

# Bioconductor Community Advisory Board (CAB) Agenda

**May 8, 2025**

**1 pm GMT Apr – Oct '25**

**10 pm GMT Nov '25 – Mar '26**

Members: Aedin, Enis, Hédia, Janani, Jasmine, Jiefei, Johannes, Kevin, Kozo, Leo, Lluís, Lori, Maria, Mengbo, Nicole, Oluwatobilola (Tobi), Stevie, Umar, Xueyi, Zahraahu

Attending: Kozo, Maria, Lori, Johannes, Lluís, Enis, Stevie, Zahraa, Janani, Hedia, Tobi

Regrets: Kevin

Guests:

Schedule

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

[Joint CAB/TAB minutes](#)

**:3 - :8 Action items from last meeting**

[ ] not started, [-] ongoing, [?] status unknown/feedback required, [C] canceled, [X] done.

- [?] **Nicole:** reach out on Slack to see if there are interested people to join the industry working group. Otherwise, update the status of the working group.
- [-] **Lori/Maria:** Start/Advertise an “Event” working group that can be workshops, capentries, conferences, etc.... (Ellis, Hedia, Kozo)
  - Renewal of the event application form [GitHub Issue forms -> Google Forms] and the new automation of the approval workflow (the Google App Script implementation was not completed this month, so I would like to report on it next month [Kozo]).
  - The French version of bioc-intro is coming along nicely.  
<https://bioconductor-translations.github.io/bioc-intro-fr/> However, I haven't been able to keep track of when and where this website will be used. Please ask Laurent which event this French version of the material will be used for [Kozo].
  - With support from JSBi[Japanese Society for Bioinformatics], I will hold a Japanese-language Bioconductor workshop at Osaka University in August.  
(<https://www.jsbi.org/activity/koubo/detail--id-898.html>) However, the date has not been finalized yet, and the Japanese bioc-\* website for the materials is still under construction. I'd like to report on this next month [Kozo].
- [-] **Lluís:** Bioconductor attendance at annual useR!
  - Maintain relationship w/ CRAN developers and other R groups

- Submit more abstracts | advertise on Bioconductor
- Funding for folks to attend? Have a funding request/approval program.
- Bring this up at the next April CAB/TAB joint meeting.
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#### **:09 - :30 CAB/TAB exchange:**

TAB -> CAB:

It was brought up about limited posting on twitter. In the past the official Bioconductor twitter account posted only new packages, conference announcements, release announcements, and nomination announcements.

- Concern that colleagues not on Bluesky can also be informed. My experience posting on both twitter and bluesy is that twitter has a wider and more diverse reach.
- Concern over bullying: it is creeping into Bluesky now too and individuals on the call have experienced it so it is not limited to Twitter. Some think it should influence our decision on where to post.
- The reasons not to post seem like a political statement. I (referring to the person suggesting it) prefer to stay out of politics. Posting software updates on Twitter helps our project and our users
- Alternative POV: My 2 cents would be that the problem with X is not just anecdotal bullying by one person, but a pattern of the platform amplifying some voices (racists, neofascists, etc) while silencing other views (feminists, anti-racist organizers, etc...), which has led to an exodus of the latter from the platform, and thus created the impression that anyone who remains is supportive, or at the very least complicit by indifference, of those taking over the platform. That being said, I do agree it's a largely US-centric shift, as most of the world doesn't change their apps based on what US oligarch owns it... Every platform will always have all kinds of people, by the nature of how social media works, but I would not dismiss concerns about X as just anecdotal. One potential way to possibly accomplish both, i.e. both reach the international people that are still only on X, while not compromising project values: what if we have a bot that reposts Bluesky to X automatically. I.e. no engagement, just posting, so that we continue to protect the community from dealing with the toxicity, and encourage folks to join BlueSky or other platforms to truly engage with Bioconductor, but we still have a bot that autoposts passively
- Maria will check on twitter settings to still be able to tag inactive Bioconductor

CAB -> TAB:

Twitter response and discussion

- **Standing firm on keeping twitter inactive**
- **You can still tag Bioconductor on twitter**

#### **:31 - :43 Industry / Bioc [Stevie]**

Paid support service for Bioconductor for Industry?

- Paid industry workshops
  - Who? Core, Carpentries, experts? How does funding work?
  - How will funding be disbursed? Need some help.
- Bioconductor/Carpentries instructors
  - can we leverage their interest and experience?
- Stronger connection with Physalia proposed in joint meeting
- Listing of instructors
  - by region/time zone/topics of interest/language
- How about 'consultancy'? How would we go about this?
- Core team won't have the bandwidth potentially after a few big infrastructure updates they will
- Paid Membership to Bioconductor but what benefits?
  - Voting but what other perks?

**\*\* Can we actually do this because of US restrictions or legal identity?**

Is this taken care of for NumFocus?

**:44 - :50 Community Building (in Asia and larger) [Stevie]**

Social Media is dwindling

How can we engage our community and support our community

Ellis Patrick

- Good discussion for a newly formed "events" working group

**:50 - :52 Slack Paid Going Away [Lori]**

Reminder paid Slack going away

Core will try to extract history before shutting out. LW posted an archive recently (yet to try) | <https://waldronlab.io/community-bioc-archive/>

**:52 - :52 Website Search Update [Maria]**

Where do we stand with this grant?

Dependent on Developer Manage. See below

**:53 - :53 Developer Manager? [Maria]**

Where do we stand with this grant?

Aimed at bringing back a lead for developer forum/mentor program/etc

**:53 - :55 Training [Maria]**

- "Official" Bioconductor certificates of attendance / mentorship for courses, workshop, conferences, other events etc. are valued (and necessary) in many countries. I got a request that CAB could see whether this can be systematized.
- Private github repo to centralize

#### **:55 - :59 Developer Meetings [Lluís]**

One developer is interested in bridging the R and Rust community to gather feedback and improve the situation for using Rust in R (and Bioconductor). He could start the developers meetings and see if someone else volunteer for a different topic.

- Funding requested for someone who can support exactly this kind of engagement [Maria].

**Moving forward, we would like CAB members to take turns leading a discussion of interest or a working group update from a working group they are involved in. The chairs will reach out with a schedule/rotation.**

- J/S/L will post a preliminary schedule on Slack & pin the post so it doesn't disappear right away!