

scientific communities

**Tuesday 8th November 2016
ELIXIR-UK All Hands meeting**

**Aidan Budd
Senior Community and Business Development Manager
Korcsmaros Group, Earlham Institute, Norwich, UK**

This version of the presentation is edited to remove images that I took personally that I don't want in the public domain – and other images that are not sharable e.g. logos of organisations

working with scientific communities

EMBL Bio-IT portal
frontpage
screenshot

Photo of training in
EMBL ATC computer
training lab with Bio-
IT branded training
material in
foreground

EMBL Heidelberg bioinformaticians

ISMB ECCB 2013

BOSC 2015

BioRN Lounge

talks and (un)conference sessions

ELIXIR

ESOF2016

ESOF 2014

EDUCATION

A Quick Guide for Building a Successful Bioinformatics Community

**Aidan Budd^{1*}, Manuel Corpas^{2*}, Michelle D. Brazas^{3*}, Jonathan C. Fuller^{4*},
Jeremy Goecks⁵, Nicola J. Mulder⁶, Magali Michaut⁷, B. F. Francis Ouellette^{3,8},
Aleksandra Pawlik⁹, Niklas Blomberg¹⁰**

articles

EDITORIAL

Ten Simple Rules for Organizing an Unconference

**Aidan Budd^{1*}, Holger Dinkel¹, Manuel Corpas², Jonathan C. Fuller³, Laura Rubinat^{1,4},
Damien P. Devos⁵, Pierre H. Khoueiry^{6*}, Konrad U. Förstner⁷, Fotis Georgatos⁸,
Francis Rowland⁹, Malvika Sharan¹⁰, Janos X. Binder^{1,11}, Tom Grace¹²,
Karyn Traphagen¹³, Adam Gristwood¹⁴, Natasha T. Wood¹⁵**

Trellis C4Sci
discussion page
screenshot

trellis @ AAAS

what does community look like?

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

show something at the heart of community

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

pleasure in being with people sharing interests and values

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

pleasure in feeling we belong in a group and trust them

Group picture of happy scientists at a
conference/meeting

that's how I want to do my work!

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

probably we're all in pictures like this

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

community building is about making more of this feeling

<http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comid=1259>

<http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comid=1488>

(slide originally shown with comics you find at the above links included - I had permission to use the images in the presentation, but not to share under a CC-BY license)

"Ready, set..." - originally published 12/2/2009 ; "The Daily Routine" - originally published 4/20/2012 Piled Higher and Deeper by Jorge Cham www.phdcomics.com

what is community?



a social container

**i.e. a group of people
who interact
and have something in common**

Linux penguin image

“the Linux user community”

but also

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

**a characteristic of the interaction within
such a group**



Hatter and Hare dunking Dormouse, Sir John Tenniel, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

more specifically...

a shared sense of belonging and trust

Caron, B (2015) Getting a Handle on Community, retrieved 25.10.2015
<http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1439803>

group has a **weak sense of
shared belonging and trust?**

a weak community

group has a **strong sense of
shared belonging and trust?**

a strong community

“community building”

helping make weak communities stronger

features of strong communities?

**members of strong communities
typically have strongly
overlapping...**

Group picture of happy scientists at a
conference/meeting as a banner

**members of strong communities
typically have strongly
overlapping...**

interests

Group picture of happy scientists at a
conference/meeting as a banner

**members of strong communities
typically have strongly
overlapping...**

values

Group picture of happy scientists at a
conference/meeting as a banner

**members of strong communities
typically have strongly
overlapping...**

goals

Group picture of happy scientists at a
conference/meeting as a banner

**members of strong communities
typically**

share a strong collaborative spirit

Copyright © 2012 Jono Bacon. All rights reserved.

Group picture of happy scientists at a
conference/meeting as a banner

why invest in building community?
i.e. what might you get for your investment?

**members of strong communities
typically**

volunteer to work together

**members of strong communities
typically**

interact frequently and effectively

**members of strong communities
typically**

**enjoy working together - making their
work more productive**

**members of strong communities
typically**

engage in knowledge-sharing

**members of strong communities
typically**

**are strong advocates for their
community**

**members of strong communities
typically**

identify and address inefficiencies

**members of strong communities
typically**

volunteer feedback

**members of strong communities
typically**

are innovative

how can we build community?

- 1. facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships, of a sense of belonging**
- 2. give the group the power to make happen what they want to happen**
- 3. trust the community - trust them to want to make good things (for you and them) to happen**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**provide contexts for people to meet (in person
and/or virtually) and find their common
interests, goals, and values**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication**

**publicise a clear concise description of the
goals, vision, and mission of the community**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication**

**publicise a clear concise description of the
organisational structure of the group**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication**

**ensure contributions are acknowledged and
publicised**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication**

**support and encourage the use of a range of
communication channels - although need to
strike a balance of not providing too many**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication**

**make an extra effort to welcome and engage
with any (potential) new members of the group**

1.

**facilitate development of trusting,
high-quality relationships**

**commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication**

**make it easy for people who might want to join
the group to find out about it and start joining in**

2.

**give the group the power to make
happen what they want to happen**

resources

2.

**give the group the power to make
happen what they want to happen**

decision-making powers

3.

**trust the community - trust them to
want to make good things (for you
and them) to happen**

**if they are your users - then who knows better
what they need your product to do for them? If
they really want to make this work for
themselves, then trust them and their opinions**

challenges for community building?

**building high-quality relationships
takes time and resources**

**enabling growth of a strong
community cedes control from
other sources of power**

want to read more?

/THEORY/IN/PRACTICE

The Art of Community

Building the New Age of Participation

Second Edition

O'REILLY®

Jono Bacon

Copyright © 2012 Jono Bacon. All rights reserved.

Social in silico

Spinning together the threads of the social web

Lou Woodley's blog

<https://socialinsilico.wordpress.com/>

Virtual Democracy

We all want more say in our online lives

Bruce Caron's blog

<http://cybersocialstructure.org/>




Association of community professionals

<http://www.communityroundtable.com/>

 OPEN ACCESS

EDUCATION

A Quick Guide for Building a Successful Bioinformatics Community

Aidan Budd , Manuel Corpas , Michelle D. Brazas , Jonathan C. Fuller , Jeremy Goecks, Nicola J. Mulder, Magali Michaut, B. F. Francis Ouellette, Aleksandra Pawlik, Niklas Blomberg

Published: February 5, 2015 • DOI: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003972 • Featured in PLOS Collections

Article**Authors****Metrics****Comments****Related Content**

some blogs about my work

[**https://news.embl.de/alumni/1608-aidan-budd/**](https://news.embl.de/alumni/1608-aidan-budd/)

[**https://blog.trelliscience.com/meet-a-scientific-community-manager-aidan-budd/**](https://blog.trelliscience.com/meet-a-scientific-community-manager-aidan-budd/)

[**http://www.earlham.ac.uk/stronger-together-building-scientific-communities**](http://www.earlham.ac.uk/stronger-together-building-scientific-communities)

[**https://news.embl.de/science/1502_how-to-crowdsource-a-paper/**](https://news.embl.de/science/1502_how-to-crowdsource-a-paper/)

thanks

thanks

**to Tamas Korcsmaros and Toby Gibson (current and
past boss)**

thanks

to my collaborators and other community members

thanks

to you for listening