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## Academic Account Pricing Policies and Structure

### Introduction

The AMDeC Bioinformatics Core Facility exists to promote innovative computational approaches to solving biological and biomedical problems, especially through methods that integrate disparate genomic resources. The Facility provides sophisticated computational hardware and software platforms, as well as expertise in their use. Facility staff is also available to consult directly on individual projects. In most cases, services are limited to member institutions of the AMDeC Consortium. However, as the pricing policies described below are implemented, the Facility may become available to outside users.

### Cost Recovery

AMDeC has invested substantial funds in the hardware and software infrastructure of the Bioinformatics Core Facility. To sustain the Facility over the long term, user fees must cover a portion of the cost of maintaining the existing capabilities. Examples of ongoing costs include maintenance contracts on equipment and software, support, technical and administrative staff, and tape backups of the filesystems. A fee schedule below lays out standard costs for use of the Core Facility and for consulting by Facility staff. Reductions of the standard fees may be negotiated in special cases for projects that contribute directly to the AMDeC Core Facility and user community. Examples of such contributions might include novel software or databases made available through the Facility, especially if they directly enhance the integrated genomics effort.

### Grant Funding for Usage and Collaborations

#### 1. Usage Charges

We strongly encourage PIs to include amounts for Core Facility usage charges in grant applications. A description of Facility resources is available on request for inclusion in grant applications, as are staff CVs when appropriate.

#### 2. Collaborations

Staff members are available to collaborate on grants, and will contribute written sections to grant applications without charge.

### Usage Policies

1. The Facility is to be used only for the projects agreed to and not for personal use.
2. User accounts and passwords are not to be shared. For each user account, the Facility must be able to directly contact the responsible person about any problems with running jobs, resource usage etc. Each person in a lab who is using the Facility resources should have his or her own account. In certain circumstances, a project account may be created, but only in addition to individual accounts.

3. The Facility is operated on a best-effort basis. There may be periods when particular machines or file servers are not available. You may wish to keep local copies of critical files, for example data needed for a grant submission.

Pricing Structure

Most projects involve direct use of Facility resources by scientists and students. Three pricing tiers have been developed to accommodate different usage levels. Higher tiers provide for more than one user account and are intended for labs with several members requiring Facility access.

1. Standard User and Group Accounts.

Table 1 shows the features included with each tier.

**Table 1 - Tier Pricing System:**

<u>Tier</u>	<u>Price/yr</u>	<u>Users</u>	<u>Equiv. CPU*hrs†</u>	<u>Disk Space GB</u>	<u>Addnl equiv CPU*hrs per \$1000</u>	<u>Addnl User</u>	<u>Addnl Disk \$/10GB</u>
1	\$1,000	1	1,000	20	1,000 hrs	\$200	\$50
2	\$2,500	2	5,000	50	2,000 hrs	\$200	\$50
3	\$10,000	4	25,000	200	2,500 hrs	\$200	\$50

Notes

- a. Upgrade to next Tier – no charge.
- b. Direct, substantial systems/technical support, for example installation of custom software packages or databases for use only by a single project, may incur a \$75/hr charge.
- c. GM2 (GeneMatcher2) usage requires Tier 2 or 3.

†Equivalent CPU\*hours:

The rate at which CPU time is charged is weighted by its speed relative to a typical current generation CPU (3.2 GHz), giving equivalent CPU\*hrs (a CPU\*hr is one CPU running for one hour). For a 933 MHz machine, equivalent CPU\*hr usage is (0.933 GHz/3.2 GHz)\*actual CPU usage ≈ 0.292\*actual CPU usage. For 64-bit machines (the Sun Fire V880s) the factor is multiplied by 2 to reflect the increased power of the 64-bit architecture.

**Table 2- Example Equivalent CPU\*hour Factors:**

<u>Machine</u>	<u>CPU Speed</u>	<u>Equivalent CPU*hr factor</u>
Cluster (32 bit)	2.4 GHz	0.75
BlastMachine (32 bit)	933 MHz	0.292
Sun Fire V880 (64 bit)	750 MHz	0.469

2. Consulting/Collaboration

- a. Facility staff are available for consulting at a cost of \$75/hr. However, an initial consultation to discuss a project will be done without charge. Small projects will be performed on an hourly basis at the quoted rate. For larger projects or

collaborations, a fixed rate will be agreed to in advance taking into account salary, fringe, indirect and other overhead costs for a defined period.

- b. In addition, when consultations involve computation, subscription to the appropriate tier level above will be required.

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