



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

# High Throughput Sequencing Facility



1st Workshop on Multi-User-Equipment and Facilities  
04/06/2014

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# Outline of the talk

- Organization of Genomic Core in Polish Academy of Science (IBB) in 1998 (Poland)
- User perspective– Microarray Facility at University of North Carolina (USA).
- High Throughput Sequencing Facility at University of North Carolina (USA).
- Discussion



# Beginning of Genomics (IBB, PL)



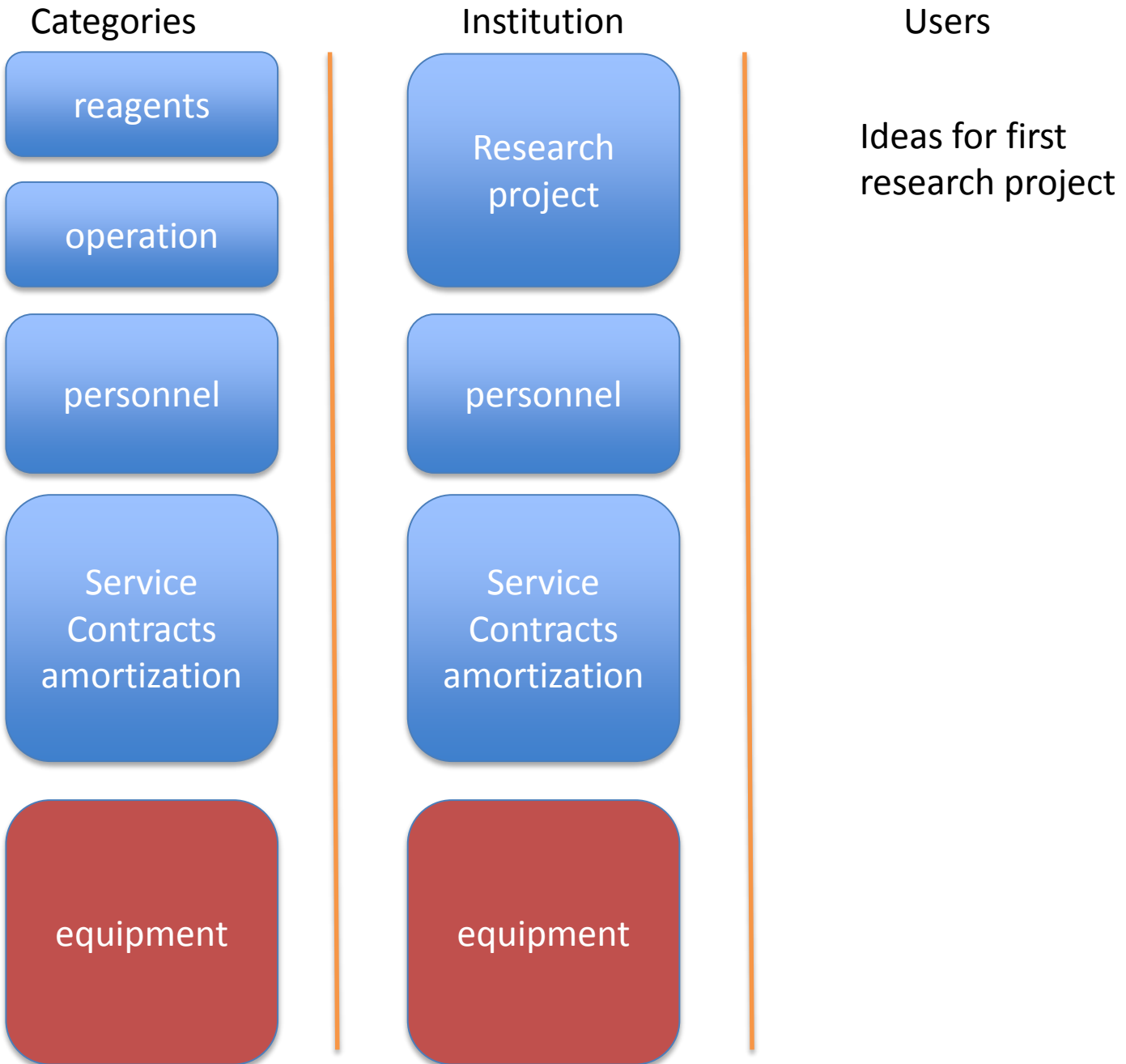
 Institute of Biochemistry  
and Biophysics  
Polish Academy of Sciences

↓  
Genomic Core Lab in IBB (1997)

We had machines and people dedicated to make the facility successful, but we had no funding...



# Initial start up for Facility development (IBB, PL cont.)



# Initial project for Genomics Lab (IBB-Poland) in 1997

- We are too small to compete with Europe or US institutions
- We do not have capacity and funding to sequence genomes
- We need to find our niche which we can develop in the future
- We need to increase our visibility and collaboration with other Polish research institutes.

## Sequencing plasmids will be the best option for small sequencing Genomics Lab

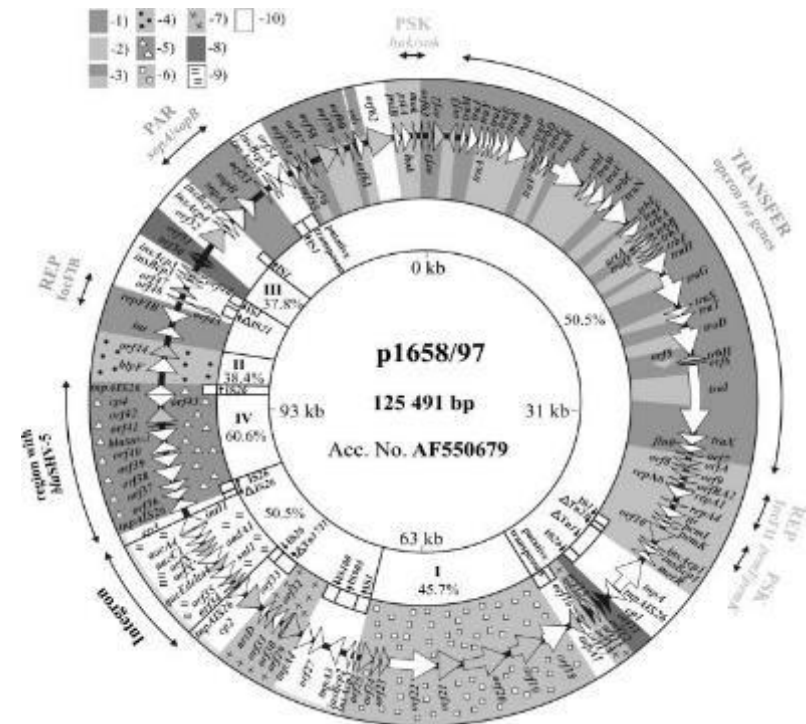
ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS AND CHEMOTHERAPY, April 2007, p. 1164–1171  
 0066-4804/07/5006-00 © doi:10.1128/AAC.00772-06  
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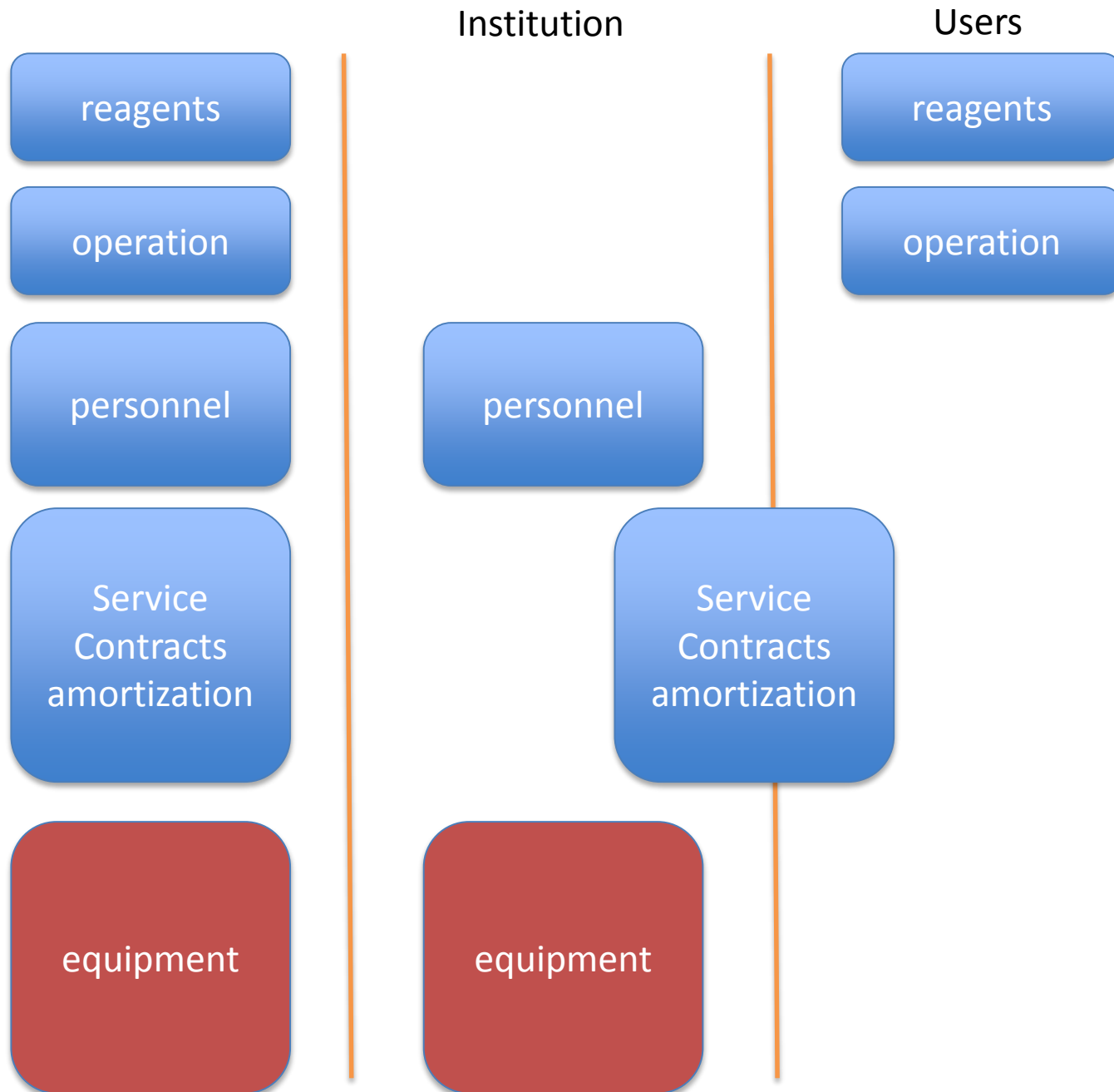
### Mosaic Structure of p1658/97, a 125-Kilobase Plasmid Harboring an Active Amplicon with the Extended-Spectrum $\beta$ -Lactamase Gene *bla*<sub>SHV-5</sub>

M. Zienkiewicz,<sup>1\*</sup> I. Kern-Zdanowicz,<sup>1</sup> M. Gulębiewski,<sup>1\*</sup> J. Zylfińska,<sup>1</sup> P. Miteczkowski,<sup>1,†</sup>  
 M. Gniadkowski,<sup>2</sup> J. Bardowski,<sup>2</sup> and P. Ceglowski<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Microbial Biochemistry, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of Polish Academy of Sciences, and  
<sup>2</sup>National Institute of Public Health, Warsaw, Poland



# Structure of Facility funding



# Conclusions

- Institutional support is necessary for successful start up of new facility.
- Institutional investment in one relevant project was a good start for facility and brought attention of all investigators.
- Federal institution supporting many aspects of operation in facility (salaries, amortization of equipment) gives opportunity for better pricing even if the cost of the reagents is high (higher than in US).
- The same pricing for service provided was offered to all customers, both domestic and foreign.





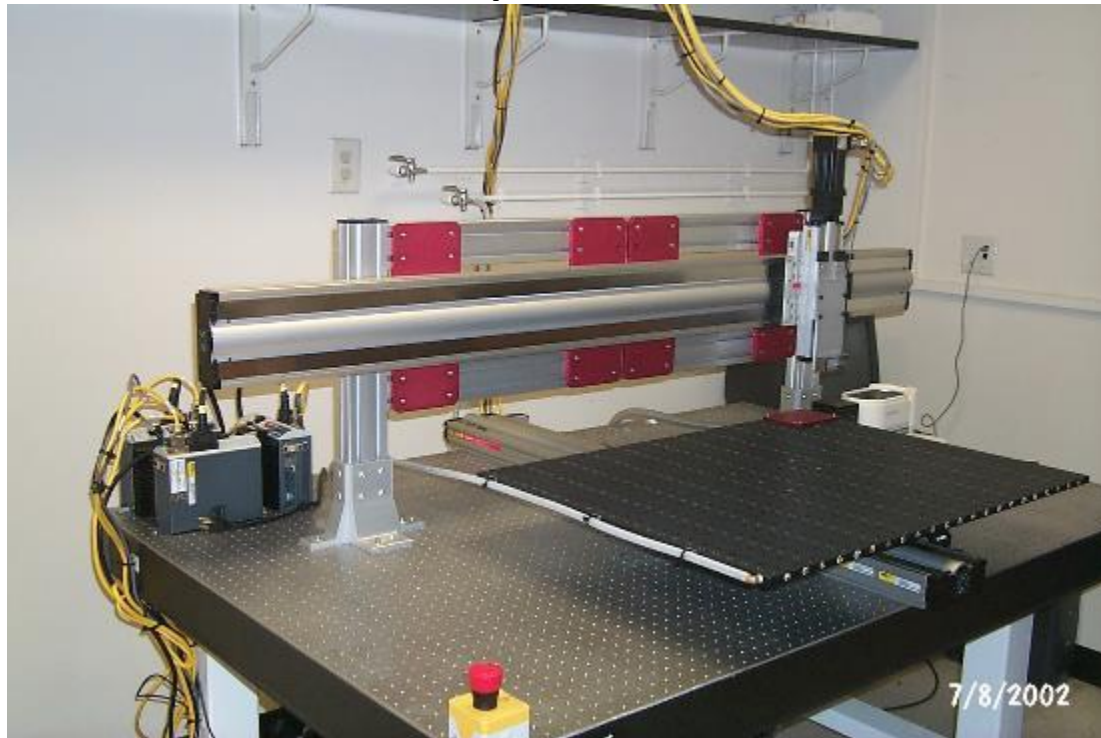


UNC

# Microarray printing

- Microarray was emerging technology in 1995-2004.
- Availability of the commercial microarray slides was limited by price. Only very rich labs could afford to buy them.
- UNC established Microarray facility equipped in medium size printer and scanner.
- User had to provide DNA or oligonucleotides for printing and pay \$50 per slide for service and glass slide processing (commercial glass slide for printing -\$15)

**We built our own microarray printer to reduce the cost for our experiments**

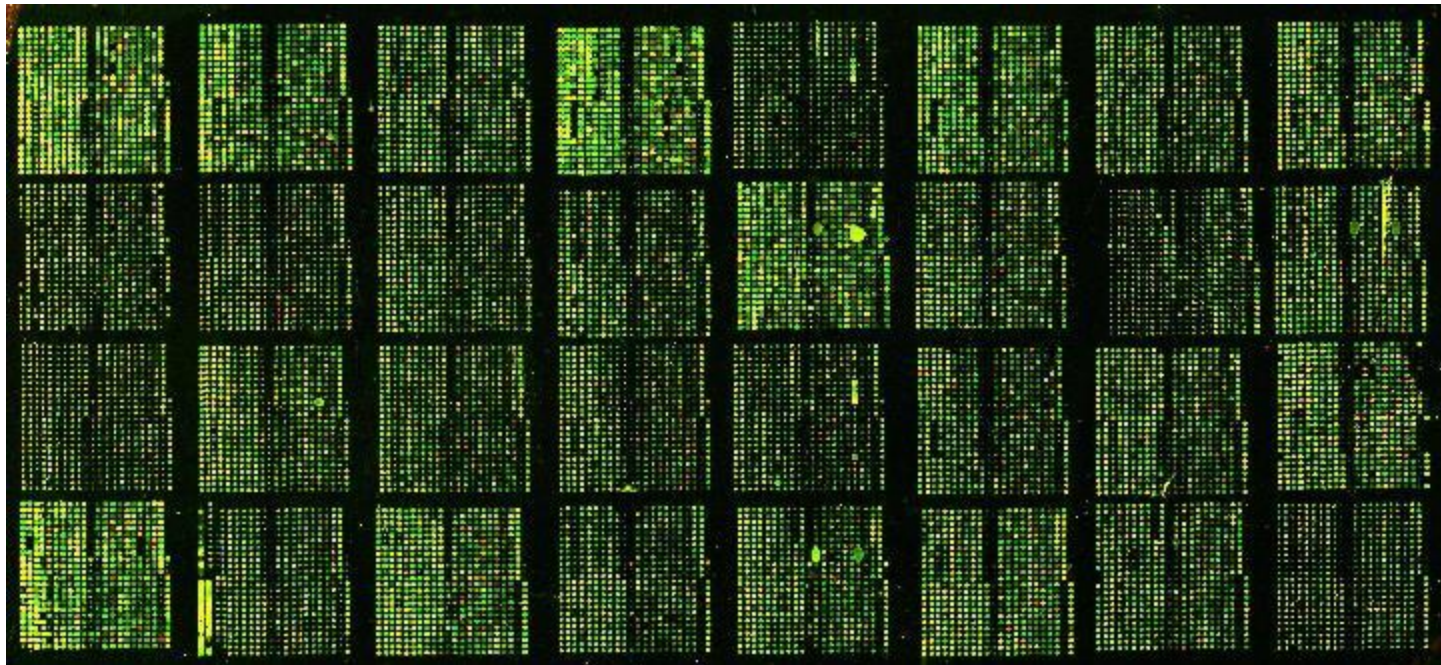




# Array Platform

The array platform we used was based on PCR product ( containing the Open Reading Frames (or ORF) and Intergenic regions) printed on the poly-lysine slides.

Below: image of the home-printed microarray slide covered by entire *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* genome.



About 12,100 spots cover the genome at ~1000 bp resolution

# Conclusions

- Facility did not provide expected expertise in production of custom microarrays.
- It was more cost effective to prepare amplicons and build own printer than to use the facility service.



# High Throughput Sequencing Facility

## Mission

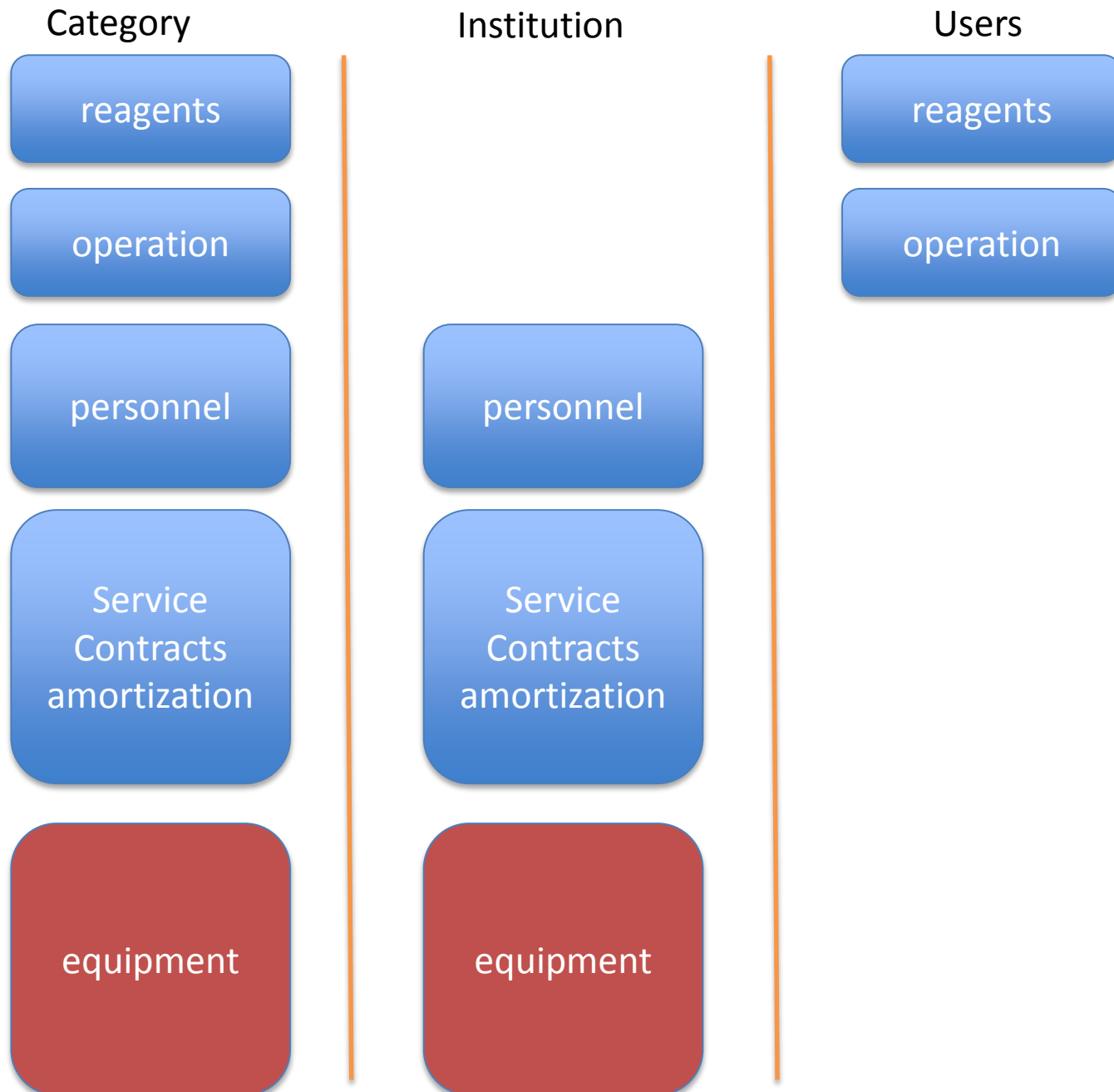
- Be one of the best high-throughput genomic centers at public university.
- Support a cutting-edge research environment by providing broad, affordable access to the latest genomic technology.
- Help researchers to design and interpret genomic experiments; promote innovation by developing new and novel techniques
- Integrate the facility with other technology centers at the University of North Carolina; form partnerships within and beyond the UNC system

# Initial start up for Facility development (2008)

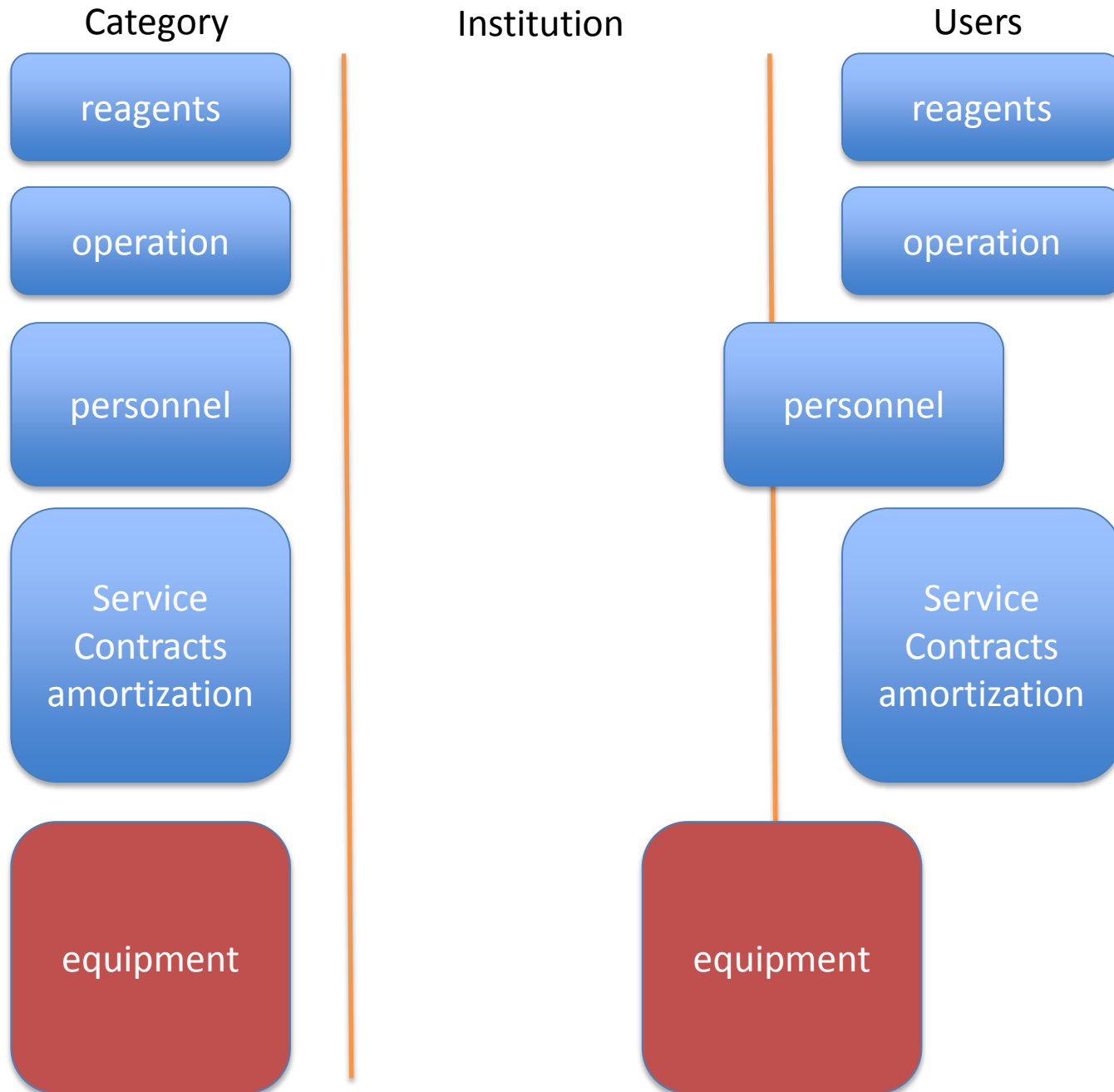
Category	Institution	Users
reagents	Internal Small grants 15 per year	
operation		
personnel	personnel	
Service Contracts amortization	Service Contracts amortization	
equipment	equipment	

Is it right strategy?

# Structure of Facility Funding in 2008-2010



# Structure of Facility Funding in 2013



# Increased number of instruments require more investment in the infrastructure

2008



**Electrical Power**  
**Efficient Air-condition system**  
**Very Fast Internet Connection**

2013





**Upgrades of equipment are important.**

Do not be too attached to old equipment



## UNC HTSF 2014

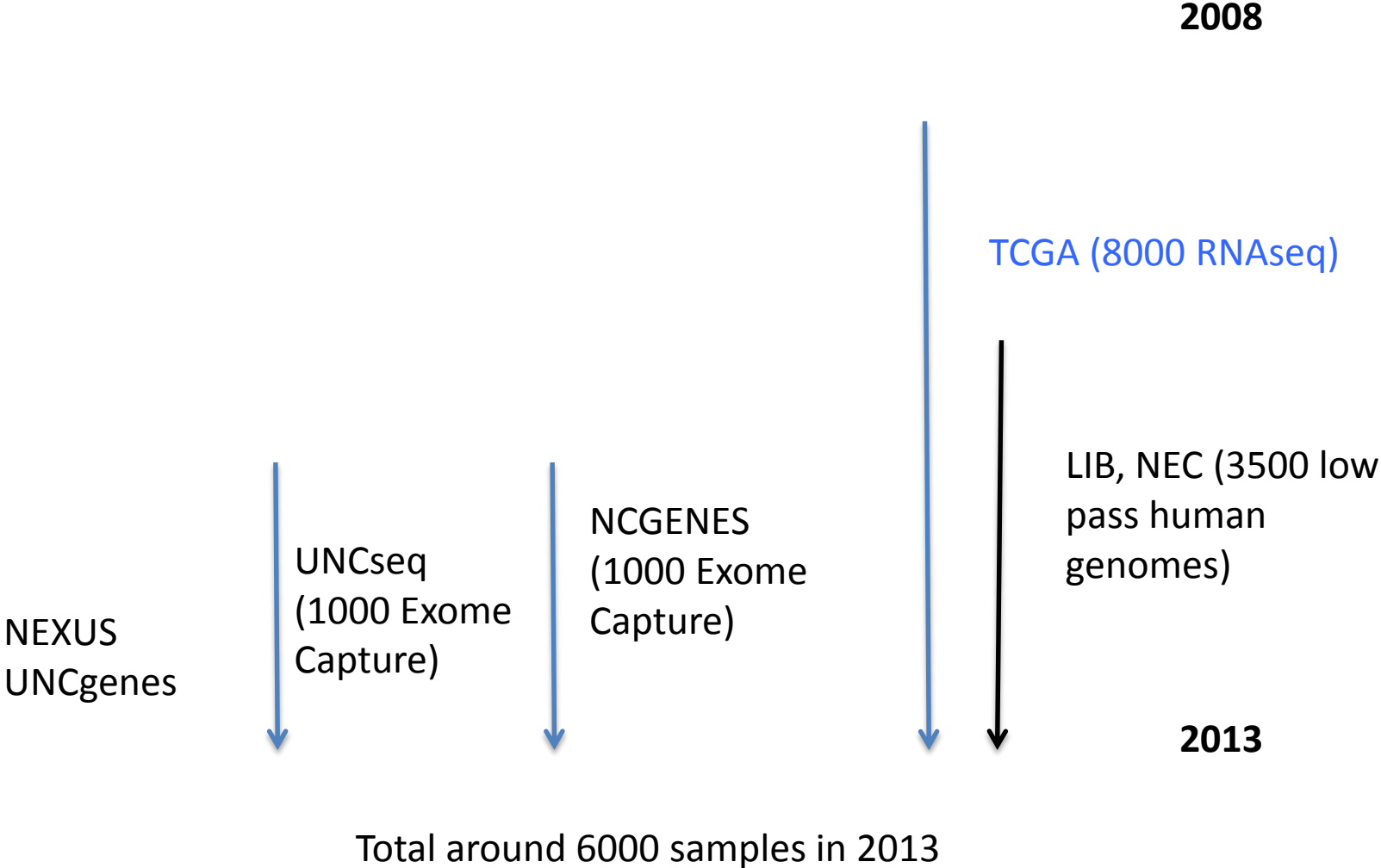
- 6 HiSeq 2500
- 4 HiSeq 2000
- 1 PacBio
- 1 PGM Ion Torrent
- 2 Ion Proton
- 3 MiSeq



Also on campus:

454 (Microbiome)  
454 jr. (Viral genomics)  
2 MiSeq  
2 NextSeq500

# Number of sequencers is always associated with increasing number of large studies



# Projects

**TCGA** (The Cancer Genome Atlas project) - Gene Expression Patterns in Human Tumors Identified Using Transcript Sequencing

The goal of this project is the study of genome-wide transcript regulation with chromatin organization to provide a critical portrait of the cancer genome that can be integrated with other data, including mutations and copy number events.

**LIB, NEC** - Deep Sequencing Studies for Cannabis and Stimulant Dependence

The goal of this project is to identify sequence variants that affect cannabis and stimulant dependence.

**NC GENES:** North Carolina Clinical Genomic Evaluation by NextGen Exome Sequencing.

The goal of this project is to establish a set of best practices to guide future implementation of robust genomic technologies

**NC NEXUS,** North Carolina Newborn Exome Sequencing for Universal Screening

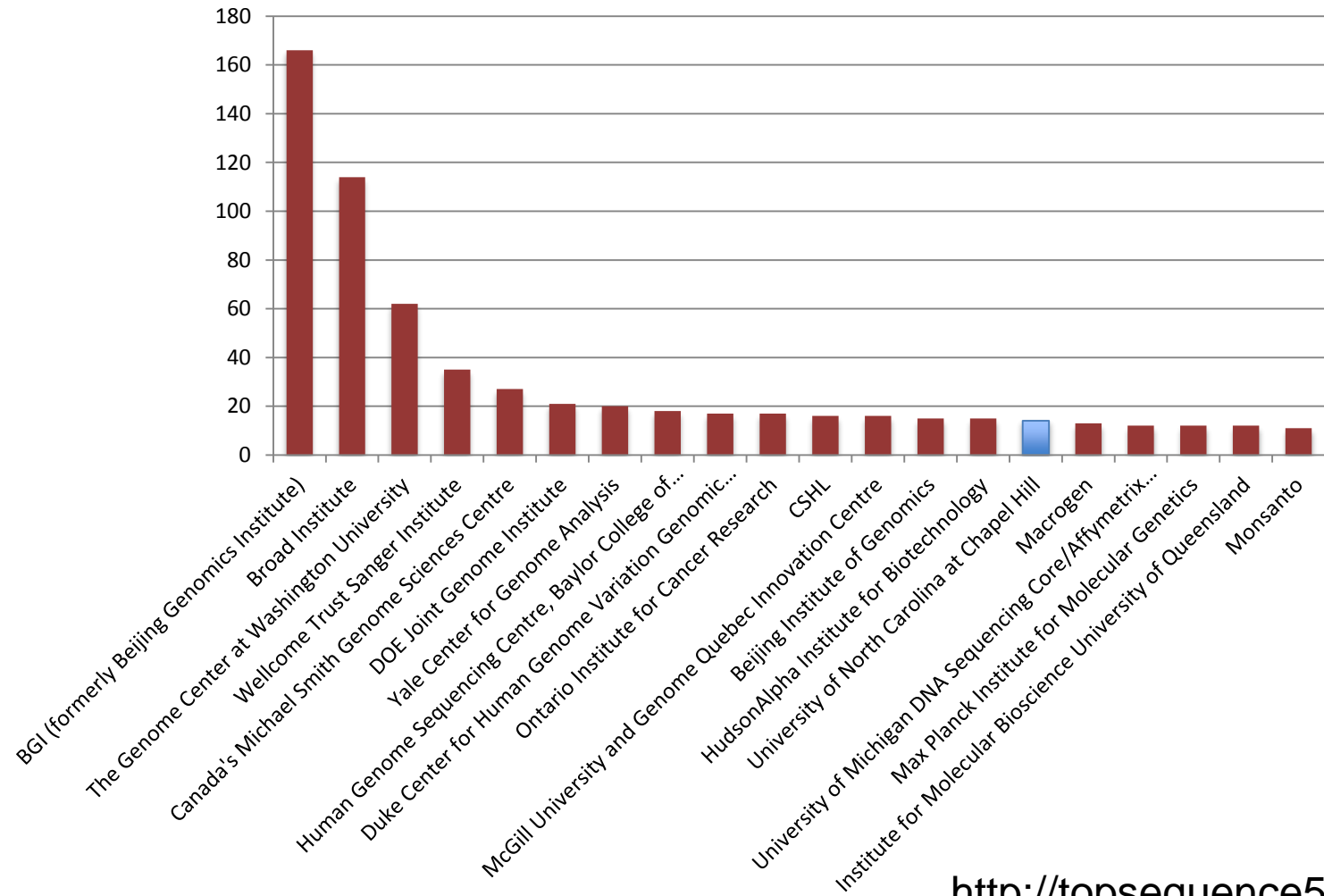
The goal of this project is to identify, confront and overcome challenges to implement deep sequencing technology to enhance current newborn screening.

**40% sequencing capacity for medium and small projects**

World Rank 2011 -14th position

World Rank 2013 -15th position

Second largest NGS facility on East Coast

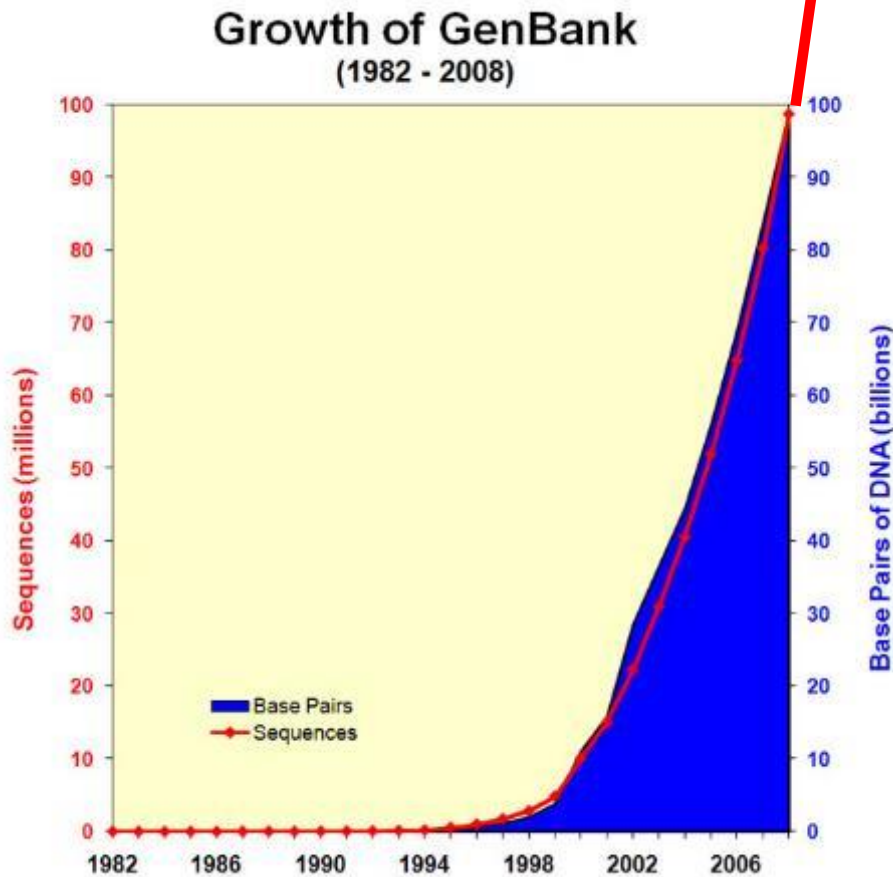




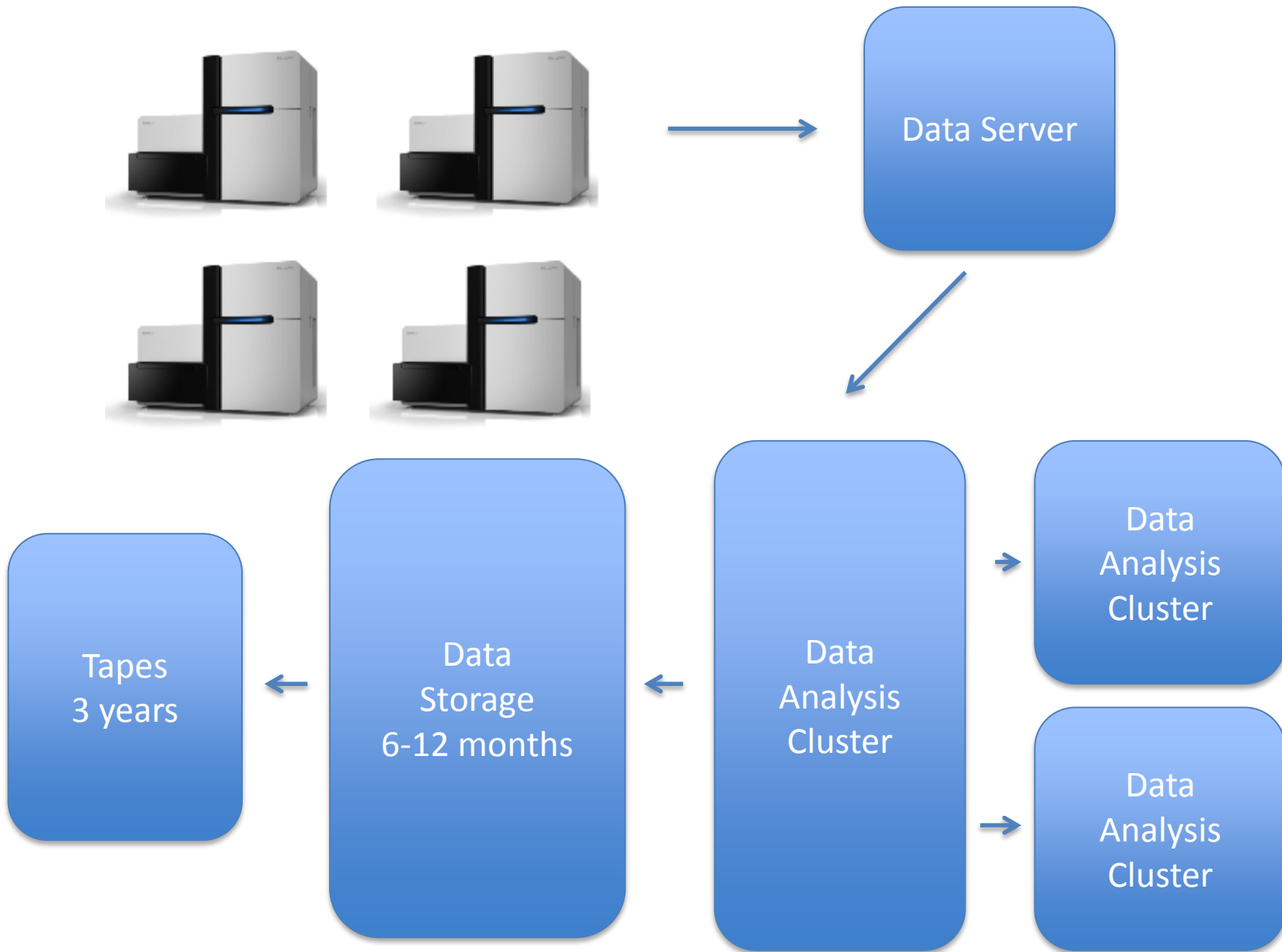


# Capacity of HTSF

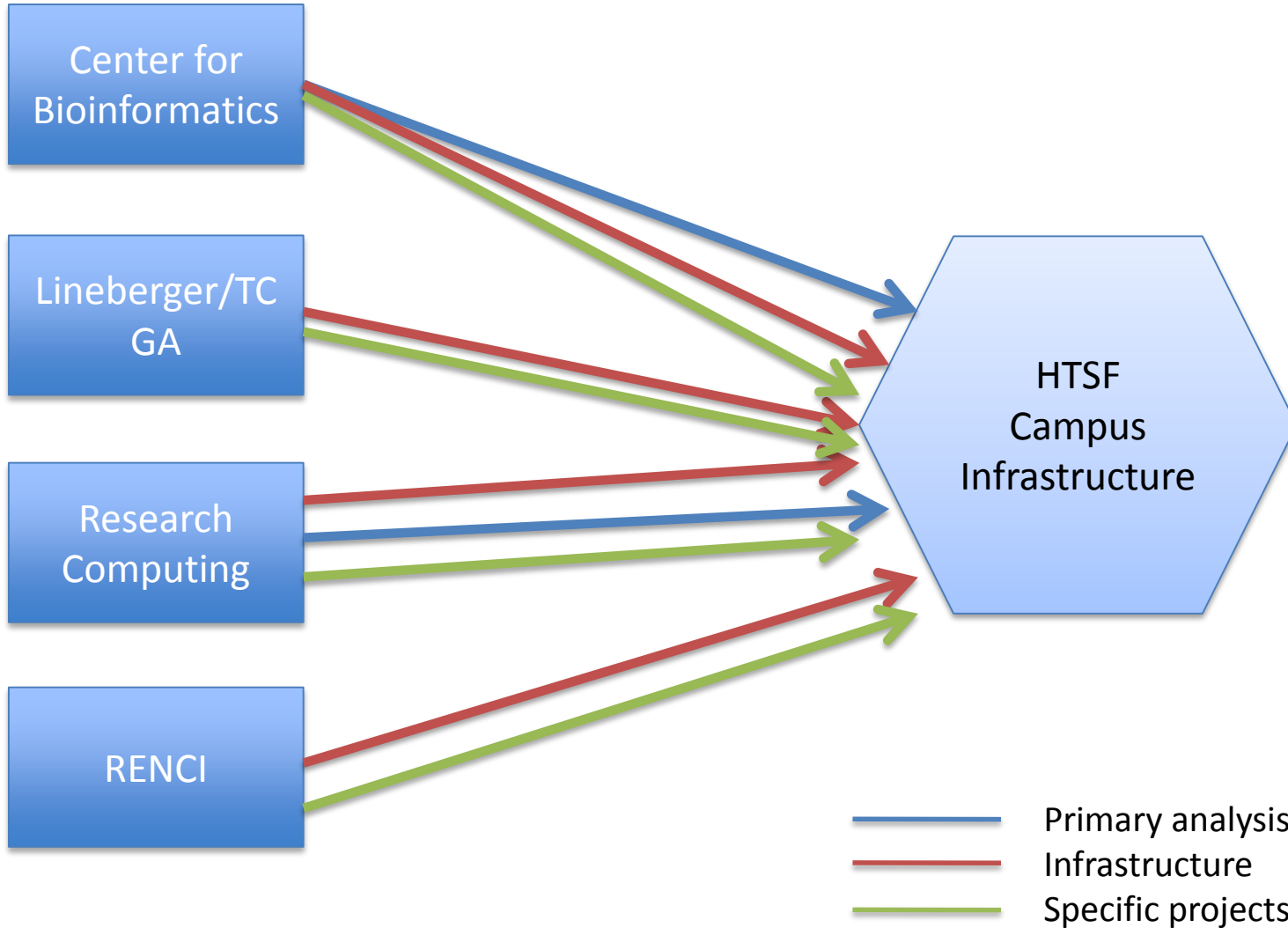
3,500,000,000,000 bp/week  
UNC HTSF



# Bioinformatics pipeline



# Unified bioinformatics



# Error rate

**The more samples are processed, the chance for sample swap is greater.**

Large projects are using SNP (microarray, sanger sequencing, Sequenom) for sample identification check.

1. It is becoming necessary to use Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to control flow of the samples and reagents in the facility.  
Organized storage for incoming and processed samples.
2. Automation is essential for maintenance growth and reproducibility without increased number of sample swap cases.



# 1. LIMS

## Facilities

Bioprocessing Facility

Library prep Facility

Sequencing Facility

## LIMS System

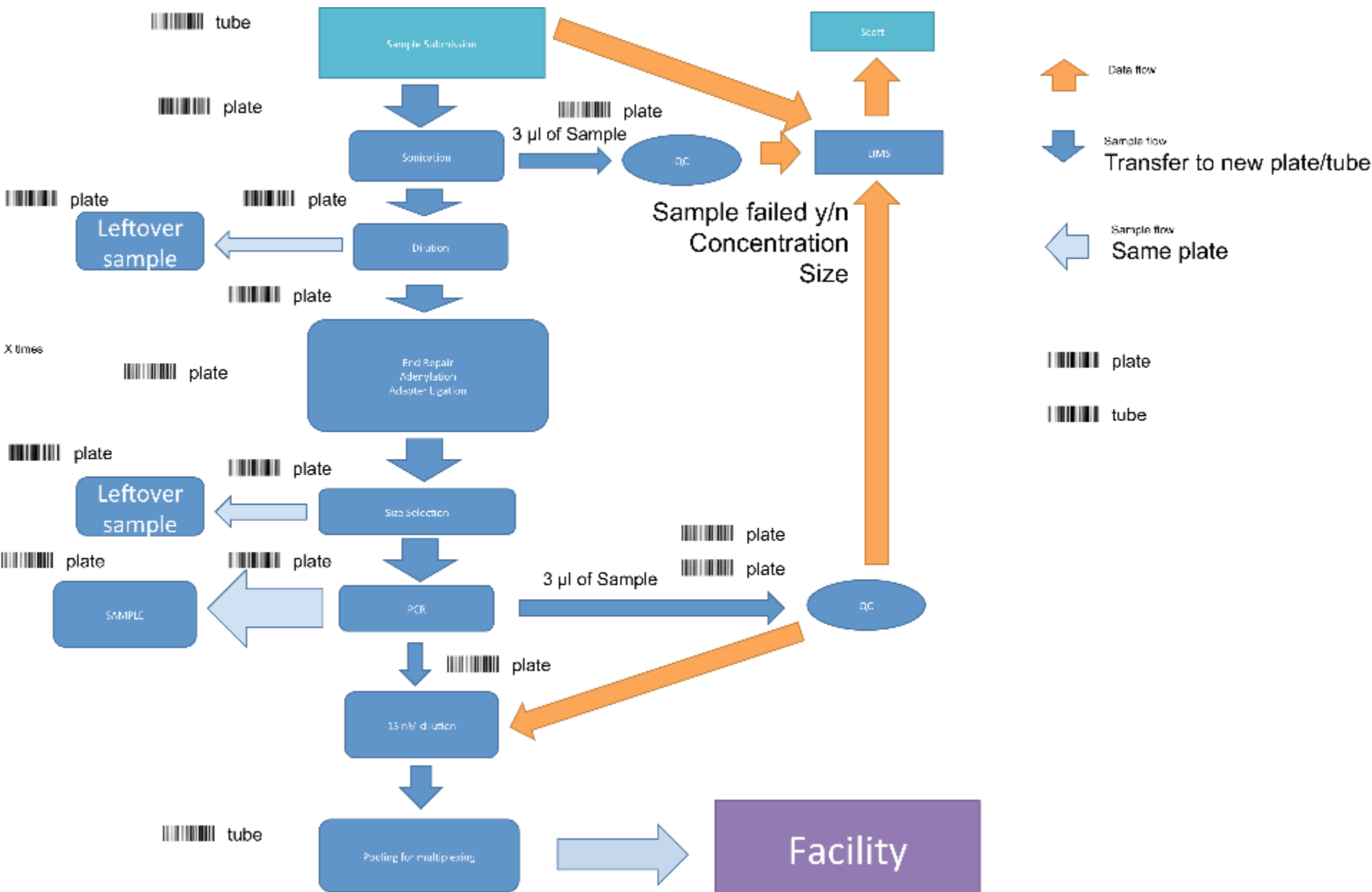
BSP Lims

HTSF  
BSP  
Lims

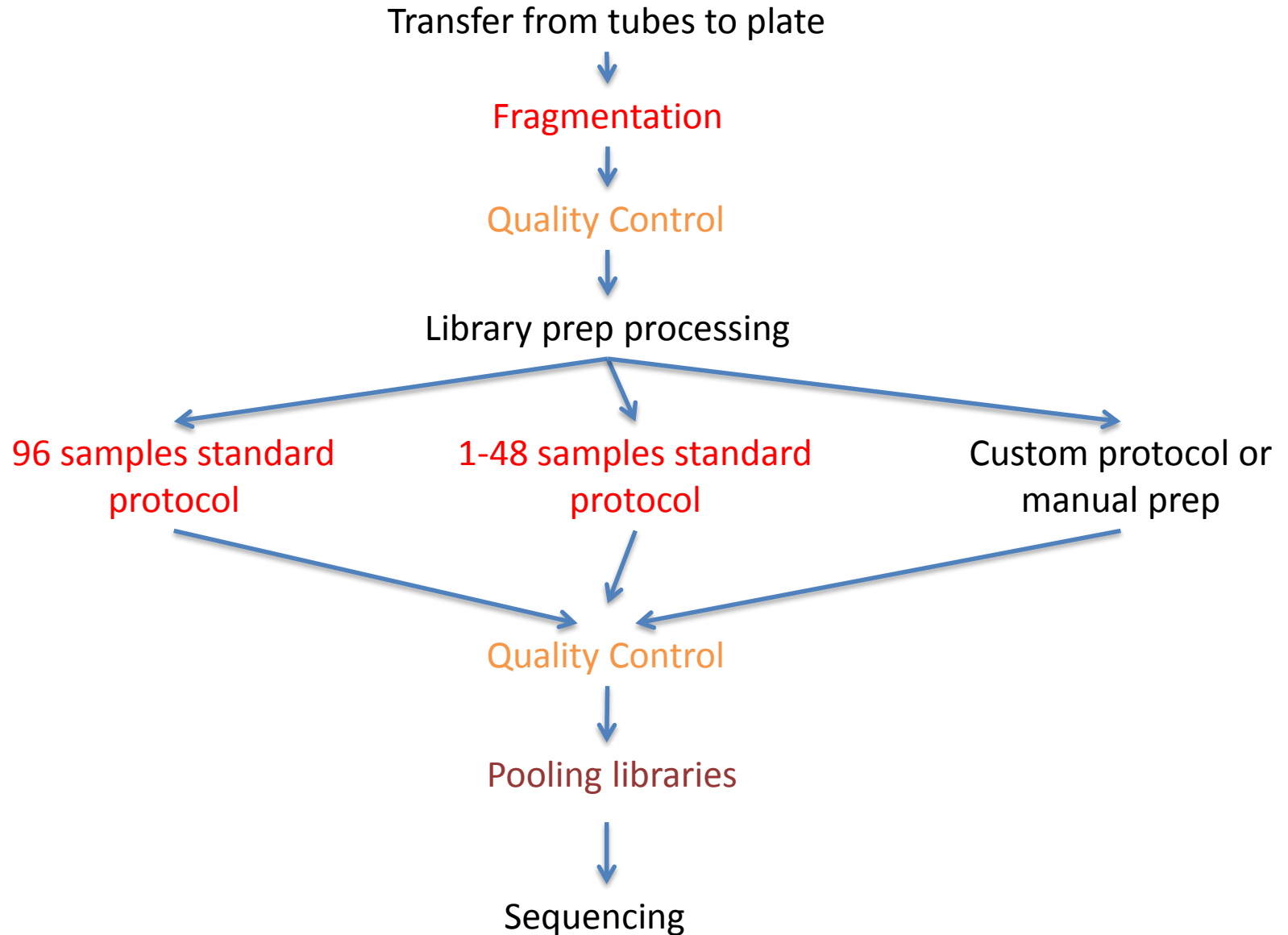
LIBLims  
NEClims

CLARITY  
Lims  
GenoLogi  
c

# BSP LIMS Library Preparation site



## 2. Automation



# Automation in HTSF

## Sonication



**E-series**

- Automated
- Batch



## Medium and Large Scale library prep and DNA capture system



Caliper – Sciclone system  
96 tip pipetting head

Agilent Capture protocols  
KAPA DNA library protocol  
Illumina DNA/RNA protocols

# Automation in HTSF



## **Tecan – Freedom Evo system – 8 tips**

- 2x48 (96) samples per week – DNA library prep
- Automated sample normalization steps
- PCR and qPCR preparation
- Integrated fluorescent plate reader

## **Infinite F200**

- Can be adapted to small and medium scale protocols for Illumina and Ion Torrent
- We have all necessary components for DNA/RNA extraction using Qiagen kits

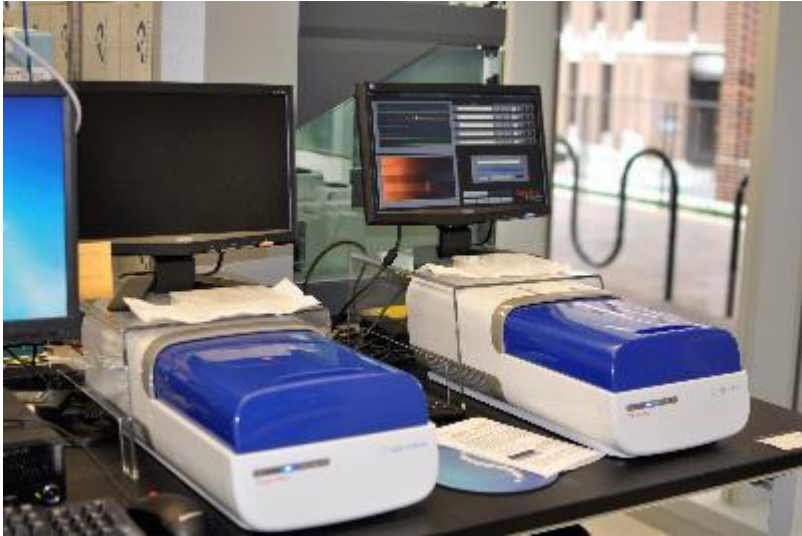


## **Tecan – Freedom Evo system – 8 tips and 96 tips**

- For Illumina and Ion torrent protocols
- Experimental platform for new protocols



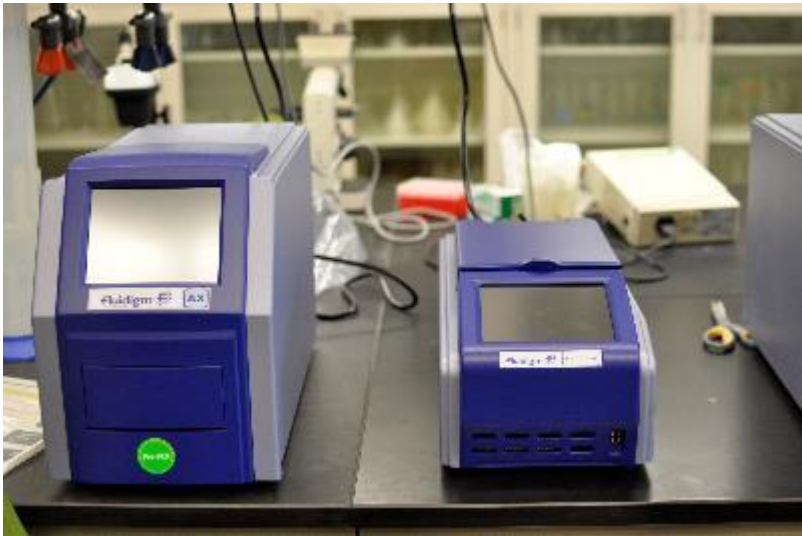
# Automation in HTSF



## **Sage Science**

2 x Pippin – Automated size selection system

1 x Blue Pippin – large fragment selection for PacBio protocol



## **Fluidigm**

Access Array System – for large scale amplicon generation

# Automation necessary for reproducibility

## Automated Illumina Protocols on the Tecan NGS Workstation

### Validated Protocols:

- Nextera DNA Sample Preparation
- Nextera Rapid Capture (Exome, Extended Exome, Custom)

### During Validation:

- TruSeq Stranded mRNA Preparation
- TruSeq Stranded Total RNA Preparation
- TruSeq Nano DNA Sample Preparation
- Nextera XT DNA Sample Preparation

### During Script Development:

- TruSeq DNA PCR-Free Sample Preparation
- TruSeq SmallRNA Sample Preparation
- TruSeq ChIP Sample Preparation
- TruSeq Custom Amplicon Library Preparation

## Additional Protocols generated on Tecan NGS Workstation

- KAPA Hyper Kit
- KAPA NGS quantitation kit
- Amliseq – Life Technologies

## Tecan – Illumina - UNC



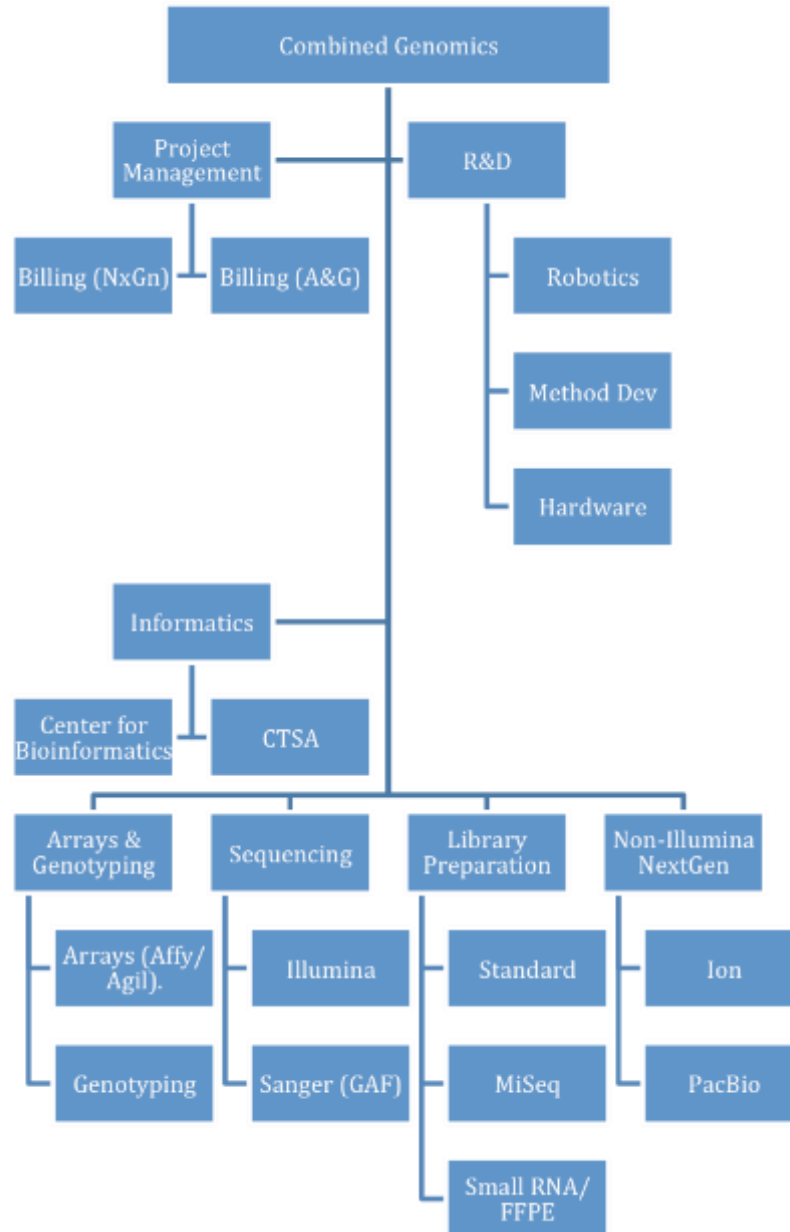
# Research and Development are important for accessing the newest technologies

- Testing of the new chemistry – sequencing and library prep (Illumina)
- Testing of the new hardware
- Research on chemistry for Molecular Tagging
- Custom library preps according to user request
- Automation protocols (Tecan, Illumina, KAPA, Rubicon Genomics)

## People

- Trained staff is critical for high quality of the service.
- We are always keeping employment on minimum level (but on competitive salaries).
- Training and attending conferences are integral part of staff education.

# Reorganization of Genomics Cores at UNC - 2014



# Conclusions

- Initial startup should be designed well.
- Development of the facility should be correlated with the presence of stable, large projects.
- Infrastructure (space, electrical power, air-conditioning and such) needs to satisfy the current equipment requirements and provide the room for future additions.
- Flexibility in protocols and collaboration with users is essential.
- LIMS and Automation – provide the control over errors.
- People – are the key to success.



# Acknowledgements

## **Mieczkowski Lab + HTSF**

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