



University of Pittsburgh

Department of Biomedical Informatics

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Dear R Consortium Reviewers,

I am delighted to support this excellent proposal by Aidan Lakshman. Aidan has been with my lab since 2018 and is in the final year of his PhD. He is an avid developer and has contributed to both R (wilcox.test and dendrapply functions) as well as Biostrings (too many contributions to list).

Last summer Aidan attended the R Project Sprint in London on a scholarship and has worked a lot with Martin Mächler (R Core team). Aidan and Hervé Pagès have worked together extensively on improving Biostrings, and I believe Aidan is perfectly positioned to complete the goals he outlines.

Aidan has my full backing to contribute 20% of his effort (1 day per week) to this important project during the final year of his PhD. Importantly, I believe this project is critical to continued success of Biostrings, upon which much of the Bioconductor community is dependent. Improvements to Biostrings will affect an enormous number of R users and help to ensure the viability of "R for biologist" in the long-term.

Finally, the future success of R is dependent upon new community members. An investment in Aidan is an investment in the future of R as a whole. He is a superb developer, unlike any I have known in my two decades as a software engineer. I can see the R Core team's recognition of Aidan's potential, and I will also do anything I can to support his continued growth in the community.

Thanks for your consideration of Aidan's excellent proposal. Please feel free to reach out to me as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik S. Wright".

Erik S. Wright
Associate Professor
Department of Biomedical Informatics
University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine