

# Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

5 September 2024

**Present:** Laurent Gatto, Davide Risso, Charlotte Sonesson, Marcel Ramos, Alexandru Mahmoud, Vince Carey, Helena Crowell, Henrik Bengtsson, Levi Waldron, Ludwig Geistlinger, Kasper Hansen, Lori Kern, Jennifer Wokaty, Rafael Irizarry

**Apologies:** Wolfgang Huber, Sean Davis, Michael Love, Stephanie Hicks

:03 - :04 Previous [minutes](#) approved.

:04 - :19 Discussion: Are we losing user and developer share to other projects?

- Do our documentation and outreach processes meet and exceed the standard for open source projects?
- Is our web site adaptable to new developments in the project and in scientific communication methods?
- Comments:
  - Seurat exists outside of Bioconductor, leverages developments from Bioc packages. Is credit appropriately given to original developers?
  - An important part of Bioconductor's success is to get many different developers to work together, with the same input/output format, interoperability. Don't want to be overly pragmatic, want solutions that move the field forward. Don't want things to be completely 'free-format', but also don't be too strict, may lose good ideas/innovation - tradeoff.
  - How should we help developers (and users) understand the benefits of prioritizing SummarizedExperiment derivatives?
  - Is there a rowRanges concept for Seurat objects?
  - Note tidyseurat package.
  - Additionally the quality of interconversion needs to be looked at carefully.
  - Aim for increased dialog with the Seurat team.
  - Bioconductor has some leverage - can require Bioc packages to use SCE.
  - <https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/SpatialDatasets/> may be a good entry point to language-agnostic data representation.

:20 - :23 Cloud working group update

- Debrief from BioC2024 session.
- Best practices in the cloud. Cost is a big potential issue that may prevent people from trying to use the cloud.

:23 - :35 Discussion of NHGRI grant renewal process.

- We should plan to submit the renewal in Feb 2025, grant ends Feb 28 2026. Inquiry has been made with the project officer for advice on timing and level of funding.
- What are the core infrastructure packages? How thoroughly should they be tested/what should we require?

- Would it be useful to synchronize useR and BioC conferences? Happened in 2016 (Stanford). useR is much bigger than BioC (~600 useR 2024, ~120 in-person/240 virtual BioC2024, ~110 EuroBioC2024). More thematic conferences?
- [ASA genetics and genomics meeting](#).

:35 - :40 TAB themes for 2024-2025. Proposal: each TAB meeting should have a moderator from the TAB and a theme to be presented by a TAB member or an invited guest.

- Would be good to have more time to discuss topics in depth.
- Alex (GitHub infrastructure).
- Henrik (CRAN/Bioconductor) - in spring 2025.
- 90 min meetings?
- In-person gatherings every few months.

:40 - :60 Review of nominees/procedures for TAB openings. There are a large number of nominees this year. Proposal: individuals who are nominated but not elected can opt to give a presentation as a guest at a future meeting. Individuals currently on TAB with terms ending will have to leave the call.