Bioconductor Community Advisory Board (CAB) Agenda

Dec 11, 2025

9 pm UTC Nov '25 – Feb '26

Members: Aedin, Eliana, Enis, Fabricio, Izabela, Johannes, Kevin, Kozo, Laurent, Lluís, Lori, Maria, Martha, Mengbo, Oluwatobilola (Tobi), Stevie, Tuomas, Umar, Zahraa, Zuguang

Attending: Lori, Laurent, Kevin, Izabela, Johannes, Fabricio, Zuguang, Tobi, Kozo, Maria, Zahraa, Aedin
Regrets: Stevie, Eliana
Guests: Nicholas Cooley

:00 - :5 Welcome + Review minutes from previous meeting for posting

[2025-11-13](#)

:5 - :20 Project Perspective [Nicholas Cooley]

- [Slides](#)
- Laurent:
    - New packages that don't really do anything new (e.g. combining functions in existing packages)
    - Cost in reviewer time
- Johannes:
    - Encourage contributing to existing packages rather than creating a new similar package
    - Lower the barrier/fear for new/young developers to connect with or reach out to package maintainers
- Kevin
    - Asking package contributors to show the novelty of their package?
        - Contributors are asked to include an intro / abstract of why they are including in Bioconductor and a comparison to existing packages and why their package is novel or what it provides new to Bioconductor

- Aedin:
    - How can we develop a challenge or strategy process that rewards input to existing package.
        - Some suggestions:
        - include as co-authors on paper

- mention and name contributors (more prominently) on package page or package README

Side thought: Are BiocAwards returning?
    They were paused the past year because of the joint conference with galaxy

:25 - :45 Discussion Regarding Bioc Communities [Laurent Gatto & Maria Doyle]

- During the last EuroBioc2025 conference in Barcelona, I proposed a [BoF session](#) on 'How can the Bioconductor community help early career researchers'. It was well attended, with many discussion points. The person from Czechia was present, and followed up with Maria. The EuroBioc conference has evolved over time from a developer's meeting to a conference attended by users with different levels of experience, including younger participants/PhD/master students, and this discussion seemed rather useful. Here's a picture of the [whiteboard](#) I used to keep track of the comments/discussion points and here are [Federico's notes](#).

- Conference Thoughts
    - First Time badges for conference?
    - First timer session?
    - Instead of meet TAB/CAB formal panel. A "happy hour" casual setting to mingle
    - Mentoring program implemented by the SMBE to pair an ECR (or newcomer) to a mentor that will introduce them to other people: A bit about how the SMBE implements this mentoring program: https://www.smbe.org/undergraduate-travel-and-mentoring-award/
    - Buddy system / mentoring system
- "Coffee hour" that rotates time zones for people to drop in for conversation or advice
- Octoberfest / [BlocChallenges](#) but make our own? Combined with these existing?
    - Idea: list of these packages are open to contributions and working on open issues (incentives to those willing to look at PR and those that make PR)

:45 - :50 BiocAsia Update [Stevie] –   Moved to next meeting

:50 - :55 CAB/TAB Exchange
TAB Recap:
    Presentation by Nick Cooley
    Another discussion on Bioc charter
    Presentation by Gabriele Sales on ML support, GPU support

Presentation by Lori Kern on Package Maintainer App
Core Team Updates - windows binaries from r-universe

Any Issues CAB would like for TAB:

TAB should organize a joint meeting as the last several were done by CAB (brought it up in last meeting hopefully they will act on it soon)

:56 - 00 Any other business
- Kevin awarded [Software Sustainability Institute fellowship 2026](#) to improve FAIR-ness in life sciences software with a focus on Bioconductor
  - TODO: present fellowship plan (ideally January/february)
- BiocEurope abstracts open until the end of January https://eurobioc2026.bioconductor.org/
- Congratulations to Fabricio for successfully passing his private PhD defense.
- Reuse of Code / Open Source / Packages of closely name
  - Likely should be moved to Code of Conduct Committee
- Clarifying any TODOs