

# Bioconductor Joint Technical /Community Advisory Board Minutes

14th October 2021, 10am EST

**TAB Members:** Vince Carey (Chair), Levi Waldron (Vice-Chair), Charlotte Soneson (Secretary), Aedin Culhane, Hector Corrada Bravo, Laurent Gatto, Robert Gentleman, Shila Ghazanfar, Kasper Daniel Hansen, Stephanie Hicks, Wolfgang Huber, Rafael Irizarry, Aaron Lun, Michael Love, Lori Shepherd

**CAB Members:** Yagoub A. I. Adam, Benilton Carvalho, Daniela Cassol, Leonardo Collado-Torres, Aedin Culhane (co-chair), Saskia Freytag, Susan Holmes, Katerina Kechris, Estefania Mancini, Kozo Nishida, Johannes Rainer, Matt Ritchie (co-chair), Kevin Rue-Albrecht, Lori Shepherd (Secretary), Mike Smith

Attending:

CAB: Kozo Nishida, Yagoub A. I. Adam, Daniela Cassol, Leonardo Collado-Torres, Susan Holmes, Mike Smith, Saskia Freytag, Johannes Rainer, Shila Ghazanfar, Katerina Kechris, Lori Shepherd, Aedin Culhane

TAB: Vince Carey, Levi Waldron, Charlotte Soneson, Laurent Gatto, Michael Love, Wolfgang Huber, Aedin Culhane, Lori Shepherd

Guests: -

Regrets: Kevin Rue-Albrecht, Stephanie Hicks, Matt Ritchie, Benilton Carvalho, Hector Corrada Bravo, Robert Gentleman, Kasper Daniel Hansen, Rafael Irizarry, Aaron Lun, Estefania Mancini

Schedule

**:00 - :3: Welcome!**

**:03 - :5: Committee/WG reports**

**CoC:** Next year, the Code of Conduct committee will expand from 10 to 15 members and several members will be retiring. There is an open call for nominations open at the moment:

<https://forms.gle/598PsiqancvDn5EEA>

**Education:** Planning for the first official in-person Bioc intro course in conjunction with EuroBioC2022. Bioc intro material mostly ready - planning rounds of reviews/refinement within the education committee and wider community thereafter.

**Package Review:** We got great response from the community to be community reviewers to help the core team. We are in process of training the first 5 and will continue after the release on-boarding more

**:05 - :10:**

**1. Biocawards** - We are proposing changes that would impact board members (including TAB). CAB approved the proposed changes at last meeting pending also approval from the TAB:

- have at least 1 award separate from the other criteria for a junior developer or new package development that is awarded annually
  - **Discussion:** Perhaps package reviewers could help nominate new package development
  - **ACTION** Vote Response: **Yes** Have a Junior developer specific award
  
- exclude active board members from nomination. This would help if we have the TAB/CAB as the voting committee. Members would become eligible for awards after they are off the board.
  - Rationale:
    - we wouldn't have to blind people from their nominations which is actually a large amount of work and complexity
    - wouldn't have to calculate a ranked sum to account for blinded not being able to vote for themselves.
    - This would also ease the concern over the awards being heavily dominated by the board members and to avoid coming off as awarding ourselves.
  - **ACTION** Vote Response: **Yes** Exclude board members from nomination
  
- Expand the voting committee to CAB and TAB. And have top four instead of receiving 2 points and next four receiving 1, have everyone rank top four (or more?) and scaling awarded points (8/6/4/1?)
  - **ACTION** Vote Response: **Yes** Expanding voting committee to TAB/CAB
  
- Change the nominations and moving to the voting round. All that are nominated should move to round 2 of voting (not those just having more than 2 votes) but then we not accept self-nominations. But keep track of number of nominations in round two.
  - **ACTION** Vote Response: **Yes** everyone to round 2 exclude self nominations
  
- Addition of awards based on [Orchestra](#) launches [and/or YouTube views]
  - [Orchestra](#) workshops [and the YouTube videos] have quantitative values for awards. It's the number of launches [and the number of views].
  - This does not require us to vote and will be determined automatically.
  - **Discussion:** Historically workshops held early in the week, especially on the first day have significantly more attendees than later in the week regardless of level. Also could be bias with repeated workshops and repeat workshop presenters
  - **ACTION** Vote Response: **No** Orchestra determined award

## Choose a workshop

Show  entries

Search:

| Title   | Created    | Launches | Actions                |
|---|------------|----------|------------------------|
| <a href="#">Introduction to Bioconductor annotation resources</a>                             | 2020-07-27 | 721      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">A Tidy Transcriptomics introduction to RNA-Seq analyses</a>                       | 2020-07-27 | 529      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">Public Data Resources in Bioconductor</a>   | 2020-07-27 | 294      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">University of Heidelberg Basic R course</a>                                       | 2021-02-19 | 237      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">Dimension Reduction for Beginners</a>   | 2021-07-01 | 236      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">An introduction to matrix factorization and principal component analysis in R</a> | 2020-07-27 | 203      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">Functional enrichment analysis of high-throughput omics data</a>                  | 2020-07-27 | 196      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">WEHI Masterclass Day 1: RNA-seq 123</a>   | 2021-08-20 | 181      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">WEHI Masterclass Day 2: Single cell RNA-seq analysis</a>                          | 2021-08-19 | 155      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |
| <a href="#">Interactive Visualization of SummarizedExperiment Objects with iSEE</a>           | 2020-07-27 | 136      | <a href="#">Launch</a> |

Showing 1 to 10 of 69 entries

Previous  2 3 4 5 6 7 Next

:10 - :13:

### 2. CZI awards

- Funded CAB proposal (Culhane PI) aims to:
  - re-develop website (form a working group to oversee this project? - #biocwebsite slack channel has started to collate some ideas)
  - develop carpentries-style training material and train more community members to become certified carpentries instructors (Education and Training working group has been active on this)
  - hire a community manager to help coordinate training events and meetings and take a proactive role in promoting the work of community members (via social media etc.) (Connect with Aedin as CAB funds are in her institute)
- Funded TAB proposal (Carey PI) has complementary but not overlapping aims. It includes funds to pay consultants on Bioc governance and to fund an outreach project with CURE at DFCI (Karen Burns white) to engage in schools where there is high diversity. (not sure if new hires)
- **ACTION:** Volunteers for working group on community manager job description and interview panel. Aedin working on hire, which will be on a project manager scale. HR is ready to post a job, once the job description is ready. Susan Holmes, Charlotte, Laurent volunteered to help with job description.

:13 - :15:

**3. Communication** - How can Bioconductor most effectively communicate nominations for boards/awards etc

- Very few new people running for boards
  - Lack of advertisement?
  - Lack of interest or too intimidating?
    - Common feedback is "I don't think I'm qualified"
  - Tabled: Community Manager should have task to create communication plan and further develop the contributors guide

:15 - :25:

#### 4. Mission statement update

- **ACTION** **VOTE:** V1.5 and V2 leading the votes. V1.5 is accepted. If anyone has continued issues please respond to email verification.

:25 - :30:

#### 5. Recommended import/export and classes

In the package review process we emphasize the reuse or extending of existing classes. And to use already existing import and export methods. These recommendations have not been re-evaluated for quite some time. Are we missing any? Should or is there a need to create new?

<http://bioconductor.org/developers/how-to/commonMethodsAndClasses/>

- **Discussion:** Somewhat related, reliable (across Bioconductor versions) ways of serializing instances of the recommended classes for storing and sharing with others.
- **ACTION** Form a new working group  
volunteers: Vince, Laurent, Jo

:30 - :35:

#### 6. Privacy issues, GDPR compliance of bioconductor.org (what's collected by Amazon when a package is downloaded, etc)

There is a CAB wg on this, led by Katerina Kechris. She is gathering info collected on different bioconductor websites. Should this be joint TAB/CAB effort? Sean Davis questioned if orchestra is GDPR compliant; We should involve Sean in further discussions.

- **ACTION** Should privacy WG span TAB/CAB... other volunteers?
  - Outside consultants could be useful.
  - RopenSci, Galaxy, Lou Woodley (CSCCE)
  - Create a github repo to keep track of information (Lori will create)
  - Working Group volunteers: Katrina, Mike, Vince, (invite Sean Davis)

:35 - :37:

#### 7. R-Ladies liaison

- Collaboration with R-Ladies was mentioned in CZI grant applications. For instance, the CAB proposal aimed to offer / promote training via various R-Ladies groups that members are part of.
- Is it useful to have a designated R-ladies liaison with the [R-Ladies Global leadership team](#)?
- Bioconductor could support / sponsor R-Ladies as [R-Consortium does](#)?
- **ACTION** - nominate R-Ladies liaison: Susan and Daniela (potential WG in future)

“Forwards” <https://forwards.github.io/>

R project to encourage participation of women and minorities

-- core group will be working towards an outreachy project (Jennifer Wokaty proposed)

: 37-40:

#### 8. upcoming: [workinggroups.bioconductor.org/](http://workinggroups.bioconductor.org/)[github repo](#)

- Thanks Stephanie for working on this. This will take over from the existing individual TAB/CAB working group and will allow better collaboration between TAB/CAB and the community. We plan this to really take shape over the next few weeks. A one stop shop for the community to see active workings, proposed working groups that need a lead/movement, and to suggest new working groups.
- What to do with the current separate TAB/CAB working group locations?
  - If there are large discussions already formed, perhaps just link existing and moving forward utilize this github?
- **ACTION** - Member of TAB and CAB to PR working group content to new site and to “remind” new /existing working groups that they need content on the site.
  - notify through [bioconductor.org](http://bioconductor.org) and support site of existence once populated

: 40-43:

#### 9. Forthcoming events

- [BioC Asia 2021](#), Nov 1-4 2021. Organised by Kozo *et al.* Please help spread the word to encourage participation (abstracts closed, registration is free and still open)
- 2nd Bioconductor Africa Workshop co-organised with H3Africa. Planned for November. **ACTION** Yagoub to approach presenters to find a suitable week to run 4 workshops (selected from from BioC2021 workshop list by H3Africa training co-ordinators Francis Agamah *et al.*) -- please provide links ... this could be supported by the CZI project out of DFCL, and information on this process should be collected for reporting about the effort
  - Also trying to organize a bioconductor event for east Africa

: 43-48:

## 10. User Engagement

[BiocChallenges](#),

Open problems [https://openproblems.bio/neurips\\_2021/](https://openproblems.bio/neurips_2021/) model? [NeurIPs](#) registration

There is incentive if ties to meeting and publication.

### Discuss/AOB

- Organising in-person/hybrid (joint) board meetings during Bioconductor conferences.