Bioconductor Community Advisory Board (CAB) Agenda

12th November 2020

Members: Kozo, Matt, Aedin, Yagoub, Lori, Johannes, Saskia, Susan, Leonardo, Benilton
Guest attendees: Charlotte Soneson (Bioc Teaching Committee), Levi (BioC 2021 organiser)
Attending: Kozo, Matt, Yagoub, Lori, Saskia, Susan, Leo, Benilton, Charlotte, Levi, Aedin
Apologies: Johannes

Schedule
:00 - :05: Welcome!

:05 - :15: Review minutes from previous meeting 8th Oct 2020 and actions items:
> **Completed**
> - BioC Asia 2020
> - CoC committee meeting held to continue code of conduct policy development to cover all project-related activities
> - September minutes added to CAB BioC webpage
> - Sent draft budget to Vince Carey for feedback and to request some support from BioC Foundation
>
> **Action Items:**
> - Reply to F1000Research re: ideas for relaunch of BioC Gateway (agenda item from previous meeting)
> - Compile a list of presenters for H3ABioNet/H3Africa (available here)
>   - Yagoub sent to Paballo Chauke (seminar series organiser)
>   - Paballo Chauke was in vacation, so we expect his response this week
>   - Potential collaborations with H3Africa (Aedin has sent a letter of support for NIH funding proposal).
>   - Yagoub has contacted Rolanda Julius <rolanda.julius@uct.ac.za> about collaborating with H3Africa, and providing training sessions for H3Africa, also about the possibility of organizing BioC Africa.
> - Promote Bioconda / Bioconductor hackathon https://github.com/bioconda/bioconda-recipes/issues/25225 (email from Lluís Revilla to events@bioconductor email address
> - Promote BioC Europe
>
> **Ongoing**
> - Revisit committees and working groups after further discussion of activities.
> - Bioconductor Statement on Racial Diversity (Inclusivity and Empowerment) in support of the Black Lives Matter campaign.

- Working group between TAB and CAB to develop a project-wide Code of Conduct (members: Saskia, Leo, Yagoub, Aedin, Matt, Levi Waldron, Stephanie Hicks, Laurent, Johannes, Charlotte).
- Form a working group on Inclusion and Diversity
- Form an Education working group to work with Carpentries trainers etc.
- List of Current/Potential Funding applications (should be regular CAB agenda item)
    NSF, CZI EOSS, CS&S event fund

  CS&S application approved for Mexican conference/training

:15 - :25: TAB update
- biocthis (package) presentation
- Governance overhaul
    - Will need participation from all governing bodies
    - Looking for an outside consultant to assist with merging and building a more robust and coherent structure for the organization

:25 - :45: Bioconductor Events update

- Opinions on virtual vs. in person meetings
    - Seems convenience and more reaching to have at least a hybrid.
    - Encourage "watch" parties
    - Institutions that were hesitant or sending representatives now have more funding for research
    - Virtual are resulting in larger registration numbers

- Summary from recent Code of conduct committee meetings (Saskia)
    - Incidents
      - One resolved incident this month
      - One informal incident addressed
  - Code of Conduct Procedures changed in response
  - Introducing system of warnings/ direct responses to public slack messages

- BioC Asia 2020 (October 15-18 (half days), virtual format)
    - 440 people registered, peak attendance of ~ 150. Workshops in English and Mandarin. Recorded all sessions (need to follow up on where they are at so that we can put them on the Bioconductor YouTube channel)
    - Potential to host 2021 event in Japan (Kozo)
        - Issue tracking https://github.com/biopackathon/BiocAsia2021/issues (this will be transferred ownership to https://github.com/bioconductor)
        - Run as a hybrid event (in person and virtual)
  Action Items: - Organise BioC Asia 2020 presentations on Bioconductor YouTube
          - Form organising committee for BioC Asia 2021 (Kozo to lead)

- [BioC Europe 2020](#) (December 14-18, virtual format)
    - 8 confirmed invited speakers
    - 28 submissions for contributions (talks, workshops, posters; open until 16 Nov)
    - 103 people registered (open until 7/12)
    - Kevin Rue-Albrecht had the great idea of starting some "BiocChallenges". See https://kevinrue.github.io/BiocChallenges/ and consider contributing one challenge. These should be carried out by conference participants during and ideally after the event.

- Bio"Pack"athon (November 11 (Japan Standard Time), virtual format)
    - 8 participants (2 new participants, 1 jumped in without registration) https://biopackathon.connpass.com/event/192431/
    - Ongoing projects (teaching videos, package development)
        - 3 Japanese teaching videos (about Bioconductor) will be released on https://togotv.dbcls.jp/en (by the next CAB meeting)
            1. Introducing Code Ocean https://doi.org/10.7875/togotv.2020.082
            2. Introducing F1000Research (and the Bioconductor gateway)
            3. Introducing Bioconductor packaging
        - http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/MSEADbi.html (from Bio"Pack"athon)
    - Started Twitter https://twitter.com/biopackathon
        - Trying Twitter Polls to know the Japanese needs (for Bioconductor). https://twitter.com/biopackathon/status/1326802411730530305
    - Next Bio"Pack"athon (December 9) https://biopackathon.connpass.com/event/195344/

- BioC 2021. Monthly organising meetings. Planned as a hybrid event. Slick new website and event logo.

- Discuss what makes a 'Bioconductor' event (does the CAB need to approve events? Need to adhere to project CoC. Define a minimal criteria)
  Action Item: write up a document that summarises minimum requirements

45 - 50: Establish a CAB sub Committee on package submission and review. This subcommittee should explore about and form guidelines that facilitate package submission and assist the core team in package review. This sub Committee may connect with additional experts
    1) Mechanisms for package reviews - eg ROpenSci package review
    2) Ease and quality of package submissions; R CMD Check, biocthis, templates, training docs
    3) Packages should support Bioc values - open source, open development.
    Action Items: Members of sub committee: Yagoub, Lori, Kayla, Jo

50 - 55: Formation of a Bioconductor Education and Training Committee
- proposed to CAB by Charlotte Soneson and Laurent Gatto.
- Charlotte and Laurent have been running regular Bioconductor & Carpentries training for about 6 months with the goals of to consolidate Bioconductor-focused training material and establish a community of Bioconductor trainers.
- Concrete outcomes so far have been newly trained Carpentries instructors from the Bioconductor community, development of Bioconductor-oriented lessons as part of the Carpentry lesson incubator (still early stage), monthly meetings, and we are considering joining the Carpentry organisation membership program.
- Wish to announce at EuroBioc2020. See abstract
- Will report to CAB
- Importance of offering training material in different languages

    Action Items: Vote on formation of Education and Training Committee,
    Approved creation of subcommittee
                leaders (Laurent and Charlotte)?
                Members of CAB on committee: Saskia

55-60: Other business

- Making slack more user friendly:
    - Encouraging a sort of "buddy system" whereby everyone who joins the Slack workspace has at least one other trusted friend in the workspace, who they can confide in when something happens to them and they're not quite sure how to react, without directly ringing the alarm bell at the CoC committee.
    - The number of channels has grown quite a bit since the Slack workspace was created. And the "Browse channels" filter is a bit tedious to scroll through when searching for "the right channel". Maybe make a page of the Bioconductor site, another (!) channel on Slack could list the complete set of channels and their descriptions.
    - There was one user/developer that complained that core Bioc packages are not accessible/available on github (see issue here). While I don't agree with many of the points he raised I think it might be indeed helpful to have (all) core Bioc packages on github to facilitate community contributions (although I guess that most are already on github?). A simple first solution/fix could be to ensure that the BugReports field in the package's DESCRIPTION points to the github repo, and that the github repo says in the README that it is the official package repo.