

Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

4 December 2025

Present: Laurent Gatto, Wolfgang Huber, Lori Kern, Jacques Serizay, Marcel Ramos, Levi Waldron, Vince Carey, Sehyun Oh, Henrik Bengtsson, Hugo Gruson, Andres Wokaty, Nicholas Cooley, Michael Lawrence, Robert Castelo, Gabriele Sales, Maria Doyle, Ludwig Geistlinger, Rafael Irizarry, Helena Crowell

Absent: Kasper Hansen

:00 - :06 November [minutes](#) approved.

:06 - :12 Introduction by Nick Cooley [[slides](#)]

- Developer Engagement Lead at Limerick
- CZI grant under Maria Doyle
- Concrete goals include:
 - Restarting developer forum
 - Developer survey (target launch mid January 2026)
 - Champions program for improving infrastructure & recognition of working groups (target launch February/March 2026)
 - Additional focuses (e.g., GPU computing in R)

:12 - :18 Summary of Bioc charter draft discussion (meeting held on 1 December)

- Creation of **events board** to support and oversee Bioc events globally
- Creation of **coordinating council** with executive functions (e.g., project-wide decisions, conflict resolution); not formalized; currently handled by Vince Carey, previously Martin Morgan, in collab with few others
- New & harmonized **voting procedure**: STV (addition of “no additional candidates” option; candidates voted below would not be elected)

:18 - :46 Gabriele Sales presenting [[slides](#)]

- Re: Bioc containers, some recent improvement in ML support (see this [notebook-based container](#) build)
- Related effort for R to fortran by Tomasz Kalinowski (Posit): [quicker](#)
- GPU CRAN packages have come and gone, maintenance/longevity is an issue > lack of test infrastructure might be the cause

:46 - :50 Lori Kern update on PkgMaintainer App

- Successful test case (involved maintainers across CAB/TAB)
- Summary output list of bounced/unanswered emails
- Planned once a year with fortnightly reminders

:50 - :56 Core Team updates

- Andres on harvesting [Windows binaries from r-universe](#) (after termination of Microsoft support)
- Quick summary but not actively discussed:
 - Vince working on AnnotationWorkflow to update BiocAnnotationPipeline
 - consolidate and unify collections of scripts/SQL/R programs
 - use targets package to define multistage processes
 - ingestion and review process ongoing overseen by Lori; a speculative [overview](#) process from Vince
 - GPU-oriented container from Alex
 - Lots of SparseArray and annotation work from Hervé

:56 - :57 Bioc-related manuscripts

- Two recent “Orchestrating ... with Bioc” preprints:
[OSTA](#) on spatial (transcriptomics)omics, [OMA](#) on microbiome
- More project publication would be good (see appendix [previous minutes](#))
- Q/comment Jacques: Is there still a Classes working group? > yes.
Would a book covering main Bioc S4 classes be useful? > yes.

:57 - :58 CAB Exchange

- noticed a notetaker was active. CAB board is uncomfortable with AI notetaker, and quick vote to not allow moving forward.
- Not mentioned/actively discussed:
 - CAB lead presentation [Enis] on GBCC2025 recap and Bioc/Galaxy connections
 - Discussion Regarding Bioc Communities [Maria] (continuing in next meeting)
> How to help facilitate creation of local/national Bioc communities
 - PkgMaintainer App Demo [Lori]
 - TAB should organize a joint meeting as the last 2 were initiated by CAB
 - Anything the TAB would like addressed at the next CAB meeting?

:58 - :60 Discussion on TAB meeting (length and density)

- Opposition towards longer meetings (e.g., time zones)
- More work in working groups could help (focused discussion between fewer individuals)
> idea of TAB meeting for updates by Core Team + working group summaries
- Moving out presentations could help (e.g., developer forum, Bioc seminar)