

Cornell Institute of Biotechnology

— the Slack workspace

Welcome to the Cornell Institute of Biotechnology Slack Workspace!

The concept

The idea behind the Cornell Institute of Biotechnology Slack workspace is to create a virtual environment where life science researchers can meet to talk about science. Users can exchange ideas, information, or ask questions to each other.

As we start this project, we are still not sure how it will unfold. We want to let the workspace evolve organically to meet researchers' needs. We hope that it will foster intellectual exchanges between scientists across labs, departments and colleges, and provide a climate that encourages dialogue and scientific creativity. Eventually, we hope these interactions will directly benefit all users, and help them to take the quality and breath of their research even further.

The model

Choose your own adventure! We invite users to create the channels they need. This means, you decide what happens on this Slack workspace. You can pitch your idea to me (Elodie Smith, eeg47@cornell.edu). If the topic doesn't go against our policies (for example, it's not political), and stays within our scope (it's about science), I'll create the channel. For example, if you tell me that you want to create a channel called "bioinformatics stuff" for people to exchange lines of codes and methods for bioinformatics analyses, I'd create it for you and let you moderate it. By moderate, I mean that I will expect that you make sure there is some activity happening on the channel. If there is no activity after 6 months, we may consider closing it. You can create channels related to any aspect of academic research life, from very technical (as long as there is enough interest), to very general. For example:

- International and national conferences
- Best practices to analyze Nextgen sequencing data
- Bench-top tips and troubleshooting
- Data analysis
- Jobs (non-academic job opportunities, chalk talk and seminar advice, outside science resources)
- PhD defense announcements
- Papers published by Slack users
- Outreach

The best practices

To encourage networking and facilitate interactions, we ask you to sign up under your real name, as you would use it in scientific literature. We also ask that you fill up the field “What I do” (under “Profile & account and then “update my profile”) with your job title (Postdoc, Grad student, Lab manager or other) and your affiliation (lab, department and/or college). You don’t have to, but add a picture also helps.

We also suggest that you download the Slack desktop app. That will allow you to receive notifications and follow discussions on the channels even if your internet browser is closed.

We expect this Slack workspace to grow, so please to ask your friends and co-workers to join. They just need to send me a request by email at eeg47@cornell.edu.

The rules

The Institute of Biotechnology follows the policies as described in the Cornell University Brand Center, and its guidelines regarding social media use.

<https://brand.cornell.edu/messaging/social-media/>

As you use Slack, it is important to develop a voice that represents Cornell University and the Institute of Biotechnology in a responsible, authentic and engaging manner.

Users who make comments on Slack should be respectful of fellow Slack users and others, maintaining civil and rational discussions. All comments are subject to Cornell University social networks’ terms of use and codes of conduct. The university does not permit social media messages that sell products or promote commercial, political, or other ventures. The Institute of Biotechnology reserves the right, but assumes no obligation, to remove any inappropriate comments, and block or delete users in case of repeated violations of these rules.

If you have questions about the Cornell social media presence, contact University Communications at socialmedia@cornell.edu

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