

Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

2 July 2026

Present: Henrik Bengtsson, Jacques Serizay, Gabriele Sales, Robert Castelo, Ludwig Geistlinger, Lori Kern, Marcel Ramos, Michael Lawrence, Alexandru Mahmoud, Hugo Gruson, Kasper Hansen, Maria Doyle, Nicolas Cooley, Levi Waldron

Absent: Laurent Gatto, Helena Crowell, Wolfgang Huber, Rafael Irizarry

:00 - :05 June [TAB minutes](#) approved.

:05 - :25 Spotlight talk: Henrik Bengtsson on [BiocParallel](#), which is in

"maintenance mode" (Jiefei and Martin Morgan were invited, but are unavailable)

- [futureverse](#) is a framework for handling many BiocParallel functionalities
- Mike Lawrence: "Annotation" concepts as in Python in relation to `resources()` element
- Henrik proposes either 1) deprecating BiocParallel and asking Bioc maintainers and end-users to migrate to futureverse directly, or 2) making BiocParallel use futureverse
- To keep in mind: the number of packages that depend on BiocParallel keeps growing because we recommend using BiocParallel in the Bioconductor submission guidelines
- **Proposal:** Immediately revise Bioconductor submission guidelines to remove mentions of BiocParallel and update suggestions (e.g., default to serial, do not hard-code parallelization decisions)

:25 - :35 Prepare **elections** for seats opening after August 2026.

- Clarify nomination deadline and voting submission deadline
- Secretary will notify those with expiring terms ([TAB nomination form](#))
- Election process: voting to allow empty seats (current rules produce a full TAB)
 - Draft rules allowing empty seats are in the proposed revisions to the governance doc. We could vote to allow this procedure for the current openings (single transferable vote)
 - Alternate proposal: no self-nomination, nomination by 2 current members + $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote (reappointment without nomination, but requiring vote)
 - Alternate proposal: only self-nomination + voting with single transferable vote
 - CAB alignment to be discussed further

:35 - :38 [os4ls](#) **invitations to apply:** GSVA, ontology, salmon, futureverse, workflows, agentic AI, microbiome, (with scverse:) spatial, anndataR

:38 - :43 **Reproducible environments.**

- Request by Renato Alves (Bioinformatics Community Manager at EMBL), on behalf of the [EESSI](#) community (Brought forward by Hugo/Wolfgang).
- Alex, Hugo, Maria met with the EESSI community earlier this week: [notes](#)
- Summary: projects to create reproducible environments (renv, but also wider cross-language projects such as EESSI) have issues to restore environments with CRAN and Bioconductor packages.
- We identified the issues. Some solutions and proposals to come:
 - Annotation packages versioning
 - Published packages being repackaged
 - Confusion about Bioconductor versioning scheme

:43 - :47 **Conferences & education.**

- [BioC2027](#) Seattle Aug 10-12 (+ extra), EuroBioc2027 Basel, Switzerland (dates TBD)
- ASA stat-AI [program](#) before JSM in Boston. There will be an AI4bioc session (July 31)
- OSCA maintenance and transition to R-universe (ongoing refactoring)
- [scrapper](#) allows more rapid analysis > persistence for cross-references less important
- Legacy educational resources pose an issue; rebook moving away

:47 - :50 **Bioc as a data resource.**

- OSCA and OSTA book concepts, [OME-NGFF example](#)
- Increasing availability of curated data resources via cloudflare?
 - CDN aspect: fast distribution of frequently updated global download points
 - "bioc" distribution (example of *Hubs) vs. non-bioc distribution but bioc affordance (zenodo endpoint for a *Hub resource)
 - Usability impacts of strategies in this space
 - As we move towards R-universe, extensive "data caching" in the build system is not supported, where the BBS had 300+ GB data and software locally cached
 - Since R-universe produces satisfactory check results on 2000+ packages, this change to data cache ability of BBS seems unimportant
- AWS Open Data program:
 - Could "permanently" house our long-term archive
 - Free storage, free egress: individual hub resource logging not acquired
 - Separating AHub and EHub logging is a required step
- Image storage solution via NSF. OSN seems satisfactory

:50 - :55 [Tidyomics meeting summary](#) in Zulip.

:55 - :60 **AI/agent software:** supporting developer credits or finding alternate approaches with an "open platform" such as [ollama](#).

- Case studies via screencast
- GitHub copilot reviewing
- "Watching" changes to package code within a release
Use of deprecation and defuncting protocols
- Levi will query major AI companies for security audit support
- "Deluge" contingencies: automated SPB is just in time