

Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

7 January 2021

Attending: Vince Carey, Levi Waldron, Charlotte Sonesson, Laurent Gatto, Shila Ghazanfar, Michael Love, Hector Corrada Bravo, Robert Gentleman, Rafael Irizarry, Aedin Culhane, Stephanie Hicks, Aaron Lun, Kasper Hansen
Regrets: Martin Morgan, Wolfgang Huber

:02 - :03 - [2020-12-03](#) minutes approved

:03 - :05 - Greatest hits:

- EuroBioC2020 was very successful. Links to slidesets/posters at https://eurobioc2020.bioconductor.org/conference_schedule. Videos will be uploaded to the Bioconductor YouTube channel and links added to <http://bioconductor.org/help/course-materials/>.
- Several new [BiocChallenges](#) were proposed and discussed during EuroBioC (including a new repository with [BiocSpatialChallenges](#))
- DESeq2 receives [CZI-EOSS](#) funding -- congrats Mike Love!
- Mike Love and Stuart Lee are working on a generic package for null ranges (see dedicated slack channel and <https://github.com/nullranges/nullranges>)

:04 - :10 - The Code of Conduct committee has produced revisions to the project Code of Conduct and a new Incident response guide, which were discussed. Any further comments from the board should be addressed in writing to the executive committee, who will relay the input to the Code of Conduct committee.

:10 - :15 - CAB digest

- Proposed quarterly joint TAB/CAB meeting
 - Provides opportunity to approve organization-wide items, Mission Statement and new Governance documents.
 - Alternate calls between the TAB and CAB times. Meetings can be recorded for those unable to attend.
 - Proposed schedule:
 - Feb (TAB hosts, first Thursday 12pm EST)
 - May (CAB hosts, second Thursday 6:30am EST)
 - Aug (at BioC2021)
 - Nov (TAB host or TBC)
- Events
 - BioC Asia 2020 to push presentations to the Bioconductor YouTube channel (Kozo)
 - Updates on EuroBioC2020, BioC2021, BioPackathon, H3ABioNet/H3Africa

- rstudio::global, a virtual conference, on January 21. Organisers have been in contact to ask if Bioconductor is interested in being a 'community partner for this event'.
- Create document that outlines minimum requirements of a 'Bioconductor' event (Use of Bioconductor code of conduct, outline the approval process for events)
- Committees: New Committee on Publishing (F1000)
 - Responsibility for F1000Research Bioconductor gateway (presented by guest Sean Davis) to be assumed by CAB
 - New person handling the gateway is Demitra Ellina.
 - Publishing. New banner for the gateway? (Johannes) <https://github.com/Bioconductor/BiocStickers/issues/146>
 - Discussion about the best model for publishing Bioc posters, slides, vignettes and papers. Investigate F1000 and alternatives (lead: Susan)
- Established committees and working groups
 - CoC working group (Saskia, Leo, Yagoub, Aedin, Matt, Levi, Stephanie, Laurent, Johannes, Charlotte).
 - Education working group (Laurent, Charlotte, Saskia (CAB contact))
 - Package submission and review working group (Yagoub, Lori, Kayla, Jo)

:15 - :25 - Governance discussion

- Initiated discussion with consulting company that advises non-profit organizations on strategy. Relevant links on governance in open source, and on models for governing projects:
 - <https://sustainers.github.io/governance-readiness/>
 - governance styles <https://communityrule.info/templates/>
<https://www.redhat.com/en/resources/guide-to-open-source-project-governance-models-overview>
- We are early in the process of understanding of the options here. We will be requesting a proposal for consultation from at least two companies offering guidance on strategy for non-profits. Foundation funds will be used for this effort, and it is intended that the process yields new governance documents that clarify objectives, roles, and interactions of the various project committees and boards.
- To help motivate this topic, the TAB Executive Committee sketched some examples of priorities or potential conflicts that should be addressed systematically:
 - changes to API for core functionality (ex: Galaxy uses count of thumbs up for a PR before merging)
 - changes to process of package review and acceptance
 - use of foundation funds
 - GitHub actions on a dedicated "runner" as a vehicle for fuller testing
 - approaches to more frequent build/check for ecosystem
 - taking advantage of containerized build
 - careful/validated annotation of system requirements per package
- Comments:

- Build system is "suffering a bit under its own weight" and needs to be revised. First step is to draw up the requirements/a wishlist
- Prioritization of core team efforts
- In many cases, knowledge about a specific organizational effort is largely with a single person. How to engage larger groups, to make things more stable and increase engagement; would like to move towards more distribution
- Need more working groups investigating well-defined issues and reporting back to the TAB with specific questions
- 3 distinct types of tasks/challenges: technical challenges (e.g. build system), general governance, management of core team

:25 - :30 (see also above) Proposition of a quarterly joint CAB/TAB meeting - input on an agenda

:30 - :50 - Planning 2021 for TAB

- Establish a collection of working groups that provide reports and infrastructure enhancements in areas like
 - package review - *CAB working group (Yagoub, Lori, Kayla, Johannes)*. Suggestion: move package submission deadline earlier to have more time for review before a release. Would likely be possible to offload review effort by being able to ask for input from specific individuals.
 - containerized build/check - build system. <https://vcitn.github.io/BiocBuildTools/> (idea: go away from the current system to an app where you get all information about a given package in one place), kubernetes (Nitesh). First step: come up with a wishlist for what is desired from the build system.
 - reliability and test coverage (would <https://github.com/fasrc/helmod> be helpful to test how they manage builds?)
 - matrix/array processing and performance - *Kasper, Stephanie, Robert, Vince*. Produce a "Best practices" document?
 - spatial and multiomic data structures - a working group is making progress on a more stable spatial data structure (<https://github.com/drighelli/SpatialExperiment/>). Now works for both spot-level (e.g. Visium) and molecule-level (seqFISH) spatial data.
 - Bioc *Hub resources -- [HubPub](#) (introductory package to simplify interaction with the hubs) - *Kayla, Mike, Vince, Levi, Hector, Kasper, Aaron, Laurent*
 - ExperimentHub as a central concern. Common vs distinct infrastructure
 - AnnotationHub
 - upgrading/deprecating old annotation
 - Support for new annotation (4D <https://data.4dnucleome.org/>, epigenome. HubMap and emerging single cell atlas spatial reference maps).
 - There is a call for funding (R03..\$200K for 1 year) for pilot project which enhance utility of common fund data

(<https://commonfund.nih.gov/datause/foa>,
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-21-007.html>).
It might provide support for provide access to common fund data
resources in Bioconductor

:50 - :60 - Open discussion