Bioconductor Community Advisory Board (CAB) Agenda

November 14 at 20:00 PM UTC

Members: Aedin, Enis, Hédia, Janani, Jasmine, Jiefei, Johannes, Kevin, Kozo, Leo, Lluís, Lori, Luyi, Maria, Mengbo, Nicole, Oluwatobilola (Tobi), Stevie, Umar, Xueyi, Zahraa

Attending: Kozo, Lori, Zahraa, Johannes, Aedin, Tobi, Janani, Lluís, Stevie, Leo, Kevin
Regrets: Maria
Guests: Enis, Hédia, Jasmine, Jiefei, Luyi, Mengbo, Nichole, Umar, Xueyi

Schedule
:00 - :5 Welcome!

:4 - :5 Review minutes from previous meeting for posting
> [October Meeting](#) CAB accepts minutes; will be posted to the webpage.

:5 - :07 Action items from last meeting
[ ] not started, [-] ongoing, [?] status unknown/feedback required, [C] canceled, [X] done.
- [X] **Janani**: Blog post on R-Ladies engagement. Waiting for OK from R-Ladies to publish. Figure out a working group, too. Blog post approved from our side (Maria, Janani from CAB); awaiting final approval from R-Ladies leadership. Will reactivate the working group soon after the tandem release of the blog post. (`#r-ladies`)
- [X] **Janani**: Invite someone from the publication/workflows working group. Stevie will give an update in November's meeting.
- [-] **Maria**: set up a joint public channel with the Galaxy community. Update from Maria: Maria is in touch with the communication person from Galaxy (Natali).
- [?] **Nicole**: reach out on Slack to see if there are interested people to join the industry working group. Otherwise, update the status of the working group.
- [X] **jo**: form for officer elections created and sent to CAB members.

:07 - :09 CAB Officer elections [jo]
- Applications/nominations:
    - Lori: secretary position.
    - Stevie: co-chair position.
- Janani remains CAB co-chair, Kevin is stepping down as co-chair, Johannes as secretary. Is CAB OK with Lori and Stevie joining as secretary and co-chair? CAB accepts formally.
- Magnanimously approved by other members! 👋

:09 - :15 2025 joint conference: BioC North America + Galaxy [Maria/Lori]
Bioconductor Galaxy Meeting June 23-26 2025, Cold Spring Harbor Lab, NY
- Updates: [Logo contest open](#) (til Dec 8)
    - Will be 3 keynotes: 1 selected by Galaxy (Sergei Pond), 1 being selected by Bioc, 1 jointly selected by org committee vote (selection by Nov 25)
    - Additional events (hackathons/developer days) right after the conference. But has to be in another location.

:15 - 35 Updates from the Workflows working group [Stevie]
- Not an official working group yet; currently discussing on Slack (`#workflows`).
- Considering rebranding workflows to better reflect modern understanding of the word (workflow -> Nextflow, snakemake etc)
    - Considering workflows, tutorials & recipes?
    - Suggestion from Aedin: ask also undergraduate students or early users which name would be most self-explaining.
    - Move from a linear "workflow" to a "playbook" with branching/decision points etc.
    - Leave the backend on the BBS unchanged with a focus on front-end changes (i.e. website)
    - Kozo: make workflows available interactively; for conferences https://workshop.bioconductor.org was/is used.
    - Kozo: Can the Orchestra platform [https://github.com/seandavi/Orchestra] be used for the workflow runner?
    - Lori: a basic tutorial or video on docker usage, base classes would be helpful.
- Plans to resolve the broken F1000R pipeline
    - Can we work with a checklist from the Journal of Open Source Education (JOSE) and push out to there with additional Bioc-specific criteria? Not an indexed journal though. Better options?
    - Would we need an editor representing Bioc on the JOSE board? Best way to administer?
    - Useful ? - Curvenote https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02577-1
    -

:35 - :44 Bioconductor conference 2.0 [Maria]
- (feedback from EuroBioC2024 and based on discussions started during October meeting)
- Switch from 3 separate BioC conferences to a single, main BioC conference that alternates between continents/global regions on an annual basis.
- Pro: better community building. Con: organization and financing might be difficult.
- Maybe create a working group to collect ideas/thoughts?
    - Volunteers please enter names here or in slack channel: Lori

:44 - :47 CAB paper update [Aedin/all]
- Discussion:
- Agreed on "perspective". Focus the paper on the CAB and what CAB is doing and lessons learned.
- Set a deadline for 1st complete draft - propose end of September -> December?
- What are some timelines associated with editing, rewriting to submission? Is this still going to PLoS CompBio?

:47 - :55 CAB/TAB information exchange (through Lori)
(permanent item to allow information exchange between CAB and TAB)
There is supposed to be a bi-annual joint meeting but it hasn't happened for a while,
TAB → CAB
Large discussion about current website and what sort of improvements could be done
       Want a more informative front page with highlights of cutting edge
       Want an easy switch to devel pages of landing pages/biocviews
       A way to highlight suggested analysis / packages and have community upvotes
       Advertise and enhance dashboard page: https://bioconductor.org/dashboard/
       Better highlight big concepts of Bioc like class structures and tutorials on such
       Carousel of new packages?
Tim Triche presentation on pangenome data and methods concepts
LLM/chatbot open discussion
Bigger Core Team projects for the next year: github-based system, discourse migration
Need better guidelines and strict policies for updates/requests for workshop platform
SCE vs Seurat enforcement
       Are we losing packages because of Bioc standards
       Flip side: we have a lot of cruft packages and packages that don't add a lot of value
       (side note) We are always in need of more package reviewers:
https://contributions.bioconductor.org/review-volunteer-chapter.html

CAB → TAB
General Summary
Current active workflows interactive/reproducible environment besides docker like on workshop.bioconductor.org and AnVIL
Conference reorganization to make conferences more equal / rebranding / alternate year | rotating meetings

:55 - :00 Other Business
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(All members are welcome to suggest ideas and topics for discussion in future meetings)
BiocAsia: It's probably a bit soon for an update from the BiocAsia team but if the December meeting lands at a good time for Asia, maybe next month?

Can we update the inclusive hex stickers
https://github.com/Bioconductor/BiocStickers/blob/devel/Bioconductor/README.md to the
new flag.

R Consortium on the last R repository working group mentioned that the new EU cyber
resilience act will affect all R package repositories. They are looking for volunteers to work
on making clear the requirements for software stewards (with the Linux Foundation).
Requirements should be met by October 2027

Well done all, our work building community connections Bioconductor and EU ELIXIR are
reflected in that Bioconductor was mentioned in the recent ELIXIR and NIH Memorandum of
Agreement (sep 2024). Can we discuss this at an upcoming meeting but we can benefit
from the three main areas in the MoA.

EuroBio September 17-19, 2025, at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), in
Barcelona, Spain

Congratulations to Kozo who spoke at **EPISODE 2** of **ENABLING OPEN SCIENCE
THROUGH RESEARCH CODE**. The series is organized by by RSSE Africa and RSE
Asia Association in collaboration with Talarify, AREN, and ReSA. The speakers included:

> **Dr Kate Huddlestone**, Department of General Linguistics, Stellenbosch
> University, South Africa, Senior Lecturer
> **Kozo Nishida**, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan, Project
> Researcher
> **Peter van Heusden**, South African National Bioinformatics Institute / University
> of the Western Cape, South Africa, Bioinformatician
> **Radovan Bast**, UiT- University of Tromsø / CodeRefinery, Norway, Research
> Software Engineer