenient and has really made my work easier than having to ship samples out for the same services. Overall, the facility has offered excellent contribution to the success of my experiments that require its services.
8. The Genomics Facility has been invaluable for various experiments my lab has done over the years. I haven't published a paper at LSU that has not included work done in the facility. The convenience, affordability, resources available and expert advice have made certain experiments possible or at least more convenient. Facilities like this or better are available at many (if not most) Research 1 universities; having this facility is an important recruiting tool to help attract new faculty.
9. The turn around time, expertise, and resources of the Genomics Facility are crucial to efficiently producing high-quality science. I am very thankful to have Scott's knowledge and advice.
10. Sanger sequencing is absolutely critical for our work.
11. One of the projects that I am working on now would be much more time consuming and costly were it not for the services and equipment available in the Genomics Facility.
12. Dr. Scott Herke and the Genomics Facility is one of the best in the department. He is very helpful when a molecular diagnostic machine is required.
13. Genomic facility has done a great job of providing various services like Sanger sequencing, qPCR, qubit, DNA purification, fragmentation, fragment analysis and much more. These services are critical to lab like ours based on molecular biology research. Without these services we would have and will have hard time sending our samples to some other places. I, and the whole department of biological sciences cannot imagine not having these crucial services available within our department.
14. The genomics facility has been quite important for the success of my research. It is very convenient to have a sequencing service on-campus; along with access to qPCR machines. In addition, the manager of the genomic facility is always willing to help troubleshooting any problem, and provide help and support when needed.
15. Scott and the facility has been instrumental in advancing the molecular techniques and quality of our molecular datasets. He was able to teach my students the proper approach to multiple techniques and concepts, which is critical because my background is not based in molecular approaches. A core facility to ensure high quality molecular data sets is essential to teaching and research as it provides opportunities to include experts and high quality instrumentation on grant proposals, which was key in our recent NIH-R01 award.
16. The Genomics facility has been easy to use and the personnel are particularly helpful for trouble shooting. LSU should invest in this core research facility. Upgrades to instruments will be very helpful.
17. The GF is critical for the research in my lab and the collaborative project. Without this, we lose a critical part of research tools and cannot produce quality grants and manuscripts.
18. We have mostly took advantage of Sanger sequencing service which has been critical for success in our research projects.
19. "My postdoctoral research is dependent upon the availability of the QuantStudio 6 for qpcr. To take my samples elsewhere would cost me not only more in expenses, but also TIME. Time is an important variable to consider when placing value on the genomics facility. Postdocs, graduate students, and research staff have lots to do on their plate and carving out extra hours to pack up samples to ship somewhere else or drive them to a facility across town is valuable. It takes an extra day of time to take samples to Pennington for analysis and it isn't worth it. Also, Pennington doesn't have the same technology as LSU that I know of to date so you risk variation in your datasets.
20. Although I do not use many of the other services provided by the Genomics Facility, I do see their value. As a Post-Doc, I am currently applying for Early-Career positions and examining whether or not a academic institution can support genomics research is a good indicator of institutional success."
21. [As someone who helped start the Genomics Facility in Biological Sciences,] I remain convinced that this facility is critical for many of the missions of individual faculty research programs, the Dept. of Biological Sciences, and to a number of research programs outside of the department. I hope a new funding format can be formulated to keep this facility operable well into the future. Please contact me for additional perspectives. (identification edited out of original test in the [ ]'s)
22. The genomic facility plays a pivotal role in molecular biology research. The current on-campus genomic facility with excellent service quality must be retained to excel LSU's research capacity.
23. Scott Herke of the facility has helped me collect data for gene editing analysis and also provided valuable advice in basic molecular technique. I greatly appreciate the assistance towards achieving my scientific goals.
24. Yes, this facility has verified all of my recombinantly cloned plasmids and without this verification I would not be able to do my research.
25. The projects that I conducted as an undergraduate researcher were enhanced by my access to this facility. The instructional materials, "in-house" services, and feedback make this an excellent service for students who want to learn molecular techniques.
26. My undergraduate and graduate students use the facility almost on a weekly basis. The service, support, feedback, and mentoring by Dr. Herke are outstanding!
27. Our lab uses the LSU Genomics Facility quite often for the Sanger sequencing and qPCR experiments. It's been great to have the facility here.
28. Has been critical in testing rnaseq prep steps for my dissertation research
29. The Genomics Facility is crucial for the success of our research program. We appreciate the services.
30. At this point, I have one publication in review and two in preparation that have all used services from the LSU Genomics Facility. Also one of the Senior Honors Theses currently in progress in my lab would not be possible without the Facility.
31. The sequencing facility has verified the site-directed mutants of the plasmids used in [a biology lab course]. I would love to incorporate sequencing and sequencing data analysis as a regular feature of [a biology lab course]. (identification removed in the [ ]'s)
32. My research involves a lot of gene expression and analysis, thus i use the genomic facility very often. I truly appreciate the services i get from the facility. my samples are always analyzed in timely manner, and Dr. Scott has been very helpful.
33. The LSU Genomics Facility has been instrumental in helping my research group meet our Sanger sequencing and library preparation for Illumina sequencing needs. Since 2014, the LSU Genomics facility has assisted students in acquiring critical data for 2 undergraduate honors theses, more than 10 undergraduate research projects, four masters student theses, and 7 PhD student dissertations. The infrastructure and service provided by the LSU Genomics facility increases productivity due to rapid turnaround, reduces the costs associated with data generation, and streamlines the training process for students and staff. The expertise provided by the staff in the LSU Genomics facility has also saved a great deal of time with troubleshooting and enhances grant proposals.
34. I mainly use the facility for sequencing purposes as of now. But it is very critical to have a well equipped genomics facility in a huge department like this.
35. The Genomics Facility has been particularly helpful because it provides access to my group for qPCR experiments and BluePippen size selection.
36. Scott Herke was vital in aiding me for completing the work i needed to complete my Ph.D. Being in the chemistry department, i was unfamiliar with assay design for PCR, quantifying RNA, and overall troubleshooting when things did not work out. With his help, i was able to successfully complete the experiments needed to finish out my work.
37. It has helped me in sequencing my constructs and qPCR for my mutant screening
38. Without Dr. Herke's help, it will be significantly difficult to obtain my molecular data. He always helps me to resolve the issues in my molecular analyses and sometimes works during the weekend for my research. I always appreciate his invaluable advice and efforts.
39. The genomics facility allows me to quickly and efficiently determine the results of molecular procedures as well as provide a wealth of experience and knowledge to assist with a variety of problems.
40. having a facility and personnel to start graduate students using sanger sequencing is critical
41. The Genomics Facility has provided very important services for my research over the years. It is critical to main and improve this facility in future.
42. In house Sanger sequencing has been cheap and accurate, with very fast turnaround times. This has been crucial in routine verification of all DNA constructs. In house qPCR capability is also crucial to work we have planned, since we have no money to buy our own machine.
43. The GF has always been efficient at processing our samples and I'm happy it is available on campus. It makes our work more convenient than it would be otherwise. I hope it remains viable and is able to upgrade equipment as needed.
44. Even though I was just made aware of the LSU Genomics Facility earlier this year. I truly believe that the continued presence of this facility is necessary for the success of the life science research at LSU. We have several experiments that will benefit from the equipment and services at the LSU Genomics Facility. I will list the LSU Genomics Facility in my future grant applications.
45. The LSU Genomics Facility is an invaluable resource for molecular and biochemistry research, I was attracted to LSU for doctoral studies, in part due to its claim to robust research facility. The support from the Genomics Facility has been tremendously helpful in my research progress. Securing the future of the Facility will doubtlessly increase the current benefits many folds. Thanks.
46. Yes, without this facility, 4 of my recent PhD students would not have been able to complete their PhD work in chemistry
47. For my lab it is critical to have an instrument capable of for radio-isotope imaging. The Typhoon is still working but the company is not supporting it anymore, so the acquisition of the Azure will be strongly supported by my lab. To my knowledge there is no other phosphor imager available in the campus, and this means that we cannot image or quantify 32P gels (extremely common for RNA and DNA molecular biology). The presence of qPCR and Sanger sequencing machines can also be very beneficial for us.
48. the facility was paramount in completing my master's thesis and now as a research associate will continue to provide critical support in fragment analysis and further analyses.

**Comments**

1. Award data for PI was previously provided. I have not received separate funding.
2. Better NGS capabilities would be critical for ongoing utility. The vast majority of samples that I've processed have been sent to outside institutions for NGS sequencing due to limited or suboptimal sequencing capabilities at LSU Genomics.
3. I did not actively use the LSU Genomics facility name in a recent grant I applied (though it involves sequencing), hence the answer no to the previous question.
4. Way too picky compared to third party sequence services. It felt as if we were doing him a service as opposed to receiving a service from the facility. We tried it out this year for ease of use. Turns out dealing with a company in New Jersey is easier, despite the obvious shipping issues. Won't be going back to the LSU facility.
5. The facility provides results within a short period of time. Facility has a good communication with the users of facility.
6. You guys rock!
7. Please reach out if you need additional award information at a later time. I will have to put this information together and would rather get you the other information so as not to delay response to the survey.
8. "I think acquiring a PacBio sequencer is somewhat beyond the scope of what LSU needs on campus right now - it's a large capital outlay for an instrument to which we can gain access (pretty easily) elsewhere. Something like a MiSeq would potentially be a better investment (with possibly more use from on-campus groups), although I still think buying pricey sequencing equipment is mostly a losing battle.
9. Also, [there is an] older model KingFisher [that could be] moved upstairs if it will be used more. (identification removed in the [ ]'s)"
10. The facility is an essential in LSU for people working on molecular research. Regular upgrades will be very useful to current and future users.
11. The LSU Genomics Facility had contributed immensely to my research progress, providing sequencing services, serving as trusted resource for trouble-shooting a couple of molecular biology experiments/techniques and insights on improving quality of my plasmid preps as well reagents for use.