

## Metadata File:

The metadata file needs to have the four columns in the following order:

- i. **Sample Name:** This column contains all names, which corresponds to the sample names in the Data File. Please ensure that the sample names in the metadata file and the data file are exactly identical.
- ii. **Date/Timedelta:** The user can provide the dates either in this specific format: “mm/dd/yy”, or as timedeltas, i.e. number of days/time-periods the sample was collected after the first sample. In either case, the algorithm converts all the time information into Timedeltas for ease of processing and analysis.
- iii. **Source:** This refers to the source of Microbiome. For example microbiome can be collected at various time points from the guts of two individuals. In this case the source will be Individual 1 and 2. Please note that several samples can be collected from each source, and it is not necessary that the number of samples collected from each source to be the same.
- iv. **Condition:** If any underlying condition is present across a time stretch for any Source, the information can be supplied in the Condition column. In case no information is available about the condition, the column needs to be filled up with dummy information. For example all the elements of the column can be filled with “None” values.

Users have to select the appropriate option “Timedelta” or “Date” appropriately depending on which format the time information is provided.

Sample_Name	Date	Source	Condition
D1	04/08/05	D	PreCp
D2	05/06/05	D	PreCp
D3	05/13/05	D	PreCp
D4	05/20/05	D	PreCp
D5	05/27/05	D	PreCp
D6	05/28/05	D	PreCp
D7	05/29/05	D	PreCp
D8	05/30/05	D	PreCp
D9	05/31/05	D	PreCp
D10	06/01/05	D	PreCp
D11	06/02/05	D	PreCp
D12	06/03/05	D	FirstCp
D13	06/04/05	D	FirstCp
D14	06/05/05	D	FirstCp
D15	06/06/05	D	FirstCp
D16	06/07/05	D	FirstCp
D17	06/08/05	D	FirstWPC
D18	06/09/05	D	FirstWPC
D19	06/10/05	D	FirstWPC
D20	06/11/05	D	FirstWPC
D21	06/12/05	D	FirstWPC
D22	06/13/05	D	FirstWPC
D23	06/14/05	D	FirstWPC
D24	06/21/05	D	Interim
D25	06/28/05	D	Interim

Figure 1: Image of a sample metadata input file.