

Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

6 August 2026

Present: Nicholas Cooley, Lori Kern, Kasper D Hansen, Helena Crowell, Gabriele Sales, Vincent Carey, Jacques Serizay, Michael Lawrence, Robert Castelo, Levi Waldron, Marcel Ramos, Hugo Gruson, Ludwig Geistlinger, Hervé Pagès, Alex Mahmoud, Rafael Irizarry, Laurent Gatto, Wolfgang Huber

Absent: Henrik Bengtsson

:03 - :04 July [minutes](#) approved.

:04 - :05 Site and distribution downtime July 25-26

- Hypothesis: bot crawling.
- Machine/storage configuration is inappropriate for this kind of usage.
- Sean Davis has provided a new architecture that will provide much greater resilience and will reduce AWS expenses.
- More details will be provided as data emerges, but the current approach is conservative testing before switching.
- Thanks to Lori for extensive diagnostic work and conversations with AWS engineers.

:05 - :25 **Michael Lawrence** spotlight talk on S7
(see also BioC2027 [keynote](#) on the topic)

:25 - :55 **TAB governance**

- Two membership, two office term expirations
> secretary will send individual notifications
- [Nomination form](#) has been publicized
- Existing governance will be used for the current election
- [Proposal](#) to create an **Events Board** [note also R13 support received, see below]
 - Provide support for repetitious and isolated processes related to conference management and implementation
 - Events calendar needs maintenance (currently maintained by Maria; editor access also provided to contributors leading recurring events, e.g., Nick, Laurah, Stevie)
 - Will be deprecated with better approach
(pilot TeSS instance available at <https://bioconductor.tesshub.org/>;
content is currently being curated and expanded)

- Workshop platform (currently orchestraplatform.org)
 - Chain of contact definition
 - What are the powers of such a board, what should its governance be?
 - No vote held. CAB will consider creating an Events Committee
- [Proposal](#) to use **single transferable vote (STV)** for 2026 TAB elections as a “test run” [current system involves a mean of ranks]
 - No vote, TAB will have the month to study and prepare for vote in September
- Proposal for alternate membership paths
 - Concept is to have TAB membership nominated by current members
 - "Purely invitational" (precedent of R core, other open source projects)
 - Individuals can petition TAB members for board nomination
 - Self-nomination is a filtering process, while invitation processes could obscure genuine commitment > can lead to opportunities for expansion and increased access to talent that is not immediately familiar to current members
 - Can we pick individuals with expertise needed to achieve our goals?
 - No action taken

:55 - :58 **Review of funding**

- NHGRI U24 (PIs: Irizarry and Carey) JIT received
- NCI U24 (PIs: Waldron and Davis) supplement approved
- os4ls date of notification is in October
- Conference support
 - NOGA has been received for R13 from NIH/NLM to support developer-focused events
 - os4ls proposal in Europe has a component for EuroBioc

:58 - :60 **New working groups**

- [Agentic AI WG](#)
- [Package maintenance WG](#)
("rescue process", plus addressing technical debt)

Miscellanea (not discussed/deferred):

- AI meeting in Boston, 31 July 2026; [notes](#)
- Categorization of submissions: an [agentic categorization with links](#)
- Review of July 31 [Agentic AI Workshop for Bioconductor and R](#)
- Annotation renovations (Vince)
 - 1) ontoProc2 – all OBO ontologies
 - 2) RNCBIGene – all NCBI organisms
 - 3) renovate the BioconductorAnnotationPipeline (see [plan](#))

- Package review protocol
 - Description field of submissions should be improved
 - Support agentic preliminary review, BiocCheck can evaluate
- Levi's and Marcel's corner: Security review workflow [here](#)
 - Contributions site can be enhanced with this
 - Work on linkage between contributions and agentic review processing:
GitHub repo, link to BiocContributions issue, ensure synchronized closure,
add a tag on BiocReviews to any new issues
- Could be applied to existing contributions, no changes to BiocContributions
repo apart from adding a task that submits an issue for new contributions
- Agentic software engineering progress
 - Bioconductor/AI-agent-skills : [ghpages](#)
 - Reusable Github Actions ([this site](#) could replace [biocthis](#); additional [detail](#))