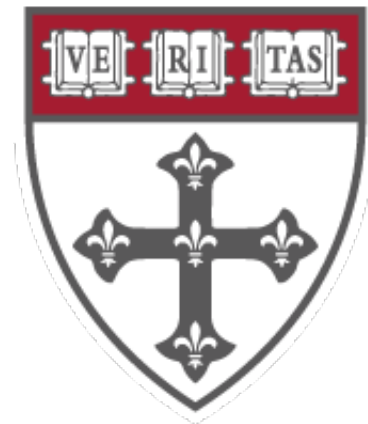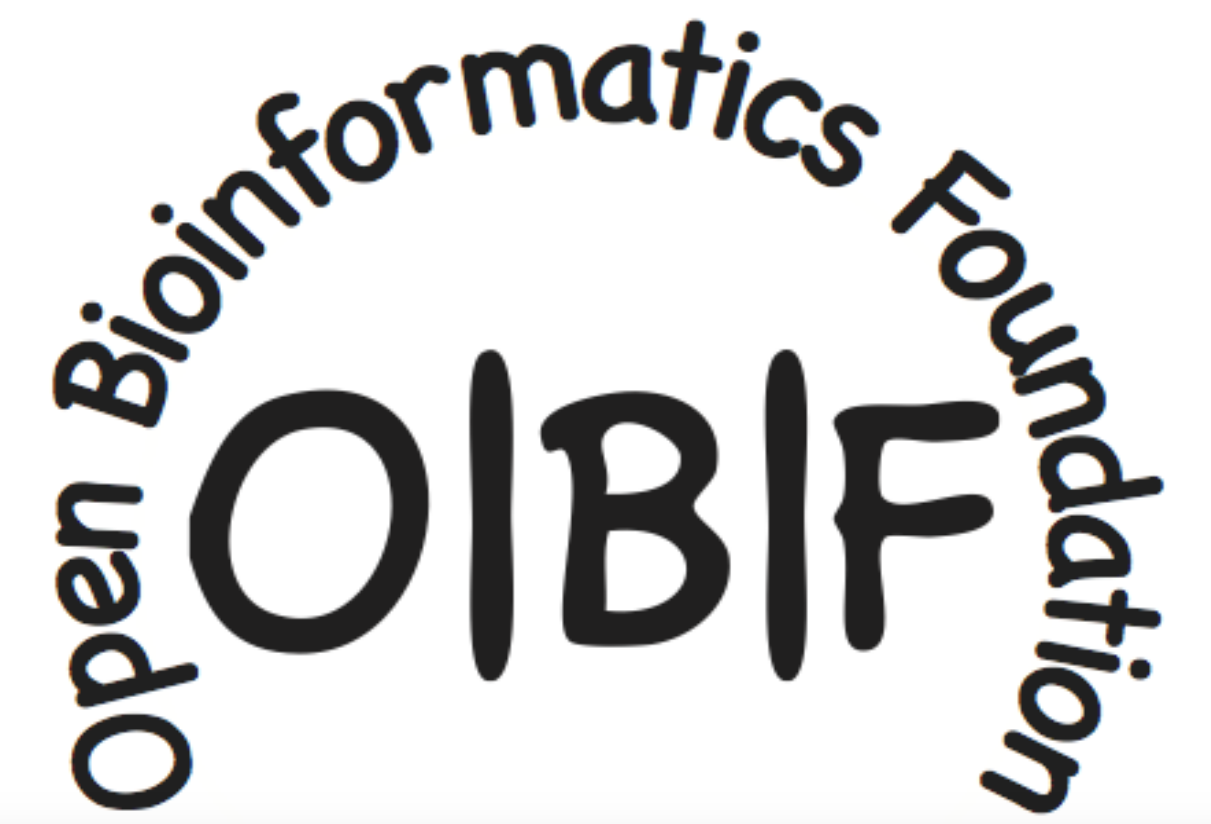# Collaborative community events in open source biological research

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HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Open Bioinformatics Foundation — OBF

Open Bioinformatics Codefest

- Two day community working session
- Open Source
- Bioinformatics
  (Biology + Programming)
- Extension of yearly conference
- Build existing online relationships
- 9th year

Successes to share

- Collaboration, not competition
- Self-organizing groups
- Standards development
- Maintenance and documentation

Another flaw in the human character is that everybody wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance.
- Kurt Vonnegut

Experiments we're trying

- Flexible conference format
- Training -> Conference -> Codefest
- CollaborationFest -- beyond code
- More days for working
- Additional events during the year

Help please

- Improve diversity
- More welcoming to newcomers
- Better training and orientation
- Scaling to more attendees
- Build leadership and recruiting team