

Bioconductor Community Advisory Board (CAB) Agenda

Aug 13, 2026

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, Stevie, Johannes, Eliana, Kevin, Izabela, Fabricio, Martha

Regrets: Maria (BioC2026), Tuomas

Guests:

[Sign Up for CAB lead discussion](#)

We need people to volunteer for Oct (same time zone), (switching time zones)

Nov Dec

:00 - :3 Welcome + Review minutes from previous meeting for posting

[July meeting](#)

:3–5 Managing Ongoing Tasks

<https://github.com/orgs/Bioconductor/projects/15>

:5-35: Key Discussion: (Fabricio) The Bioconductor ecosystem in evolutionary biology

[\[Slides\]](#)

Bioc historically associated with rectangular omics data

Self-identification not as bioinformatician and submit packages to CRAN over Bioc

Bioc had BiocViews but CRAN TaskViews with better description seem useful

Bioc has infrastructure but the community is still not utilizing or submitting

Can we update and modernize the older infrastructure?

General comment: Bioc is very medical / med-centric

TODO:

- More biocViews (but what?)

- More training materials

- Outreach on the good models and structures Bioc already has

- More annotation resources outside human data

- biomart on CRAN (better than biomart): the package does not rely on the Ensembl Biomart API, but provides functionality to download gff or genome sequences.

- Events (hackathons and webinars)

- Website search is bad!

- There is CZI grant that aims at improving the search.

Suggested: Call for packages

Incentives?

Faster Reviews (Fabricio volunteer to review)

Blog highlight summary (maybe if submitted by certain date)

Help on development/conversion to Bioc standard?

Suggestion: How-to , make a few small how to videos to advertise on youtube maybe on specialized playlist

Q&A:

- Q: Where is the bottleneck for inclusivity / attractivity / onboarding ? Are there [biocViews](#) that capture evolutionary biology? From a quick search: Phylogenetics, yes, but nothing that starts with 'population' or 'trait'
 - Answered in slides: [Phylogenetic](#) (16), [ComparativeGenomics](#) (13)
 - What other biocViews would be useful? We can add more easily?
- Q: If not in Bioconductor, where do current methods exist? Python? Galaxy? nf-core? ...? Is there potential for those acting as a springboard to revive Bioconductor development through collaboration?
 - A: Individual packages (CLI) available in Python but not any sort of *verse coordination between them. Mostly individual efforts.
- Q: On the 'Call for packages' point: Perhaps even lower the bar and call for ideas of packages, so that people unable to write the package themselves can connect with developers
- Q: Should be formally recognise this effort and Fabricio's leading role as a working group? It's really up to him whether he would like to create and lead a working group, if he finds it useful.

35:- :40 CAB Elections

nomination form is up

Those that need re-election: Aedin, Johannes, Kozo, Umar, Stevie, Enis, Mengbo

Close in Aug. Voting Sept. New members Oct.

See form: <https://forms.gle/SUxUR1Szbr4HzS9j8>

Executive Board:

We will open a form to nominate for an executive board (co-chair, secretary)

All three of us would love to pass the torch!

Please, please, consider stepping up <https://forms.gle/GxCDTzoaHzdsHCMY6>

Responsibility:

All meet briefly the week before meeting to discuss potential agenda

Chairs -

Contact potential guest speakers

Contact members about attendance or signing up for highlight spot during meeting

Confirm guest and highlight speaker

Keeping meetings on time and prompting discussion points

Secretary

Create draft agenda

Clean up meeting minutes

Post minutes on website

Handle elections

:40-:45 BioC NA

- We got a sponsor.
- Registration low but okay
- Rafa got a R13 to support a developer focus conference meeting for next year
- Main conference completed. Hackathon and carpentries post conference

:45-:00 Open Discussion

Event Board Proposal (Lori/Levi) -

(Add description of proposal)

Proposed that initial board members would be elected through nomination process handled by CAB

OR should it just remain a Working Group under the CAB?

Either Way: We need **NEW** volunteers to be on this

Obvious starting point would be the current three conference committees

General comments:

Board seems too overhead. Committee more appropriate

Needs more details and protocol sketched out

Biggest concern is not adding overhead or long process of approval

Consultancy (Laurent)

Exists in scverse

Should there be a centralized/systematic place to advertise?

Source of funding / income for people

Place for companies/industry to ask for help/training

Student-ECR Council Mentorship Programme (Maria, Laurent, Stevie)

The new Student-ECR Council is recruiting mentors and mentees for its upcoming mentorship programme. If any CAB members would be willing to act as mentors, it would be greatly appreciated.

[EOI form](#)

[Background/Zulip post:](#)

Move below to next meet as ran out of time for discussion

F1000/Workflow discussion (Stevie)

R-journal collaboration
Computo (but not citation tracker)

Sustainability / Green-computing

Any follow up from the last meeting?

Git to github transition / builders to R-universe transition

SPB already transitioned
Github is close to ready. We were shooting for Sept 1 switch over but need to have pre-hooks straightened out and documentation
Runiverse also close to ready

Website downtime and potential migration

Significant downtime July 25-28
Lori spent weekend debugging and meeting with AWS people
Sean Davis - exploring alternative hosting and building

Funding:

U24 - Perfect score. JIT request so moving forward and should be funded
R13 - Rafa got funding to support developer focused meeting

:55-:00 Any Other Business

- **Bioconductor Developer Survey** now live: <https://forms.gle/x1FvxKrg5xUGV8Wr9>. Please complete and share. Open until end of September.

- **Bioconductor TeSS portal:** We've set up a Bioconductor TeSS instance (<https://bioconductor.tesshub.org/>). I'll be working on adding Bioconductor training materials and events over the coming months, so feedback and suggestions are welcome. Jenny (Training Committee co-chair) suggested making TeSS a focus area for the committee next year, which I'd be supportive of.

Other topics?

Anything you want to discuss at the next meeting?