

Bioconductor Community Advisory Board (CAB) Agenda

June 12, 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, Zahraa

Attending: Lori, Stevie, Kozo, Kevin, Zahraa, Johannes, Janani, Maria, Aedin, Xueyi, Leo

Regrets:

Guests:

Schedule

:00 - :6 Welcome + Review minutes from previous meeting for posting

[May minutes](#)

Sign up for discussion

Each CAB member will lead a discussion in upcoming meetings. Sign up in spreadsheet for preferred month; else chairs will assign members.

:7--:25 Spatial Transcriptomics Working Group Update [Helena]

Guest presentation.

Postponed to Aug meeting. Helena can't do July.

:25--:40 [CAB member lead discussion][Lori]

Hub Resources:

- Core cannot continue to provide storage and egress for community resources. What are other storage sites that we would recommend and trust?
 - Zenodo (current recommendation)
 - Institutional level server
 - Vince suggested: data dryad or harvard dataverse
- The Hubs interface will still handle download/caching

CAB discussion:

- EU public cloud
<https://clouds.geant.org/ocre-2024-catalogue/?singleproduct=6971>
They are now under sparkle?

- Nextcloud cloud?
 - Elixir EBI/Ensembl could maybe host AnnotationHub data?
 - Elixir Data Platform <https://elixir-europe.org/platforms/data> - could ask for advice
 - Can we get an overview of the storage currently used?
 - Policy needed to clean/clear old AnnotationHub data - maybe delete the data that was never used for a certain amount of time.
 - Maybe the EnsDb SQLite databases could be hosted by Ensembl/EBI? It's in essence stripped down and reformatted data from the Ensembl Genome databases.
- There is a concern with hosting old outdated versions of resources and resources that are now severely out of date. Do we continue to host in perpetuity

TODOs: Lori's take aways is to establish policies for retention for review by TAB/CAB and investigate other options mentioned

Downtime for Resource:

- With having to move resources to locations that are out of our control we may have limitations with downtime. We currently switch to backups for some pieces but what is acceptable downtime to end users where an announcement of "temporarily unavailable" vs taking the time to switch to backups
- Currently archives are OSN and moving Hubs to OSN since we are losing our account with Microsoft Azure. Are there any concerns here with OSN as some members of TAB did not have good experiences?
- Availability of Bioconductor resources shown at:
<https://dev.status.bioconductor.org/>
- Possible other options might be to use cloudflare R2?
- Can we establish more public mirrors in different places?
 - https://bioconductor.org/dashboard/#mirror_status

TODOs: Lori's takeaways is to investigate cloudflare R2 and if Bioconductor can leverage it. Not sure how to establish more mirrors as that has to be taken on by regions and institutions of interest and a commitment to maintain.

:40-:45 Maintenance and Orphaned packages:

Questions:

- How do we help developers to keep up with Writing R Extensions ([WRE](#)) and (Bioconductor's) current best practices?
- How do we help the Bioconductor core team and R core team to identify those packages and patch them? Should we patch them?

TODO's: Lori and core team create a page for packages that need or would like a new maintainer.

:45--:55 Other/Core:

A package would like back into Bioconductor that was failing for over a year with no response and was deprecated and removed. We do say that packages failing for that long will need to undergo a review to be let back into Bioconductor, but the concern is they did not follow Bioconductor policy for active maintenance nor responding to core outreach and explicitly went against what the core team told them to do. They ignored all the auto notifications, 3 individual emails sent, and then started a correspondence asking about un-deprecation where they went against what was told to them. When core followed up, did not respond again when asked for a response to verify.

Should we deny and ask to submit to CRAN or be nice and let them resubmit to the submission queue for re-review (if we go this route at least give them the warning that if it happens again it will not be reaccepted).

We have always had on the website under package guidelines that maintainer must be active and that inactive maintainers are grounds for deprecation – I think we need to come up with a more descriptive policy of what an active maintainers role is: is it only fixing a package in a timely manner, is it responding to the core team when pinged, is it answering questions on the support sites/ mailing lists/zulip/slack/etc, ... and what is considered unresponsive that we can act on – what qualifies and what are consequences?

Any incoming package now must check off on the checklist

(https://github.com/Bioconductor/Contributions/issues/new?template=issue_template.md)

that it is their responsibility to maintain an active email and that they check it is able to receive emails from the auto notification email. And that they should be responding to questions/answers/inquiries in all the above places. Also described here

<https://contributions.bioconductor.org/bioconductor-package-submissions.html#author>

And here

End of Life Policy:

<https://contributions.bioconductor.org/package-end-of-life-policy.html>

But these might not have been as explicit when the package was initially submitted

TODOs: Lori's takeaways:

- annual short revalidation system for maintainers
- Additional notifications via GitHub or via bioc submission portal

- Update policy | per package or user? User: 3 strikes & out? Package: 2? Failure time cap

Next CAB member lead discussion [Kozo] (about Event / Multilingual working group) - Discussion will be at July meeting

- New event management automation system (Google Forms + Google Apps Script + GitHub Actions)
 - <https://github.com/kozo2/bioc-event-workflow>
 - We plan to test the new event management system with Lluís's R+Rust event.
 - <https://github.com/BioconductorBoards/CABWorkingGroups/issues/65>
- Two day [Aug 5~6] Japanese Bioconductor Carpentries workshop has been confirmed to be held at Osaka University RIMD (Research Institute for Microbial Diseases <https://www.biken.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/>).
 - We also plan to add this event using the new event management system mentioned above.
 - <https://github.com/bioconductor-translations/bioc-intro-ja>
 - <https://bioconductor-translations.github.io/bioc-intro-ja/>
- Regarding the above, Kozo will lead next cab-monthly-session "New event management workflow and Carpentries-style teaching material translation management with Crowdin"
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nxYFGNvEr1OsB6bwicp3ExPgJMoenZmyVIJ211_AMew/edit?gid=510372423#gid=510372423

:55-:56 CAB/TAB exchange:

TAB -> CAB:

Similar discussion of downtime for resources that was presented

There is some concern with the reliability of OSN

Overview of progress of r-universe for replacement BBS/SPB

CAB -> TAB:

:57-:58 Election:

- [Elections form](#) will be available starting with the conference
- Elections will close in August 31. Discussion during Sept. First meeting Oct
- CAB members that need to rerun this year:
 - Lori Shepherd
 - Hedia Tnani
 - Xueyi Dong
 - Leo Lahti

- Nicole Ortogero
- Janani Ravi

:59-:00 Slack -> Zulip:

Zulip is live

- Transferred from Slack.
 - Accounts are there with same email but you will need to do a forget your password to reset
- Slack is now slack free. No extended history. We will eventually stop completely.
 - How should we handle transition?
 - start adding a message to move conversations to Zulip and at that time archive channels to prevent continued use.
 - Decision: See how things are at end of June (if still getting DMs) and extend into July if needed

AOB

Developer engagement job advertised, **closes July 4, noon Ireland time**

- Please circulate
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:733784303438395392>
- Direct link to apply:
<https://universityvacancies.com/university-limerick/senior-research-fellow-bioinformatics-and-open-source-development-bioconductor>