Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

3 October 2019

Attending: Martin Morgan, Laurent Gatto, Charlotte Soneson, Michael Lawrence, Levi Waldron, Stephanie Hicks, Rafa, Matt Ritchie, Vincent Carey, Kasper D. Hansen, Aedin Culhane, Wolfgang Huber, Sean Davis
Regrets:

Schedule

:00 - :05 Minutes and action items from previous meetings
- Vote to approve [minutes](#).

:05 - :20 Material for review
- Funding
    - [U41](#): Vince, Rafa, Martin. Meeting with Program Officer
    - [U24](#): Awarded 9/1/2019 - 8/31/2024. Levi, Martin, Vince, Davide Risso
    - [AnVIL](#): https://anvilproject.org cloud computing
    - [CZI seed network](#): monthly telecons scheduled
    - Opportunities?
        - Stephanie's CZI funding proposal (on [slack](#))
- Events
    - [BiocAsia](#): Sydney Dec 5-6.
    - [BiocEurope](#): Brussels Dec 9-10.
        - Value of continuity across years -- Bioc Foundation-like entity in Europe?
        - Piggy-back on R Foundation?
        - TODO: Laurent / Wolfgang investigate; Report back at next meeting
    - Bioc2020: Boston July 29-31 (Tentative).
    - Meetups, etc
- Committees
    - Code of Conduct Committee (Levi, with Stephanie): no updates
    - Conference (Levi): 14 new volunteers answered the call for BioC2020 organizers, first meeting will be next week
    - Emerging Topics (Vince) -- spatial transcriptomics and CITE-seq activities on slack
- Working groups
    - Developer forum: second session (Lori Shepherd discussing serialization strategies; Hervé Pages talking about DataFrame / DFrame [an interesting discussion both about serialization, S4 classes, and design principles]). [YouTube](#); Bioc [courses](#) link. 18 people listened for 1088 minutes.
- Other:

- [BioC community survey questions](). Any final feedback before launch or specific questions that would be useful to provide data for the CZI community orientated funding proposal mentioned above?
    - Ideas: 1) "Do you know where to turn to get help with questions related to Bioconductor package use?" [given the many communication channels currently in use] 2) "Do you have suggestions of types of activities that Bioconductor could organize, which could benefit the user or developer community?"
    - Suggestion: add "Bioconductor training material" to the list of specific aspects to score
    - Suggestion: Is it more relevant to ask in which country people work than where they live?
    - Suggestion: In the "Experience with annotation resources", add a couple of examples to indicate the scope of what is referred to (annotation pkg, biomaRt, AnnotationHub, ...)?
- Next release at end of October. R-devel is now '4.0'.
- Laurent has internal funds for a PhD (4 years) or post-doc (3 years) position to develop [Bioconductor infrastructure for the integration of genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics data]().
- Other personnel needs around the project. Discussion of coordinating efforts to improve reach for recruiting Bioconductor-focused jobs. Existing: Jobs channel in slack workspace. Jobs entry on support site. Other possibilities: Careers section at the annual conference. Interface with other projects, e.g., Galaxy.
    - No specific action items
- Proposal from Stephanie Hicks: Offer "seed funding" or "seed awards" (e.g. $500-$1000) to fund small projects for students / postdocs. Idea is to engage and support the bioc student / postdoc community to work on things that would be helpful for the bioc community at large. Would also be useful to get feedback from the community on the types of projects that students / postdocs feel like could use some more work towards. Could be to write a F1000 paper for a type of workflow? Could be funding to support meetups? If they are funded, maybe these trainees are given an opportunity to present at one of the bioc conferences on how the seed funding was used?
    - Agreement this is a good idea and that the Bioconductor Foundation can fund it. Discussion to continue.
- Proposal from Charlotte Soneson: Somewhat related to the previous proposal - might it be helpful to organize something similar to the Tidyverse developer day ([https://www.tidyverse.org/articles/2018/11/tidyverse-developer-day-2019/]()), perhaps in association with one of the conferences, with the aim of engaging new Bioc developers? Their topics included primers, translations and "repo hygiene" (which I guess could also extend to things like adding unit tests and similar where needed).

- Will discuss this as part of the refactoring of "developer day." Could be a stand-alone event if there is enough organizing energy, but that would be more work.

:35 - :45 Continuous integration -- opportunities for build system improvement
- Build system moving to Boston
- Opportunity to introduce improvements
- General need in R system for building a robust **cohort** of packages. Talking with R Consortium infrastructure. CI/Cx.
- Other communities / groups with similar needs, e.g., ROpenSci / GRAN (Genentech), RStudio's package manager may be moving in this direction.
- RHub -- single package building
- Faster turn-around. Build-on-demand, especially on Windows.
- Value to end user, too.
- Conceptual framework: rate of synchronization, need for coalescence at specific times, synchronization with R, multiplatform, containers, connection to specific source code control technology, CRAN, system dependencies
- TODO: Working Group: Vince, Kasper, Sean, Michael, Aaron, Mike Smith, Hervé

:45 - :50 TAB [members and terms](#)

- Move to standardize term endings to -08-01 (-MM-DD): approved
- Concern over much of the board having terms ending at the same time, too much potential for turnover all at once. Can address this over time by opening for nominations every year.
- Term limits

:50 - :59 Community Advisory Board

- Intended as a peer organization to TAB, with complementary objectives and some overlap in membership
    - Career development
    - Outside representation, e.g. rOpenSci, R-Forwards, Carpentries, RStudio(?)
- Move to approve initial governance document: approved
- Tabled for lack of time:
    - Suggestions for CAB executive
    - Suggestions for TAB representative on CAB
    - Move to solicit nominations from the public