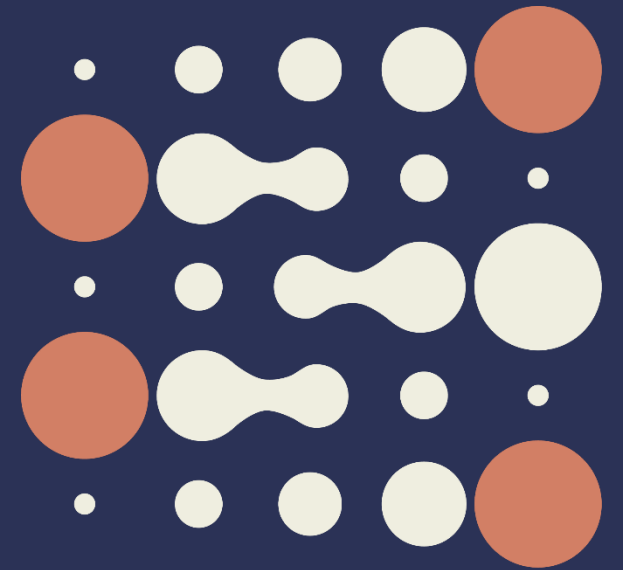


The lab wiki: Contributing, collaborating, and documenting our work

MET DataLab meeting
Laura Torrens
11/04/25

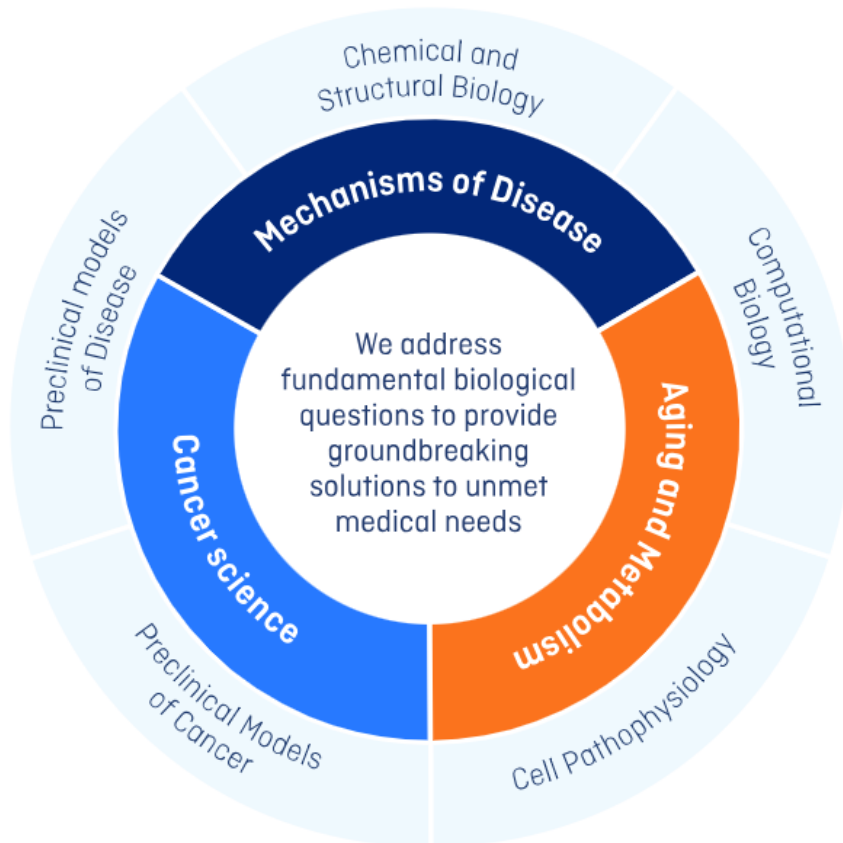
International Agency
for Research on Cancer



How I learnt about Lab Wikis and how to contribute to them

The Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB)

- Multidisciplinary research center focused on understanding the development and prevention of human diseases.



Barcelona Biomedical Genomics Lab (BBG)

- Computational study of cancer at the genomic level.
- Study of the mutational processes across tissues and genomic regions.
- Bioinformatics tools to identify cancer driver genes or genes under positive selection based on its mutational patterns.
- Led by Nuria Lopez-Bigas.



How I learnt about Lab Wikis and how to contribute to them



*"The time has come: this Thursday there is the **BBGwiki Hackathon** - sharing is caring. The first 2025 edition! 🎉"*



The BBG-Wiki

<https://bbglab.github.io/bbgwiki/>



BBG-Wiki



Search

BBG-Wiki

Home

Welcome to the BBG Lab!

Edit BBG-Wiki

BBGProtocols

Cluster basics

Datasets

IRB

Methods

Plots and scripts

Tools



Welcome to the BBG-Wiki!



This website is meant to include information of all the **tools** and **data** used by the **bbglab** team, so that it serves both as a guide to understand them and as a place where to find information about everything.

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

main


1 Branch

0 Tags






Go to file

+

Code

 **thisismytestgit** Update _config.yml ✓

49d8231 · 1 hour ago 15 Commits

 _config.yml	Update _config.yml	1 hour ago
 about.md	Create about.md	1 hour ago
 index.md	Update index.md	1 hour ago
 new-members-guide.md	Create new-members-guide.md	1 hour ago
 publications.md	Create publications.md	1 hour ago

Quick example

Creating an index markdown file

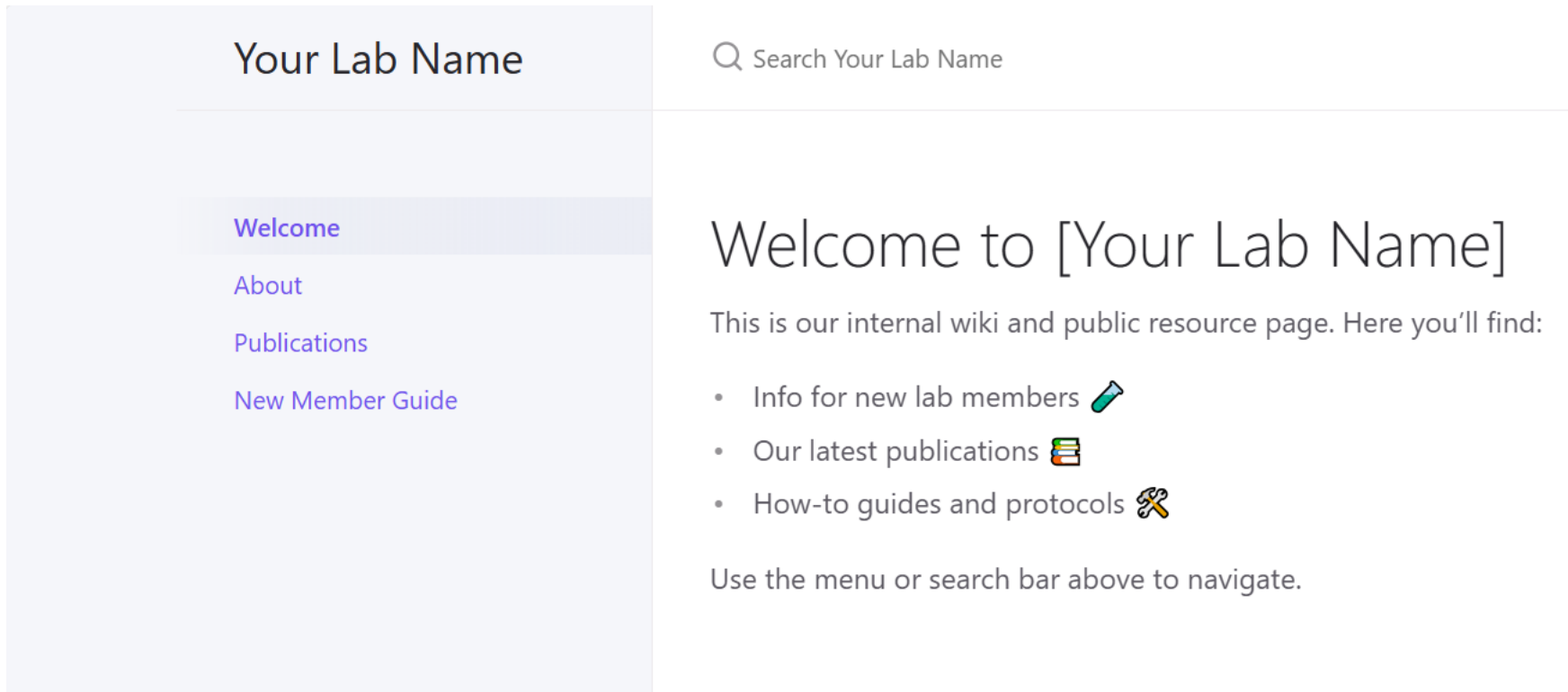
EditPreview

Spaces2Soft wrap

```
1  ---
2  title: Welcome
3  nav_order: 1
4  ---
5
6  # Welcome to [Your Lab Name]
7
8  This is our internal wiki and public resource page. Here you'll find:
9
10 - Info for new lab members 🖋️
11 - Our latest publications 📖
12 - How-to guides and protocols 🔧
13
14 Use the menu or search bar above to navigate.
15
```






Quick example

<https://thisismytestgit.github.io/>



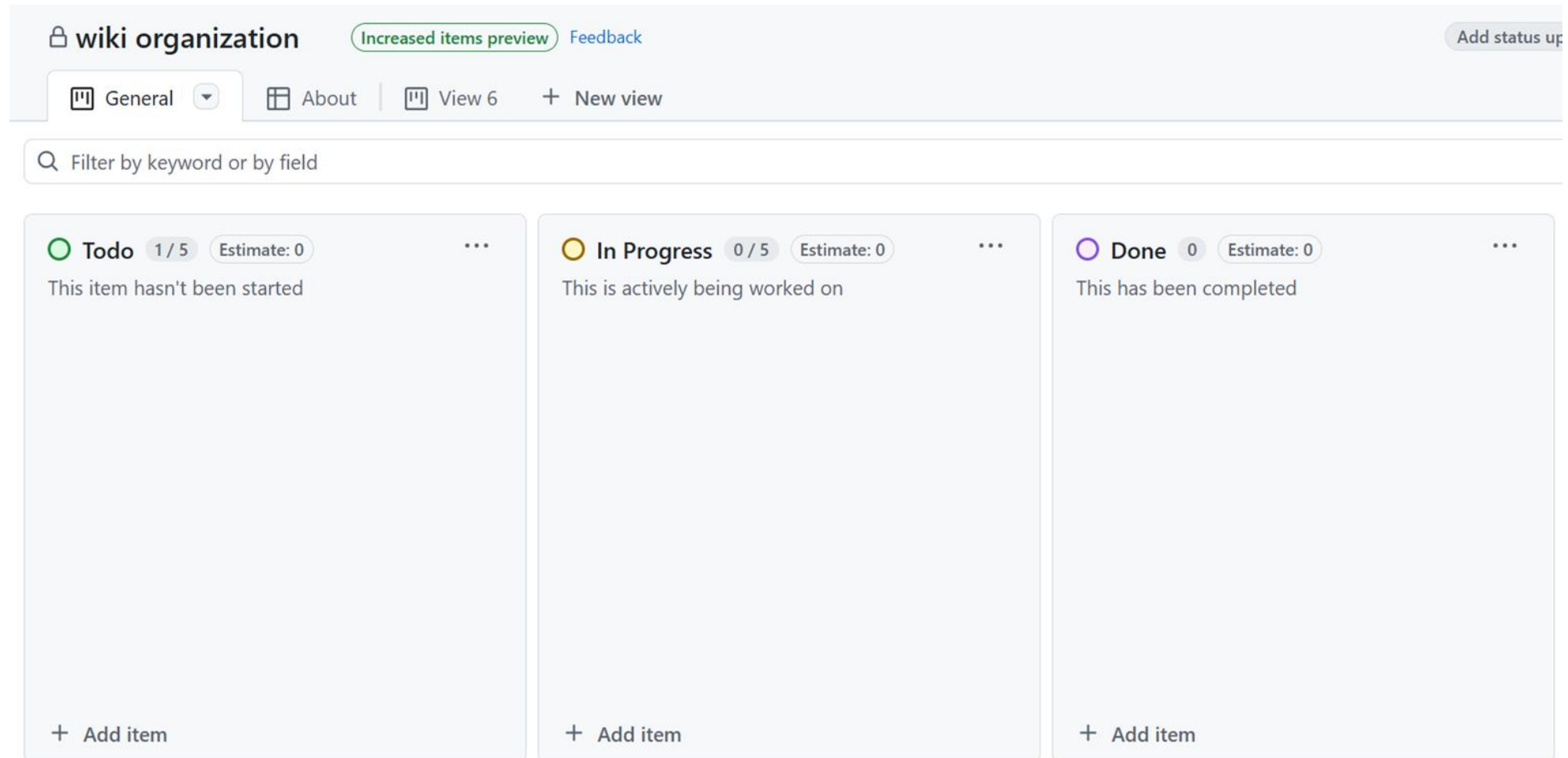
Collaborative Editing

Why it matters:

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

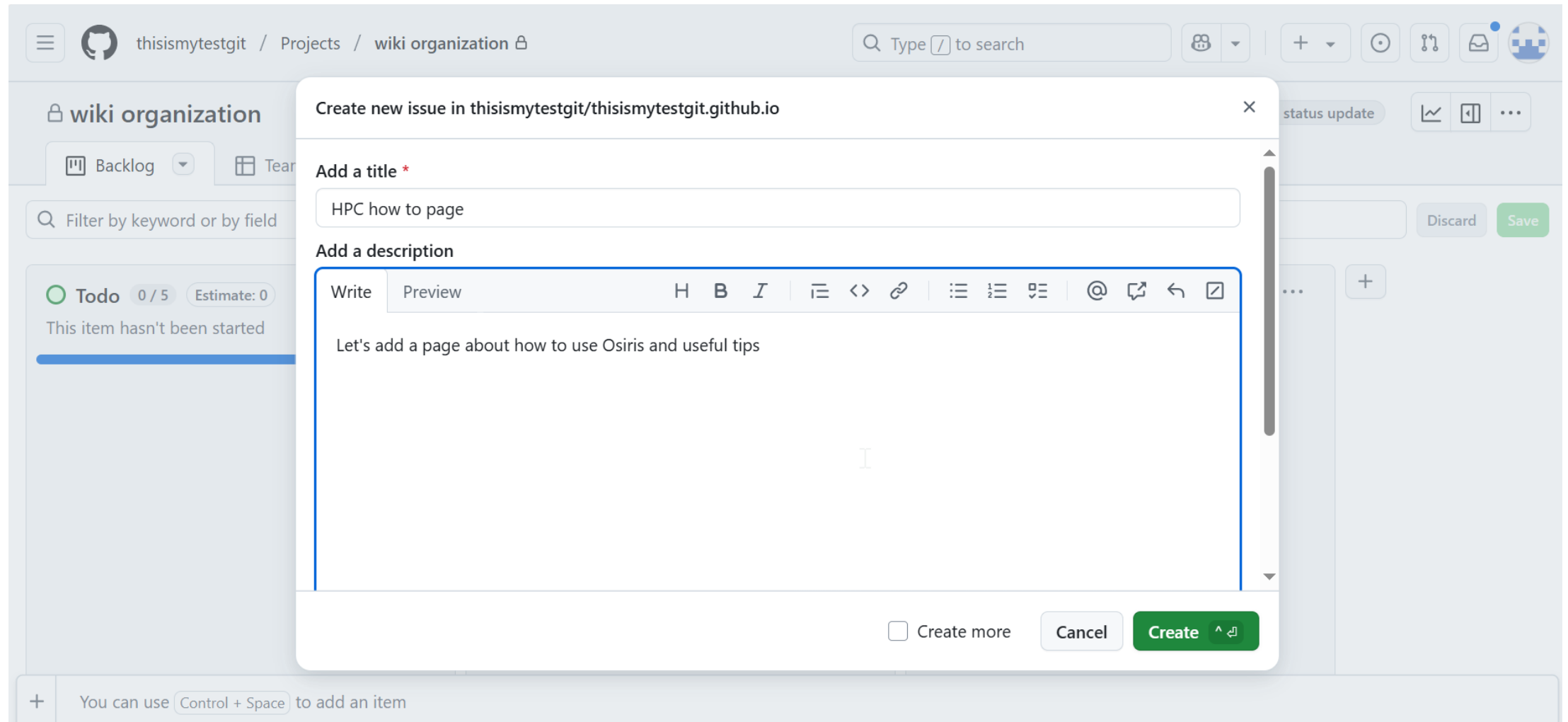
Using GitHub Projects to organize the tasks

- 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



Proposing changes to the wiki

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



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'thisismytestgit / Projects / wiki organization'. A modal window titled 'Create new issue in thisismytestgit/thisismytestgit.github.io' is open. The modal has a title field with the text 'HPC how to page' and a description field with the text 'Let's add a page about how to use Osiris and useful tips'. The description field has a rich text editor toolbar with options for bold, italic, link, and other formatting. At the bottom of the modal, there are buttons for 'Create more', 'Cancel', and 'Create'.

Wiki organization

Backlog

Filter by keyword or by field

Todo 0 / 5 Estimate: 0

This item hasn't been started

Create new issue in thisismytestgit/thisismytestgit.github.io

Add a title *

HPC how to page

Add a description

Write Preview

Let's add a page about how to use Osiris and useful tips

Create more Cancel Create

Proposing changes to the wiki

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

HPC how to page #2

Openthisismytestgit/thisismytestgit.github.ioPublic

thisismytestgit opened 1 minute ago

Let's add a page about how to use Osiris and useful tips

Create sub-issue

thisismytestgit moved this to Todo in

wiki organization

 1 minute ago

thisismytestgit added this to

wiki organization

 1 minute ago

Add a comment

Edit

Assignees

No one - [Assign yourself](#)

Labels

No labels

Projects

wiki organization

Status

Todo

Priority

Choose an option

Size

Choose an option

Development

Create a branch

 for this issue or link a pull request.

Proposing changes to the wiki

4. Create a branch and work on it

HPC how to page #2

Open

thisismytestgit/thisismytestgit.github.io

Public

thisismytestgit opened 1 minute ago

Let's add a page about how to use Osiris and useful tips

Create sub-issue

thisismytestgit moved this to Todo in wiki organization 1 minute ago

thisismytestgit added this to wiki organization 1 minute ago

Add a comment

Edit

Assignees

No one - [Assign yourself](#)

Labels

No labels

Projects

wiki organization

Status

Todo

Priority

Choose an option

Size

Choose an option

Development

[Create a branch](#) for this issue or link a pull request.

Proposing changes to the wiki

Todo

0 / 5

Estimate: 0

This item hasn't been started

+ Add item

In Progress

1 / 5

Estimate: 0

This is actively being worked on

thisismytestgit.github.io #2

HPC how to page

+ Add item

Done

0

Estimate: 0

This has been completed

+ Add item

Proposing changes to the wiki

- 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](#).

base: main

←

compare: 2-hpc-how-to-page

✓ Able to merge. These branches can be automatically merged.

Add a title

Create high-performance-computing

Add a description

WritePreview

H B I i≡ <> 🔗 1≡ 2≡ 3≡ 📎 @ 🗨️ ↩️ 📄

I have created a new markdown file with information about the IARC cluster.

Reviewers

No reviews

⚙️

Assignees

No one—[assign yourself](#)

⚙️

Labels

None yet

⚙️

Projects

wiki organization

⚙️

Proposing changes to the wiki

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



No conflicts with base branch
Merging can be performed automatically.

Merge pull request

You can also merge this with the command line. [View command line instructions.](#)

Todo

0 / 5

Estimate: 0

...

This item hasn't been started

+ Add item

In Progress

0 / 5

Estimate: 0

...

This is actively being worked on

+ Add item

Done

2

Estimate: 0

...

This has been completed

thisismytestgit.github.io #2

HPC how to page

thisismytestgit.github.io #3

Create high-performance-computing

+ Add item

<https://thisismytestgit.github.io/>

Your Lab Name

[Welcome](#)

[About](#)

[Publications](#)

[New Member Guide](#)

[High Performance Computing](#)

This site uses [Just the Docs](#), a documentation theme for Jekyll.

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:

```
ssh your-username@hpc.cluster.edu
```

Google Sites

Website builder from Google

Example: [Google Sites Wiki](#)

	GitHub Page	Google site
 Ease of Use	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!).