**Tier 1 Project:**

Costing: simplistic.

Predicted turn around time: 6-8 weeks.

No methods development required, outcome is specific and straightforward.

Example: Targeted analysis that we have already developed methods for. Untargeted analysis providing pilot data for biomarker discovery grant. Untargeted analysis for hypothesis generation.

**Tier 2 Project:**

Costing: simplistic but additional buyout (1-5 days) required.

Predicted turn around time: 8-10 weeks

No methods development required and outcome requires additional, but straightforward data analysis.

OR

Very minor methods development required, outcome requires simple data analysis.

Example: Targeted analysis of a previously detected compound (relative quantitation). Multiple experimental comparisons in one analysis, or a multivariate analysis.

**Tier 3 Project:**

Costing: 2 weeks buyout for trial of method/trial of data analysis. Further buyout likely depending on complexity of project.

Turn around time: 2-6 months.

Some methods development required and outcome requires simple data analysis.

OR

No methods development required, outcome requires complex or experimental data analysis.

Examples:

**Tier 4 Project:**

Costing: 2 weeks buyout for trial of method/exploration of requirements. Requires full-time postdoc.

Turn around time: 1-3 years.

Indicators:

High-risk methods development required.

High-risk data analysis required and/or outcome is open-ended.

Examples: Implementation of a completely new method. Development of novel informatics software.