Supplementary Figure 1

Example workflow for planning a metagenomics study

The advice presented here is targeted towards entry-level researchers in this area, with a particular focus on hypothesis-driven experiments, which of course may be designed very differently compared to exploratory/hypothesis-generating studies. Key considerations for study design (blue box), sample collection (green box) and experimental procedures (yellow box) are highlighted. Understanding the potential for confounding factors, and optimization of design, can substantially improve the quality of both metagenomic sequence data, and interpretation. **Supplementary Table 1** contains further specific recommendations.