Valued BSP Clients,

Welcome to another installment of our annual BSP newsletter.

I would like to express my appreciation to all our valued customers. We are always looking for opportunities to grow and improve the facility. If you are thinking of starting a new study please don’t hesitate to contact me to discuss how the BSP can help. In addition, I invite you to let me know of any issues or concerns you may have with our facility.

I would like to close out this letter by re-iterating that the philosophy of the BSP is to serve the UNC research community in a timely manner and in a way that is flexible and accommodating to individual studies in the most economical manner possible.

Thank you again for your business,

Patricia Basta and the entire BSP staff

2016 Overview

- Extracted DNA/RNA from 4,500 samples
- Processed plasma, serum, urine from another 1,400 participants.
- Disbursed 189,000 individual samples to 38 collaborators for multiple studies, many of which were large consortium projects.
- Serviced 170 studies, many are large multi-site studies.
- Twelve new studies started in the BSP this year including 4 translation or clinical trials
- Sixteen peer-reviewed papers acknowledging use of BSP services were published in 2016-2017 to date. In addition, a BSP initiated methods paper is in preparation.
- Developed and brought on line three new extraction protocols.
- Analytical results for samples processed for two pilot studies were used for preliminary data for two grant applications and two meeting abstracts.
News and Updates

- **New Equipment** in the facility includes a 96-rod head for the Chemagic MSMI magnetic bead DNA extraction robot. This instrument has the capability to extract nucleic acids from small volume samples such as blood spots, swabs, and FFPE tissue.

  Purchases of an updated liquid handling robot, Nanodrop, freezers and DNA quality control instrumentation are in the works.

- **New Services available** include DNA extractions from Mawi iSwabs. For information on this please refer to: [http://www.mawidna.com/products/iswab-dna-collection-kit/](http://www.mawidna.com/products/iswab-dna-collection-kit/).

  In addition, we now offer DNA and RNA extraction from Dental plaque, and PCR amplification in preparation for off-site low throughput SNP analysis.

- **A new Website for the BSP** is under development and will be rolled out soon. The new site will have a more responsive design and clear navigation.

- **Stop by and meet our new staff members**

  Sonia Deochand and Paige Schmadeke. In addition to Sonia and Paige, we will be hiring a third position to ensure timely turn-around times for your samples.

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A Fond Farewell & Big Thank You to our longest serving employee Heena Mehta who retired in March 2017.

Heena worked in the BSP since 2004 and served some of our largest and long-standing projects. In this capacity she worked with a large number of people across campus. We appreciate all her hard work.

*We will miss you!*