

# Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

2 April 2026

**Present:** Laurent Gatto, Nicholas Cooley, Vincent Carey, Helena Crowell, Andres Wokaty, Henrik Bengtsson, Lori Kern, Robert Castelo, Jacques Serizay, Hugo Gruson, Alexandru Mahmoud, Wolfgang Huber, Marcel Ramos, Hervé Pagès, Levi Waldron, Rafael Irizarry, Ludwig Geistlinger, Kasper Hansen

**Absent:** Gabriele Sales, Michael Lawrence

:00 - :04 March [minutes](#) approved.

:05 - :07 **Joint TAB/CAB.**

- Will take place May 7 at 8AM ET.
- Spotlight schedule will be shifted back.
- Governance will be a topic; more topics TBD by TAB and CAB.

:08 - :10 Polling developers for information about **coding habits (coding agents)**.

- Is anyone interested in designing a survey with R. Gentleman on this topic?
- Last (only?) previous poll held re: Bioconductor website overhaul.
- How should polls be designed and disseminated?
  - > Need to know what we hope to learn from/do with results.
  - > Zulip seems inadequate.
- TAB members: works well for heavily templated work, unit testing, overall increased efficiency, porting code from R to C++, etc.; copy write/licensing is of concern.

:11 - :28 **Laurent Gatto** on “Archiving and preserving Bioconductor”

- [Software Heritage](#) is a non-profit organization, formed in 2016, supported by UNESCO.
- SH is already archiving CRAN, Bioconductor, et al. through regular crawling (see current archive [here](#)).
- Each artifact (package version) has a unique identifier.
- Current archive is incomplete (e.g., missing books)
  - > Will investigate how to rectify.

:29 - :31 **R v4.6.0** changes mostly under control;

S4Vectors fixes are still in progress.

:32 - :40 r-universe and [SPB updates](#).

- <https://github.com/Bioconductor/BiocContributions>
- Goal: alleviate manual tasks as much as possible.

:41 - :50 Automated **AI-assisted package review** [[slides](#)]

- <https://github.com/LiNk-NY/BiocReviews> (case study: [jvector](#))
- Intent is to make the human review easier.
- Engineering element is likely to do better than humans.
- File an issue [here](#), get a review, and please give CUNY group feedback.

:51 -: 60 **Security review** work by Levi's group.

- Motivation: supply chain attack with [LiteLLM exfiltration](#).
- Ran on R packages on bioc.org, sorted by severity; exemplary S4Vectors report + TAB member software reports shared privately.
- Can it work well with an open-source LLM?