# First of her name: Fostering R usage as the first bioinformatician in my department

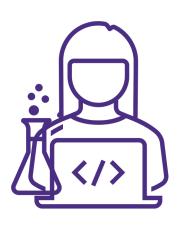
Kim Dill-McFarland 2021.06.05 · Cascadia R

## The setting



School of Medicine





### What I wanted to do



School of Medicine





@kdillmcfarland

## What I did



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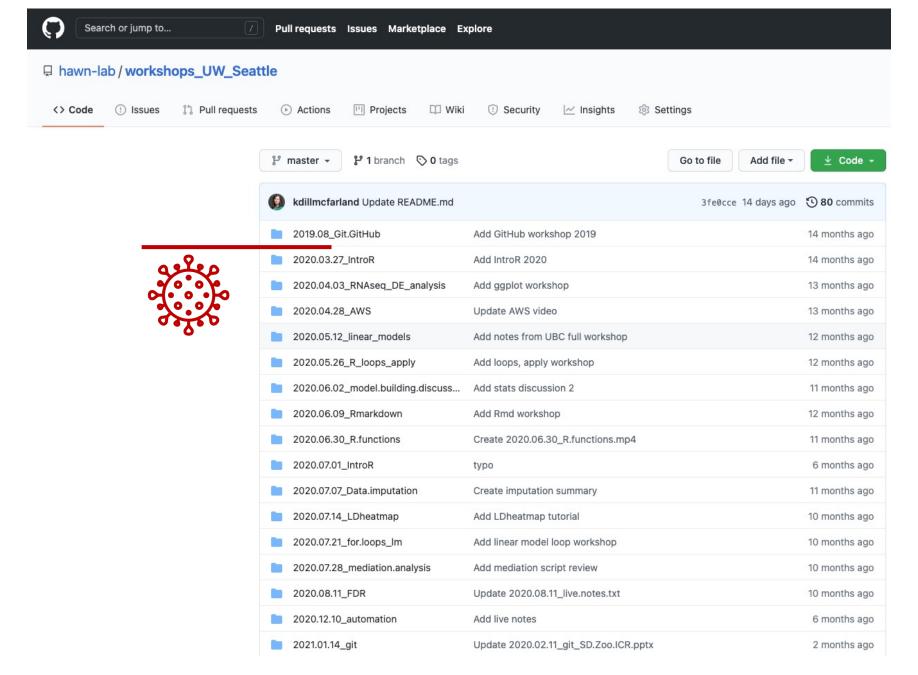
## What I did later



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# Workshops



# Maximize workshop effects

- Customize content to work tasks or skills
- Several, shorter sessions
- Get higher-ups to attend
- Eliminate costs for learners
- Record and share recordings
  - Make available / required for new highers

# Workshop pitfalls to avoid

• Coding beyond foundational knowledge, especially in statistics

Teaching what you think they should know

Being too practiced and polished

# Open office hours

## Our office hours

• 3 – 4 PM every Tuesday

Consistent Zoom link

• I attend even if no one indicated they have a question

Work on <u>TidyTuesday</u> if no one attends

#### Maximize office hours

Consider a remote format for accessibility

• Have another task (like <u>TidyTuesday</u>) to collaborate on if there are no questions

Find a time that consistently works for the group

Define themed events to coincide with work deadlines

# Office hour pitfalls to avoid

Repeatedly changing time, day, location, or canceling

Letting it turn into a social hour

Taking too many additional meetings for individual questions

# Things that didn't work / worked less well

Department-wide Slack channel

Department-wide office hours

Bioinformatics seminar series

## Key take-aways

- Dedicate time and personnel to make a change
- Organize workshops that directly address relevant tasks
- Create a casual forum like office hours to facilitate on-going learning
- Build a community of practice

- Not everyone needs to become a super user
- You're not alone!

## Free R workshop resources

- The Carpentries
  - https://carpentries.org/workshops-curricula/

- EDUCE at UBC
  - https://github.com/EDUCE-UBC/workshops\_access



Dr. Thomas Hawn's lab







Experiential

Data science for

**U**ndergraduate

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**Education**