

Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

6 August 2020

Attending: Charlotte Soneson, Martin Morgan, Michael Love, Vincent Carey, Shila Ghazanfar, Rafael Irizarry, Wolfgang Huber, Aaron Lun, Laurent Gatto, Stephanie Hicks, Aedin Culhane, Hector Corrada Bravo, Robert Gentleman

Regrets: Levi Waldron, Kasper Hansen

Schedule

:00 - :03 Minutes

- [2020-07-02](#) minutes approved

:03- :10 Transitional concerns

- Transition of NHGRI funding from Roswell to DFCI (and 3 subcontracts at Roswell, FHCRC, and BWH)
- Transition of build system physical and logical components (Nikos George (DFCI), and Vince (BWH), Herve (FHCRC) and Lori (Roswell) are connecting on a new Linux builder)
 - rethink build process - connect with RStudio?
- Flat funding for five years (assuming proposal accepted), so for project to grow we must
 - add efficiencies
 - seek additional durable sources of funds
- Stable components:
 - Morgan group, limited scope/personnel when funding ends after 2/2021
 - FHCRC with Herve
 - BWH with Vince who is proposing to be on project at 40% FTE

:10 - :20 Quick status reminders of work to be unpacked in upcoming meetings

- [Carpentries training](#) -- mostly CAB concern, get Carpentries-trained folks activated, honorarium support, platform support -- topic to be addressed in CAB liaison in future
 - first meeting last month, open discussion, including people from the Carpentries
 - training material to be developed for online teaching for inclusivity - use for in-person teaching as well
 - monthly meetings going forward
- [Code validation initiative](#) -- needs working group with proposal back to TAB, see below
- Build-on-commit for real-time reporting to developers
 - Martin, working group?
 - Changed workflow for new package submission, gets added to bioconductor git repository immediately, each new commit triggers a build.
 - Potential to extend to all packages.

- Jenny's remarks on 3-platform CI/CD on GHA
- Workshop infrastructure: huge kudos to Sean Davis; will need to think about how to increase impact for trainers and students in future deployments (CAB/training) and how to help Sean with infrastructure (working group, see below)

:20 - :25 Report from CAB liaison

- [Slides](#) from Bioc2020
- Code of Conduct working group, private slack channel. Chair: Saskia Freytag
- Diversity Statement (ongoing)
- CZI EOSS (not submitted). Looking at other funding mechanisms (e.g., Genentech, NSF)
- TAB, CAB [stickers](#), copies printed. Will be sent to TAB/CAB members
- Created images with [TAB/CAB](#) members, which we can add to Bioconductor website (if there is support)
- During Bioc2020, supported BoF with colorblindness discussion. Slack channel **#accessible-vis**
- [June minutes](#)

:25 - :30 Report from Conference Committee liaison

- 500 Participants + waiting list (+50). Global. Students & others.
- Survey not yet sent out; soon though... Initial reactions (very :) positive.
- Debriefing already occurred. Consequences for next meeting.
- Recordings available, will be uploaded to YouTube.
- Comments from the board
 - Seemed 'pretty good' (Martin Morgan: really good), people engaged. Timing
 - Five days seems pretty extreme (Martin Morgan: or not -- let's just have all invited talks 9am Monday morning). Consider parallel sessions.
- Mostly in the hands of the CAB going forward

:30 - :60 Discussion of TAB meeting format (see next page)

- Rotating presentations by working groups, scheduled in six month chunks -- can bring in people who are not in TAB to assist but TAB member will report back; assume 25-30 minutes allocated to presentation plus discussion. Possible working group areas
 - [Code validation initiative](#) project -- working group seems feasible
 - important for regulatory processes (relevant in industry)
 - indicating relative reliability of certain pieces of code
 - provide easy reference based on experience
 - in industry - manage control of change
 - relate to renewal specific aim on **reliability of core infrastructure**
 - link to 'recommended workflows' (CAB discussion) - docker images of packages that tend to be used together
 - test coverage

- Build system innovations - Robert
 - Containers -- how images are managed, what is the process for supporting containerized bioconductor
 - seamless transition to the cloud - how can we help operationalize, help users understand how it works, what the cost will be
 - Documentation rot
 - Packages seem to withstand this well enough -- affy hasn't been updated in years, but that's apparent from the package & domain itself... Workflows actually seem more problematic -- there isn't enough turnover to keep these current, so available workflows are necessarily out-of-date.
 - Something that could be done by the community - possibly another on-ramp to more package involvement.
 - documentation - a - thon. Assemble a group at regular intervals, perhaps attached to Bioconductor meetings (BiocAsia/BiocEurope)
 - Project technicalities, establishment of corporate knowledge ... improving password and domain name management, resource funds transfer -- assign a person's name to major functions (at least)
 - Large data management and use - Stephanie, Laurent, Kasper, Aaron, ...
 - interest in forming a working group for developing an online book (generic, useful for different data types)
 - *Hubs and their publicity and evolution -- process of adding resources -- --ENCODE3 - Mike, Hector, Aaron
 - highlight usefulness for teaching, workshops etc
 - Currently the most useful AHub data (as Mike sees it) is primarily UCSC server based, what other resources / repos could be leveraged to expand the AHub?
 - Is it worth providing more sophisticated (but still light-weight) query capability (subset, filter, query by region)
 - Prospects for tighter integration with Rstudio ('skin', 'buttons', binary packages, efficient reverse dependency checks, lifecycle management)
 - dependency control - Robert Castelo ... project level (currently integrated into BiocPkgTools)
 - technical infrastructure for cloud-delivered workshops and "services" as spearheaded by Sean for Bioc2020
 - Other priorities of interest to TAB members?
- Assign leaders to six of these and think about scheduling work and presentations to TAB over the next six months.

Any other Business

- Suggestion to have TAB email address/public or private slack channel similar to CAB (public slack channel already exists)

Appendix

- Funding links: NHGRI [U41](#), NCI [U24](#), NHGRI [AnVIL](#) (Bioconductor-specific [progress](#)), [CZI seed network](#)
- [CAB page](#)
- Events
 - BiocAsia: [2020](#): Virtual meeting, Oct 17-18.
 - [BiocEurope](#): Padova, Italy - Davide Riso as local host. Current planning: virtual meeting 14-18 Dec (with only "a few" hours per day).
 - [Bioc2020](#): Boston July 27-31. Public [slack](#).
 - CSAMA 21-26 June 2020: Postponed to 2021, tentatively 2021-06-27 to 2021-07-02.

Deleted concepts that may need attention in future meetings

Short term concerns

- New pressures on project
 - October release with Roswell infrastructure; emulate activities at DFCI to confirm smoothness of handoff in 2021
- Upcoming events -> transition to CAB only
 - BiocAsia
 - BiocEurope
- Enhance clarity of CAB:TAB relationship, governance documents
- "Using the logo" is clarified, but "Using Bioconductor" in a conference announcement is not clearly governed ... seek expertise in governance
- Thinking of the idea of "memberships" into Bioconductor (Foundation or Consortium administered) that includes prepaid cloud computing time ... and could provide the funds for many enhancements such as professional documentation and streamlined website ...