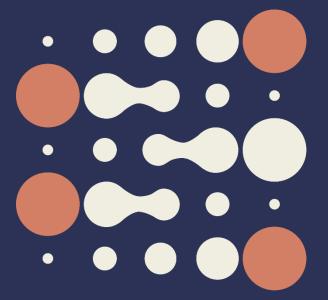
# The lab wiki: Contributing, collaborating, and documenting our work

International Agency for Research on Cancer



MET DataLab meeting
Laura Torrens
11/04/25



### What is a Lab Wiki?

- A digital space to organize lab knowledge
- Think of it as a lab manual, FAQ, and resource hub
- Accessible via the web

### How to contribute?

- Lab wikis are edited and maintained by group members
- Sessions when everyone get together to collaborate on the wiki are commonly called hackathons



# But most importantly, WHY have a lab wiki?

- Unify all relevant information in one place
- Share protocols and experimental workflows: Ensure everyone uses the same up-to-date methods/code
- **Document scripts, tools, and software setups**: Ensure all analyses are reproducible
- Capture best practices and troubleshooting tips: Save time by avoiding repeated mistakes
- **Document decisions:** Keep track of why certain choices were made and keep things consistent

### **Key advantages:**

- Avoids inefficient re-discovering what was already known
- Preserves expertise when someone leaves the lab
- Speeds up learning for new members

### **Creating a Lab Wiki with GitHub Pages**

### **GitHub**



- Developer platform that allows developers to create, store, manage, and share their code.
- It uses Git, a distributed version control system that tracks versions of files.
- It lets you work with others without messing up each other's changes.

### **GitHub Pages**

- A way to publish websites from GitHub
- Free, easy to update, version-controlled
- Can be used to host a Lab Wiki

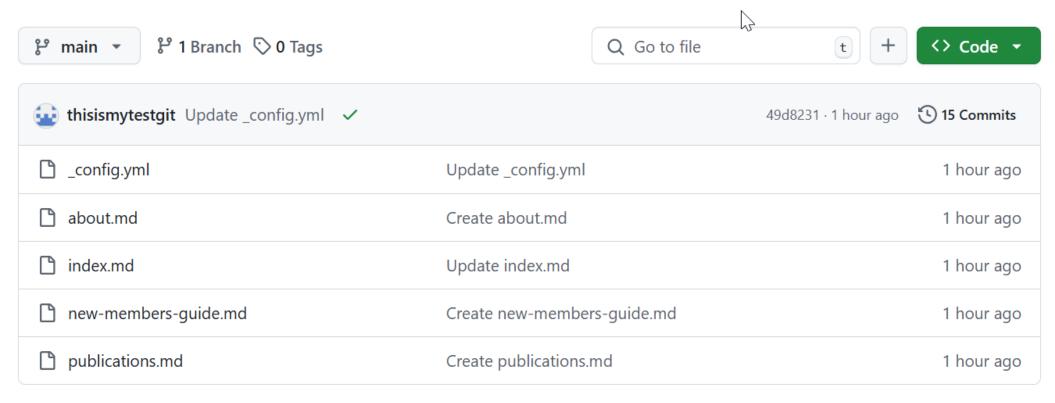
### What we need to know

- Basic Git knowledge
- Basic markdown
- Navigating GitHub Projects

### **How it works**

- The wiki lives in a GitHub repository
- Each page is a Markdown file (.md)
- GitHub Pages + a theme = clean, searchable site

### thisismytestgit.github.io



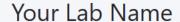
# **Quick example**

Creating an index markdown file



# **Quick example**

https://thisismytestgit.github.io/



Q Search Your Lab Name

### Welcome

About

**Publications** 

New Member Guide

# Welcome to [Your Lab Name]

This is our internal wiki and public resource page. Here you'll find:

- Info for new lab members
- Our latest publications
- How-to guides and protocols

Use the menu or search bar above to navigate.

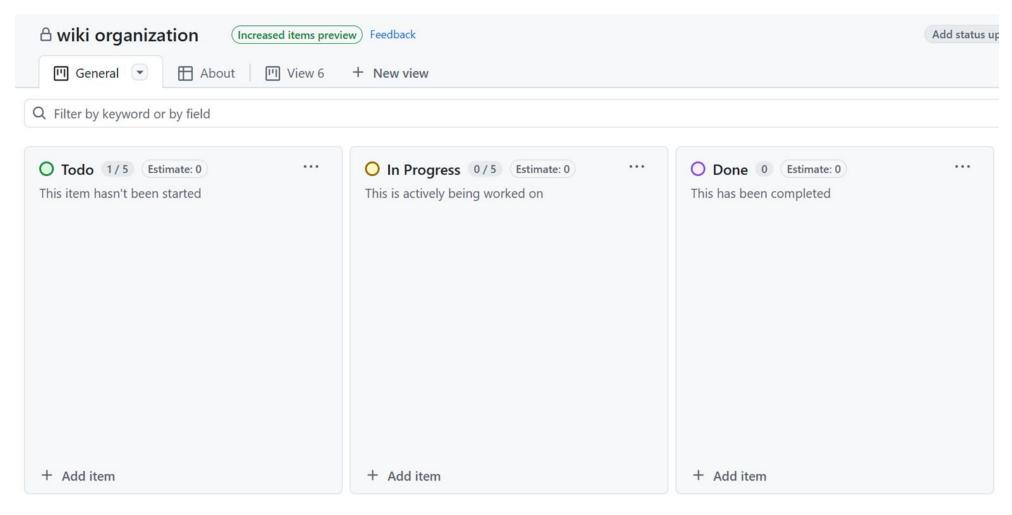
# **Collaborative Editing**

### Why it matters:

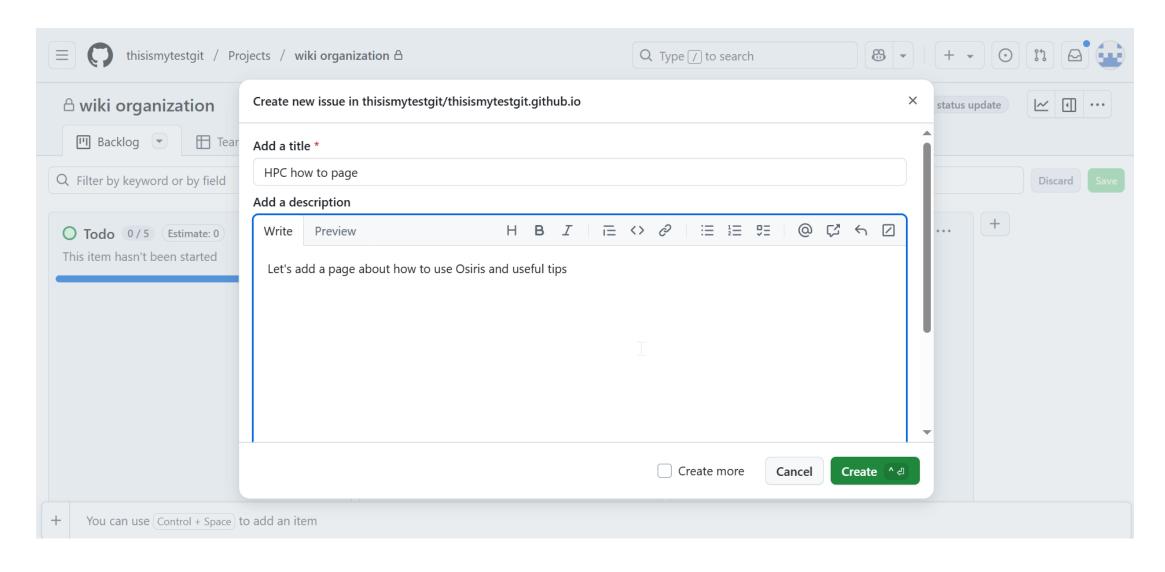
- Collective Brainpower Everyone contributes what they know
- Keeps everyone on the same page
- Prevents duplicated effort
- Tracks who's doing what
- leading to the see what's happening in real time

# Using GitHub Projects to organize the tasks

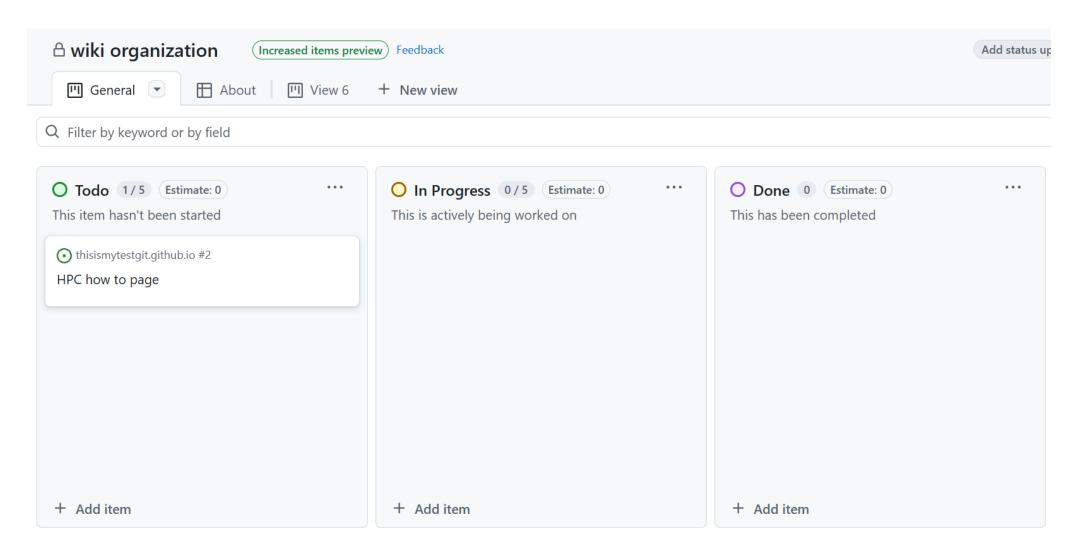
- A tool to manage and track tasks (issues) directly inside GitHub
- Tasks move through columns, e.g.: "To do" → "In progress" → "Done"
- Helps organize work within a group of contributors



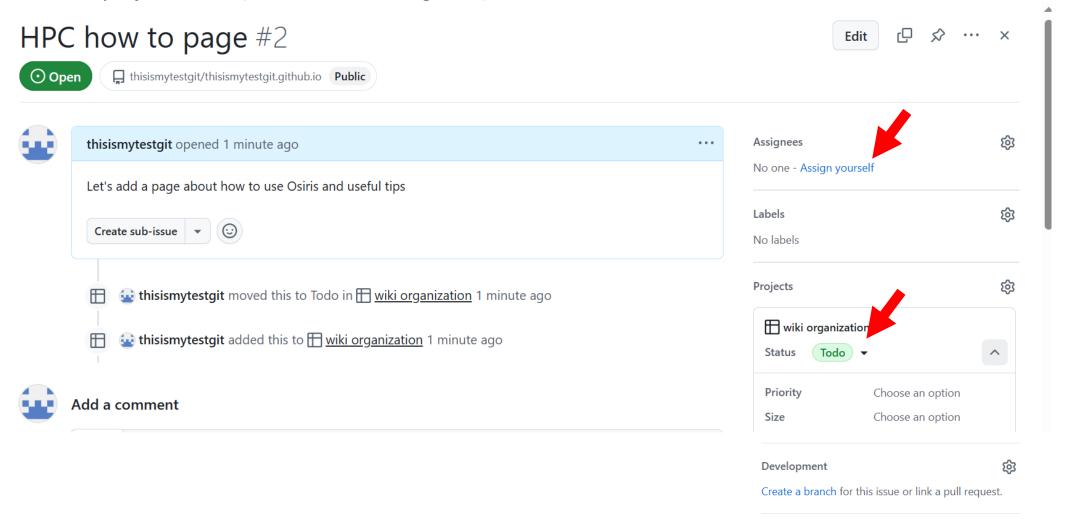
1. Open an Issue: "HPC how to page"



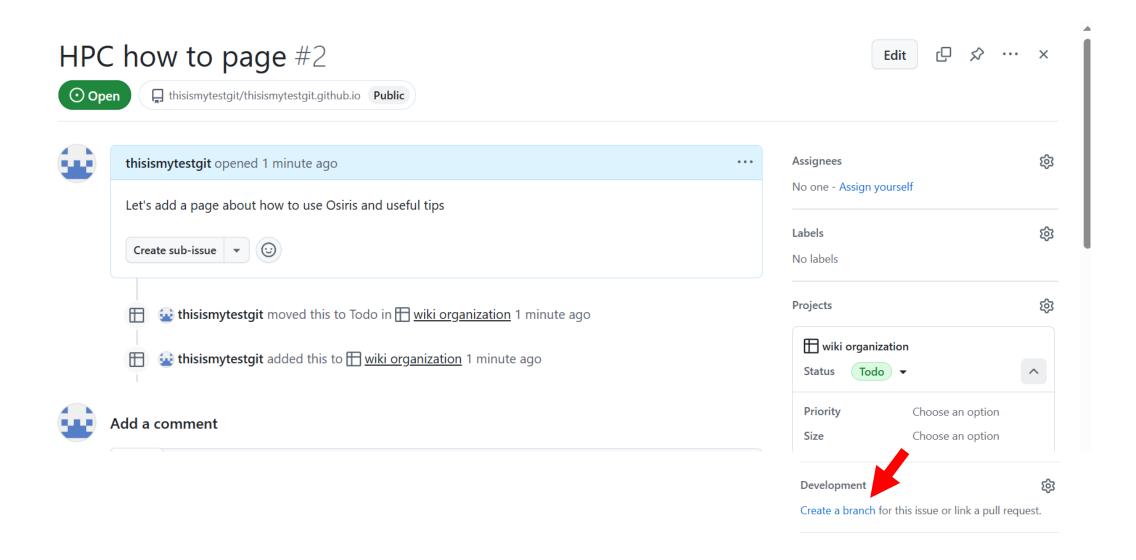
1. Open an issue: "HPC how to page"

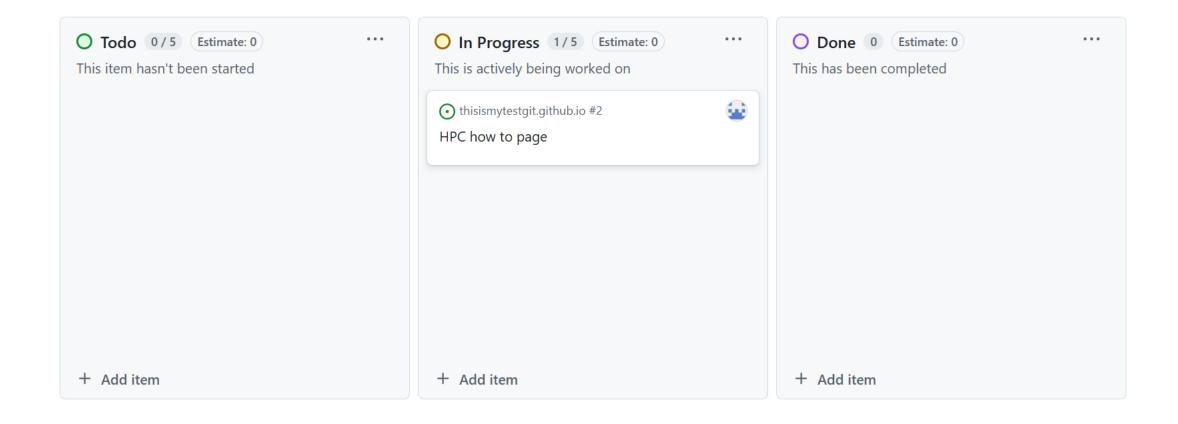


- 2. Assign the issue to yourself or a colleague
- 3. Add to the project board ("To Do" or "In Progress")



4. Create a branch and work on it

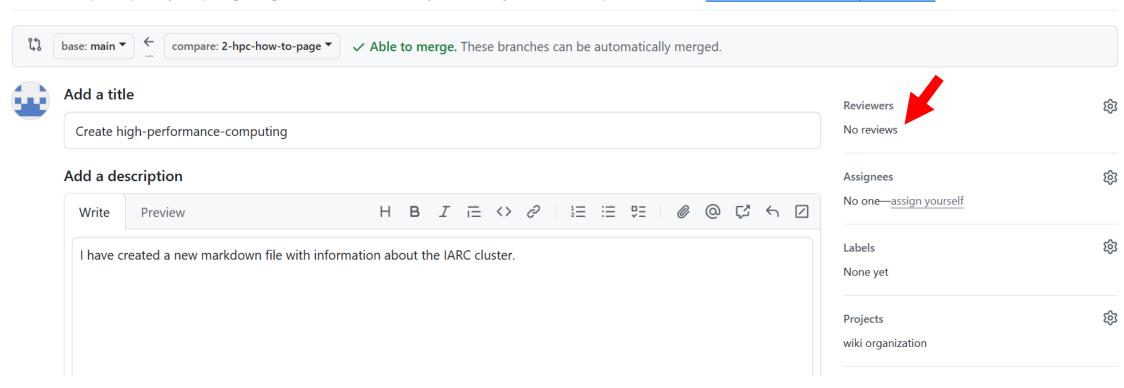




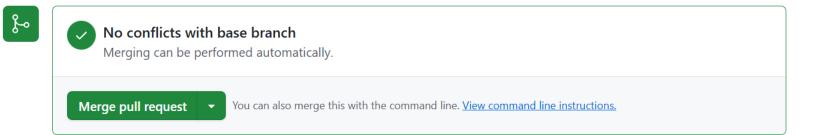
- 5. Open a Pull Request to propose your changes to the Wiki.
- 6. Request reviewers (e.g., someone familiar with the topic)
- 7. Reviewers can comment, approve, or suggest edits before merging

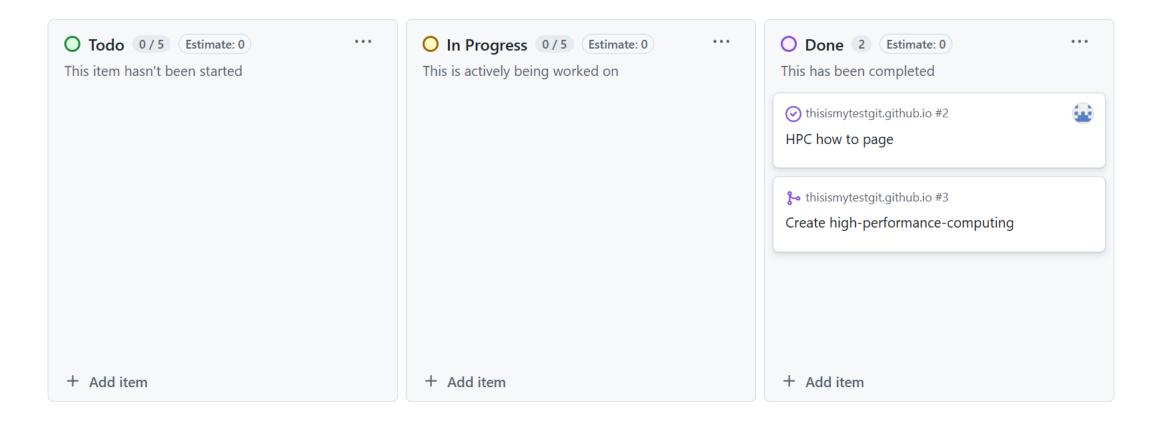
### Open a pull request

Create a new pull request by comparing changes across two branches. If you need to, you can also compare across forks. Learn more about diff comparisons here.



- 8. Merge after review
- 9. Move task to "Done"





### https://thisismytestgit.github.io/

### Your Lab Name

Welcome

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**High Performance Computing** 

# High Performance Computing

At IARC, HPC (High Performance Computing), HTC (High Throughput Computing) or simply cluster refer to the same system. It is a set of powerful computers (servers) that interact together to run intensive calculations or tasks, usually called "jobs".

Named Osiris, IARC HPC/HTC/cluster is the computing engine "behind the scene" for the SIT platform.

Check the Scientific IT documentation for more information.



### Step 1: Request Access

To get access to the HPC cluster:

- Contact: [Your IT contact or lab manager]
- Fill out the request form here: [Insert link if applicable]
- Wait for confirmation and credentials

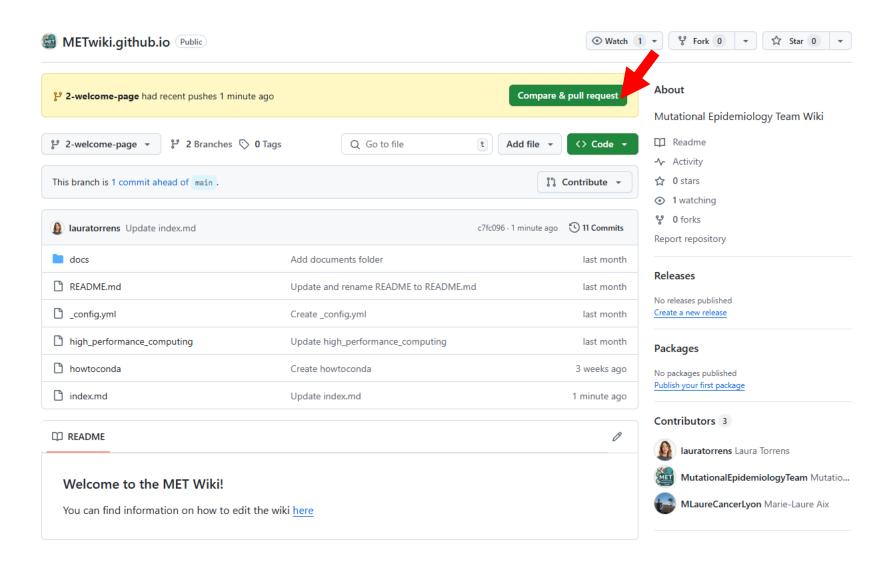
### Step 2: Connect via SSH

Use the terminal to connect:

This site uses Just the Docs, a documentation theme for Jekyll. ssh your-username@hpc.cluster.edu

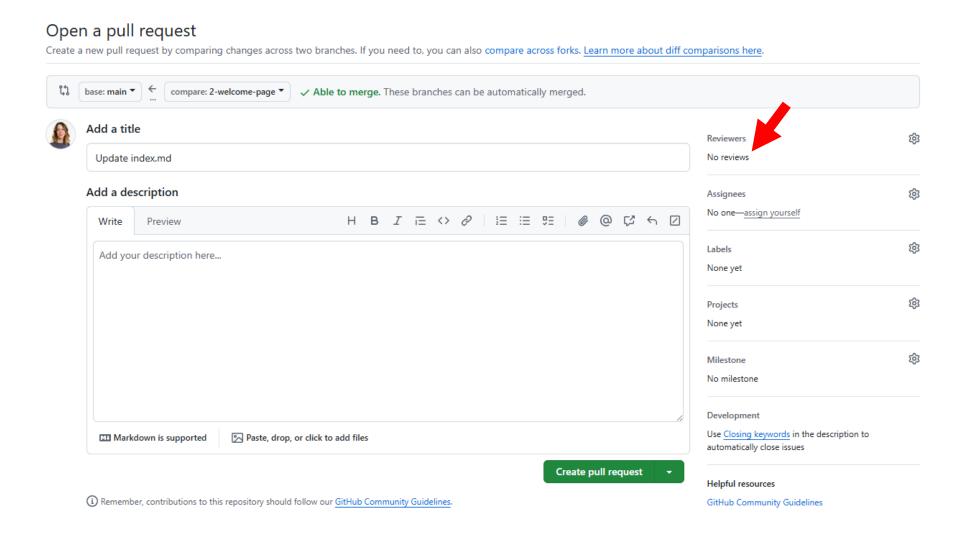
# **Pull request**

Once you're done, pull your changes



### **Pull request**

Don't forget to add a description and assign the Reviewer!



# **Google Sites**

Website builder from Google

Example: Google Sites Wiki

	GitHub Page	Google site
	basic Git and Markdown knowledge	beginner-friendly (no coding)
Collaboration	Pull requests, reviews, version control	Real-time editing (like Google Docs)
Version Control	Full Git history	No built-in versioning
Hosting Code & Data	Yes — it's built for that	No
Access Control	Not private in the free version (only Git repo)	Can be private

# Keeping the wiki updated

### **Anyone can open a GitHub Issue when:**

- They detect something is missing
- Instructions are unclear or outdated
- A tool or workflow has changed

### Schedule Wiki Hackathons every few months to:

- Review open issues
- Add missing pages or sections
- Assign one "Wiki watcher" each time just to help organize updates (not do all the work!).