



THE BIO-ARRAY RESOURCE FOR PLANT BIOLOGY

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Mr. Josh Greenberg  
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation  
630 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2550  
New York, NY, 10111

*Re. Proposal – Mozilla Foundation / Software Carpentry.*

6 September 2011

Dear Mr. Greenberg,

The suite of tools provided by the Bio-Array Resource for Plant Biology is widely used by the plant research community. One of the BAR's most popular tools is the eFP Browser, which was developed in part by one of Software Carpentry's trainees, Ben Vinegar. It recently surpassed 1.6 million uses. These online uses notwithstanding, almost a dozen research groups around the world have also downloaded the source code for the eFP Browser and have easily – in part because of Ben's thorough approach to software coding – adapted it to their own particular data visualization needs.

I wish to express my strong support for this proposal's continued efforts at training students in the craft of proper software development. In many respects, I wish that this course were mandatory for many of the undergraduate and graduate student programmers who have passed through my laboratory over the years and who have developed software for the BAR. Having such training would make many aspects of software development less painful, such as having to deal with poorly-written and -documented code, code haphazardly developed without the use of a versioning system, and other such issues.

I would welcome the opportunity to host a Software Carpentry workshop for students of the Collaborative Graduate Program in Genome Biology and Bioinformatics, with which I am involved, as well as for students of the Undergraduate Specialist Program in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, both at the University of Toronto. I am certain the students of these programs would benefit greatly from the course.

Yours truly,

Director, the Bio-Array Resource for Plant Biology, [BAR.utoronto.ca](http://BAR.utoronto.ca)

