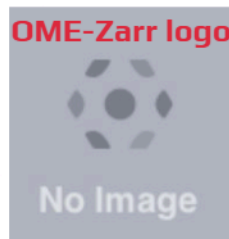
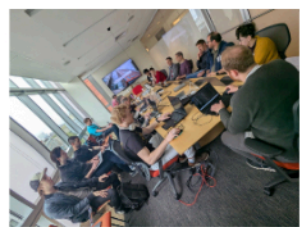


Contributor Perspectives: What Makes the OME Community?

Kiya Govek, OME 2026



Who am I?



Systems Analyst in Research IT at The Jackson Laboratory (JAX)

- Inherited some OMERO servers in 2022
- Kubernetes & smart cloud storage
- We have a lot of WSI data we converted to OME-Zarr



My first OME Community Meeting was 2024 in Dundee

- Helped organize the OME 2025 and OME 2026 community meetings!
- Convinced a team to revamp the NGFF website at the 2025 Zurich hackathon

Why am I giving the first talk?



Community Survey Results

Responses

40

OME 2026 Community Survey

■ Announcements ■ omero, ● bio-formats, ome-ngff, ome, ome-zarr



Kiya Govek govekk

Mar 10

Calling all OME Community members, contributors, and lurkers!

This year in April, the [19th OME Community Meeting](#) ³ will be gathering to determine the *"Future and Governance of OME"* during the final meeting day's guided Discussion Forum / "Unmeeting". I am collaborating with the meeting organizers to help inform and prepare for these discussions via a community survey:

🔗 [OME 2026 Community Survey](#) ⁶²

This survey aims to collect community feedback and experiences prior to the meeting, as a springboard for these discussions and to give voice to the full global community (as I know many of us won't have the opportunity to be in the room!)

If all goes well, I will share the results of this survey with the OME Interim team prior to the meeting to help prepare the Discussion Forum topics, and I will present the results to those gathered at the OME Community Meeting during the Wednesday session.

The survey should take ~10 minutes, though all questions are optional. It closes on **March 31, 2026**. If you have any questions, feel free to message me on [image.sc](#), [zulip](#), or email kiya.govek@jax.org.

Thank you!



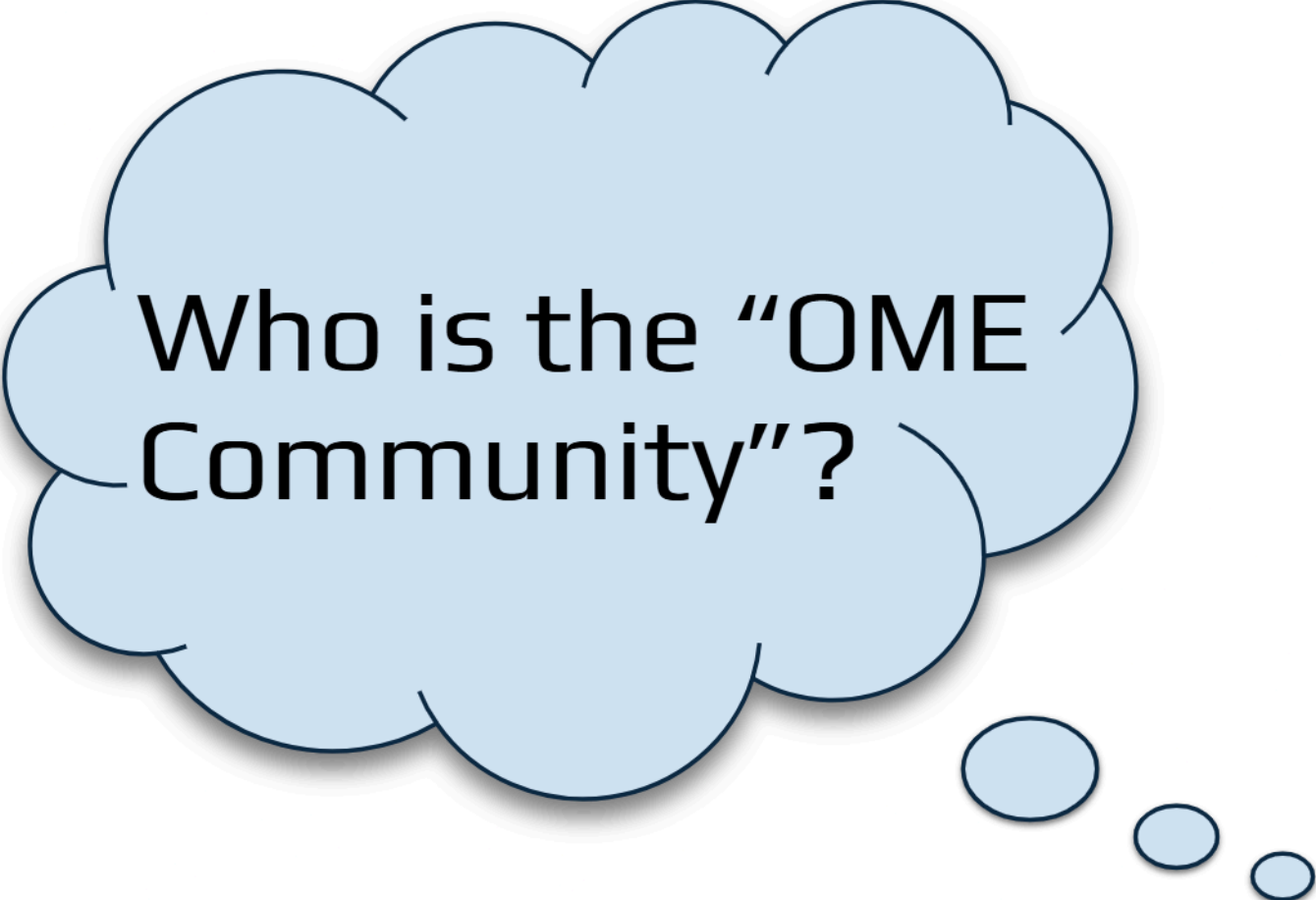
9

🔗 ... ↩ Reply

DISCLAIMER

- I'm not a social scientist
 - Me, myself, and Jupyter Notebook (and some help from the OMG)
- Selection bias!
 - Mostly reaching people who know me or live on image.sc
 - Mostly people care enough about OME to fill out a survey
 - **Who considers themselves part of the community?**

The purpose of this survey was to spark discussions for this week, not a conclusive report

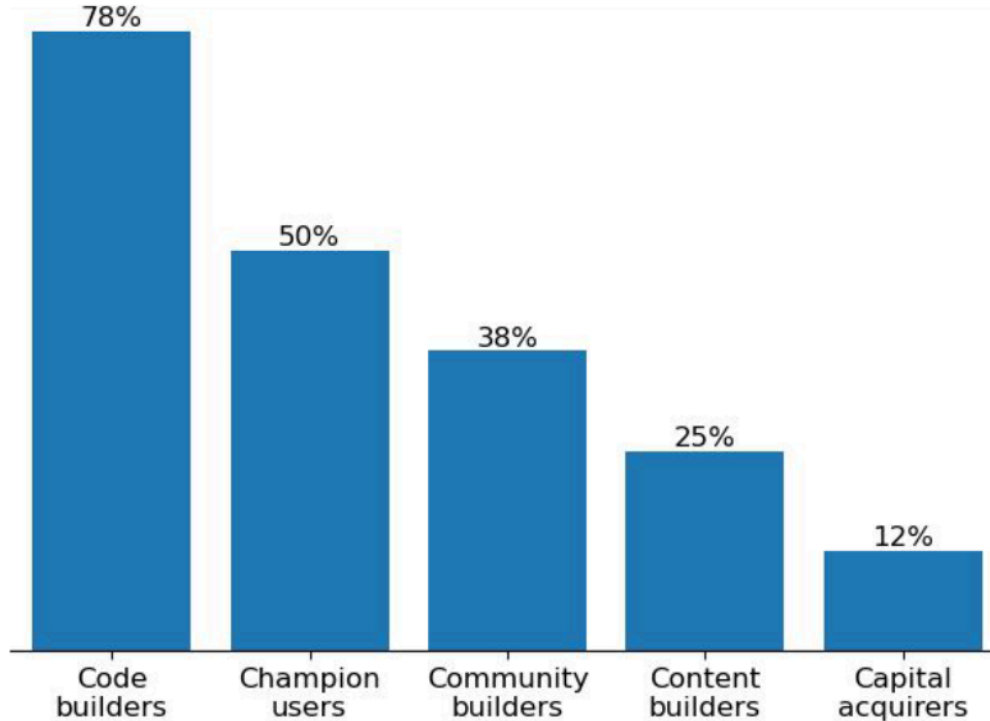


Who is the “OME
Community”?

Who is in the OME Community?



Who answered the survey?



Who are “contributors”?

OME-Zarr Contributors

Switch to dark mode

AT **IST** Marco Dalla Vecchia // AU **ANU** Lachlan Deakin **Monash** Juan Nunez-Iglesias // BE **VIB** Benjamin Pavie // CH **Bern** Ana Stojkovic, Guillaume Witz **BioVisionCenter** Caterina Fuster Barceló, Joel Lüthi, Lorenzo Cerrone, Valentina Marcelli, Virginie Uhlmann **EPFL** Rémy Dornier **ETH** Kevin Yamauchi, Leonardo Schwarz **FMI** Franziska Moos, Gustavo de Medeiros, Jan Eglinger, Joel Lüthi, Nicole Repina, Prisca Liberali **Freiburg (CH)** Felix Meyenhofer **Zürich** Fabio Steffen, Flurin Sturzenegger, Grégory Paul, Lucas Pelkmans, Reto Gerber, Ruth Hornbachner // CZ **MUNI** Vladimir Ulman // DE **EMBL** Aafke Gros, Andreas Eisenbarth, Anna Kreshuk, Benedikt Best, Christian Tischer, Dominik Kutra, Erick Ratamero, Jean-Karim Hériché, Luca Marconato, Oane Gros, Oliver Stegle, Wouter-Michel Vierdag **Euro-BioImaging** Bugra Özdemir **German BioImaging** Josh Moore, Johannes Soltwedel, Tom Boissonnet, Chris Barnes, Tiago Lubiana, Janina Hanne, Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters, Damien Goutte-Gattat **Göttingen** Constantin Pape **Helmholtz München** Fabian J. Theis, Giovanni Palla, Isaac Virshup **Jülich** Xiaoyun Gui **Leibniz IPHT** Julian Hniopek **MDC** Artür Manukyan **Münster** Jens Wendt **TU Dresden** Stefan Hahmann **Tübingen** Luis Kuhn Cuellar // FR **Bordeaux** Florian Levot **CNRS** Eric Leroy, Hugo Blanc **France BioImaging** Guillaume Gay **ICM** Elise Liu **Pasteur** Daniel Krentzel, Marvin Albert // IT **Technopole** Igor Zubarev // JP **RIKEN** Hiroya Itoga, Ko Sugawara, Koji Kyoda, Shuichi Onami // SE **Lund University** Nils Norlin **SciLifeLab** Christophe Avenel, Jonas Windhager, Wei Ouyang, Xavier Casas Moreno // UK **Cambridge** Cameron Lloyd **Crick** Joost de Folter, Kenneth Ho, Martin Jones **Dundee** David Gault, Dominik Lindner, Frances Wong, Jason R. Swedlow, Jean-Marie Burel, Josh Moore, Khaled Mohamed, Petr Walczysko, Sébastien Besson, Will Moore **EBI** Aybuke Küpcü Yıldaz, François Sherwood, Kolawole Babalola, Liviu Anita, Matthew Hartley **Edinburgh** Pete Bankhead **Sanger** Daniela Basurto-Lozada, Dave Horsfall, Martin Prete, Muzlifah Haniffa, Omer Bayraktar, Tong Li **UCL** David Stansby, Igor Tatarnikov, Kimberly Meechan, Ziwen Liu // US **Allen** Dan Toloudis, David Feng, Eva M. Brown, Forrest Collman, Gabor Kovacs, Gideon Dunster, Nathalie Gaudreault, Sean Meharry **ASU** Doug Shepherd **Broad** Beth A. Cimini, Erin Weisbart **Caltech** Haowen Zhou **CZ Biohub SF** Ahmet Can Solak, Jordão Bragantini, Kyle I S Harrington, Loïc A. Royer, Merfin Lange, Sricharan Reddy Varra **CZI** Alan Liddell, Jason R. Swedlow **Dartmouth** Yaroslav O. Halchenko **HMMI** Caleb Hulbert **HMS** Ilan Gold, Mark S. Keller, Nils Gehlenborg, Talley Lambert, Trevor Manz **Janelia** John Bogovic, Konrad Rokicki, Lila Schweinfurth, Mark Kittisopikul, Michael Innerberger, Stephan Preibisch, Stephan Saalfeld, Tobias Pietzsch, Virginia Scarlett, Yuri Zubov **JAX** Fernando Cervantes Sanchez, Kiya Govek, Peter Sobolewski **JHU** Jeremy Delahanty **Madison** Curtis Rueden, Elliott Magnuson, Jenu Chacko, Mark Tsuchida **MIT** Satrajit S. Ghosh **NCI** Kedar Narayan **NIH** Hythem Sidky, Nathan Hotelling, Nicholas Schaub, Sameel Samee **Pittsburgh** Alan M. Watson **UMass** Johannes Elferich **UMN** Rachael Huxford // company **eXact lab** Tommaso Comparin **Fideus** Matthew McCormick **Glencoe** Chris Allan, David R. Stirling, Erin Diel, Jason R. Swedlow, Kevin Kozlowski, Melissa Linkert, Sébastien Besson **Google** Jeremy Maitin-Shepard **Kitware** Dženan Zukić **Miltenyi Biotec** Lenard Spiecker, Matthias Grunwald **Roche** Dominique Roux, Maximilian Schulz **scalable minds** Albane le Tournoux de la Villegorgues, Hannes Spitz, Jonathan Striebel, Norman Rzepka **Yikes** Eric Perlman **Zeiss** Sebastian Rhode, Stephan Wagner-Conrad // plus **Many more** Christoph Engwer, Davis Bennett, Dmytro Horyslavets, Filip Mroz, Jules Scholler, Lorenzo Galfas, Szymon Stoma, Vera Galinova

<https://german-bioimaging.github.io/ome-zarr-acknowledgments/>

<https://ngff.openmicroscopy.org/community/index.html>



The OMERO project has been fortunate to receive assistance from the following:

Lucile Delisle SPSL	Johannes Dessemer Fraunhofer BMT	Nikolaus Chrenkavich University of Basel
Guillaume Gay CDR408 - Racing Centre for Living Systems	Alex Herbert University of Sussex	Yohan Jorner
Lucas Kachuravy Monash University	Suzanne Kurts University of Guelph	Talley Lambert Harvard Medical School
Jason Lee University of Missouri	Daniel Matheson Niklaus Tringli Centre, Kings College London - formerly Queensland Brain Institute	Michael Milson Walker and Eick Hall Institute
Jeremy Maltuch Harvard Medical School	Kazuo Nakamura NERC Brain Network Dynamics Unit, University of Oxford	David Pinto University of Oxford
Pierre Proulx Université d'Quebec	Paul Van Schayck Utrecht University	Stephen Welch Monash University
Chris Wood Stowers Institute	Christopher Wood Newcastle University	Andrey Yudin EMBL-EBI
Paul van Schayck Utrecht University		



The Bio-Formats project has been fortunate to receive assistance from a large number of individuals:

Eric Albert Stanford University	Eliane Andreux Oxford Instruments	Jonathan Arnold University of Warwick
Aaron Avery swath360	Matthew Bailew Medical University Innsbruck	Peter Bankhead The University of Edinburgh
Eric Bernell Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Simon Blanchard EPFL - Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne	
Jürgen Böhm	Tom Boissonnet Harvard Medical School	Ghislain Bonamy Novartis
Michel Boudreau IMM-CNRS - Institut de Neurobiologie Alfred Fessenden, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	Mark Bruce Microvision LLC	Gerrit Burger Leiden University
Roberto Calabrese	Thomas Caswell Cornell University	Joly Chen
Nikolaus Chrenkavich SPSL	Matthew Clapp Washington	Tony Collins Molecular Biology
Zachary Connerty-Mann Yale University	Jim Crowe Microscan Technologies, Inc.	Stephane Durrig Institut Pasteur
Barry DeZonia IBM Watson LDC	Can Gökhan Degen	Jan Eglinger Ernstlich Research Institute for Biomedical Research
Thomas Farago Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	Dmitry Fedorov University of California Santa Barbara	Tiago Ferreira Genivis Research Campus
François Fera Laboratory Imaging	Rachel Finck Kitware	Michael Fox
Colin Fuller Alcan Academy	Zack Galbraith Kitware	Shawn Garbett Vanderbilt University
Bram Gerritsen Netherlands Cancer Institute	Joel Gilbert Hospital del Mar - Parc de Salut MAR	Nik Glasick Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics
Michael Goulet UCLA Microsystems	Alex Gouillard Harvard Medical School	Alain Grillo IBM Watson LDC
John Harnen University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Rolf Harkens Netherlands Cancer Institute	Volker Hartmann Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Peter Hauls GP-Systems	Stefan Hecht University of Konstanz	Alex Herbert University of Sussex
John Hertz Lambert Instruments	BRIH Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine, University of Edinburgh	Mark Hermer IBM Watson LDC
Sebastian Huert Kitware	Gregory Jeffers NERC Laboratory of Molecular Biology	Lee Kameny Broad Institute
Mark Kibbey UW-Madison Medical Center	Kristian Kjartansson University of Southern Denmark	Michael Kortum Duke University
Lewis Kraft Vanderbilt University	Gaelen Leffmann IMBA JGU Gießen	Chris Lissak U-Care Biocore

<https://www.openmicroscopy.org/contributors/>

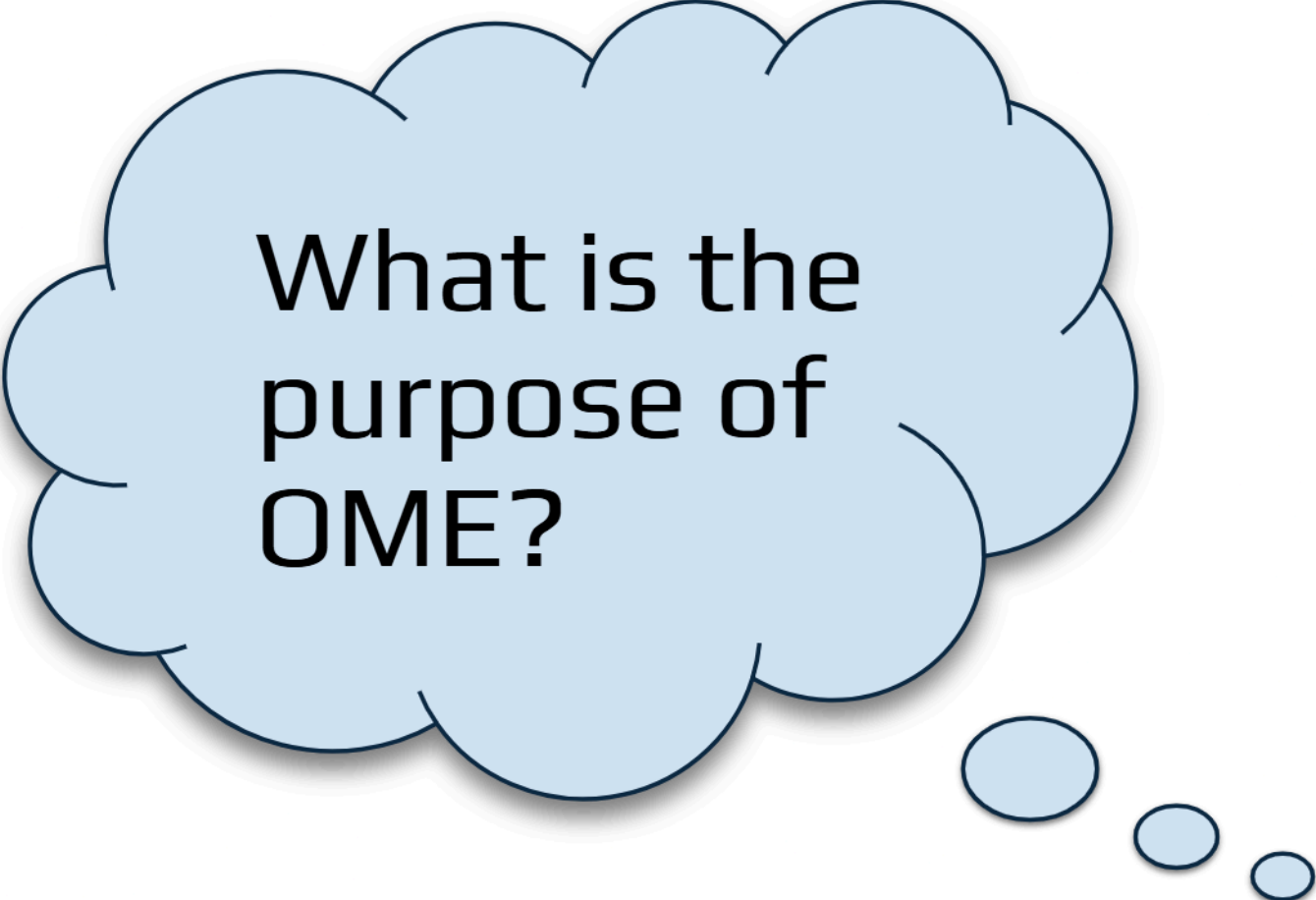
How do we support people in contributing to OME?

Over 80% said it is part of their job to contribute or engage with the OME community

But the main obstacle to contributing? **Time.**

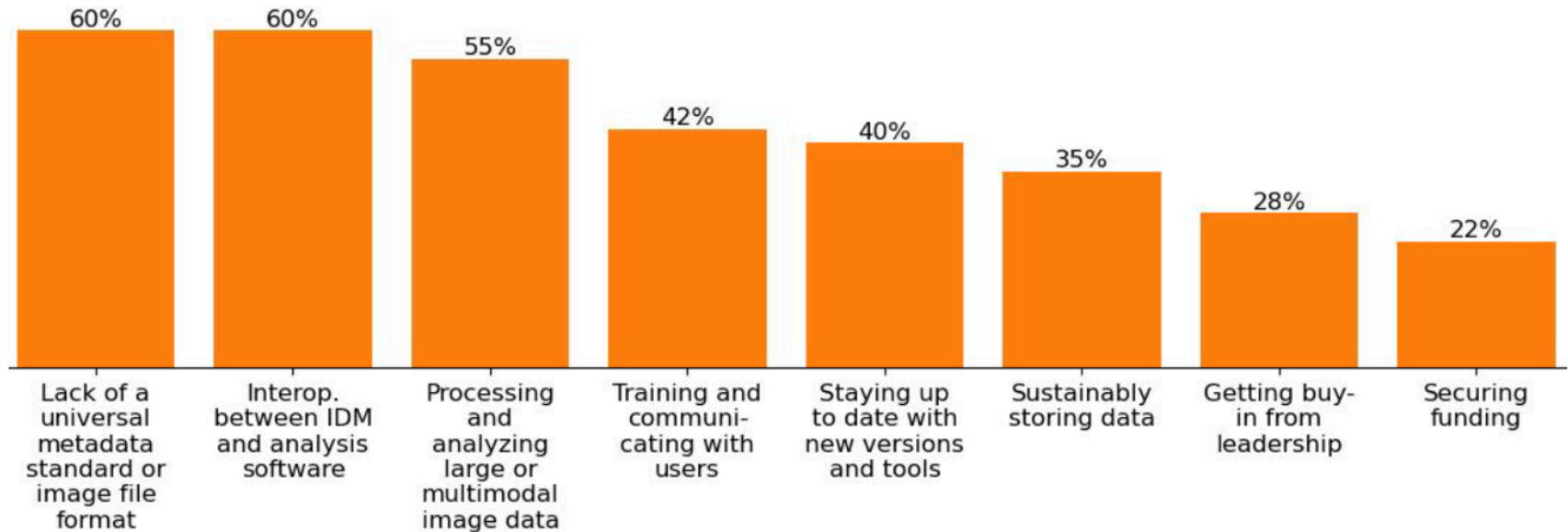
What can we do to make contributing more accessible to more people?

1. Define governance and responsibilities
2. Share common development goals
3. Improve outreach and communication

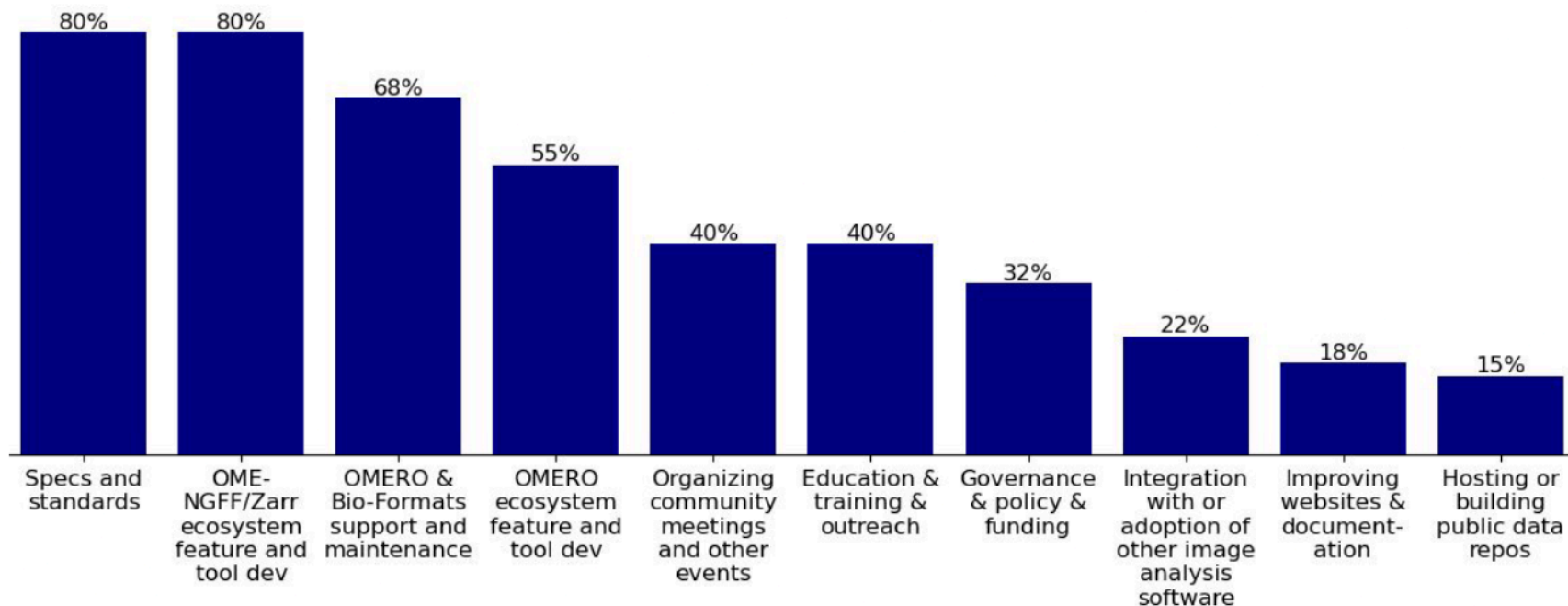


What is the
purpose of
OME?

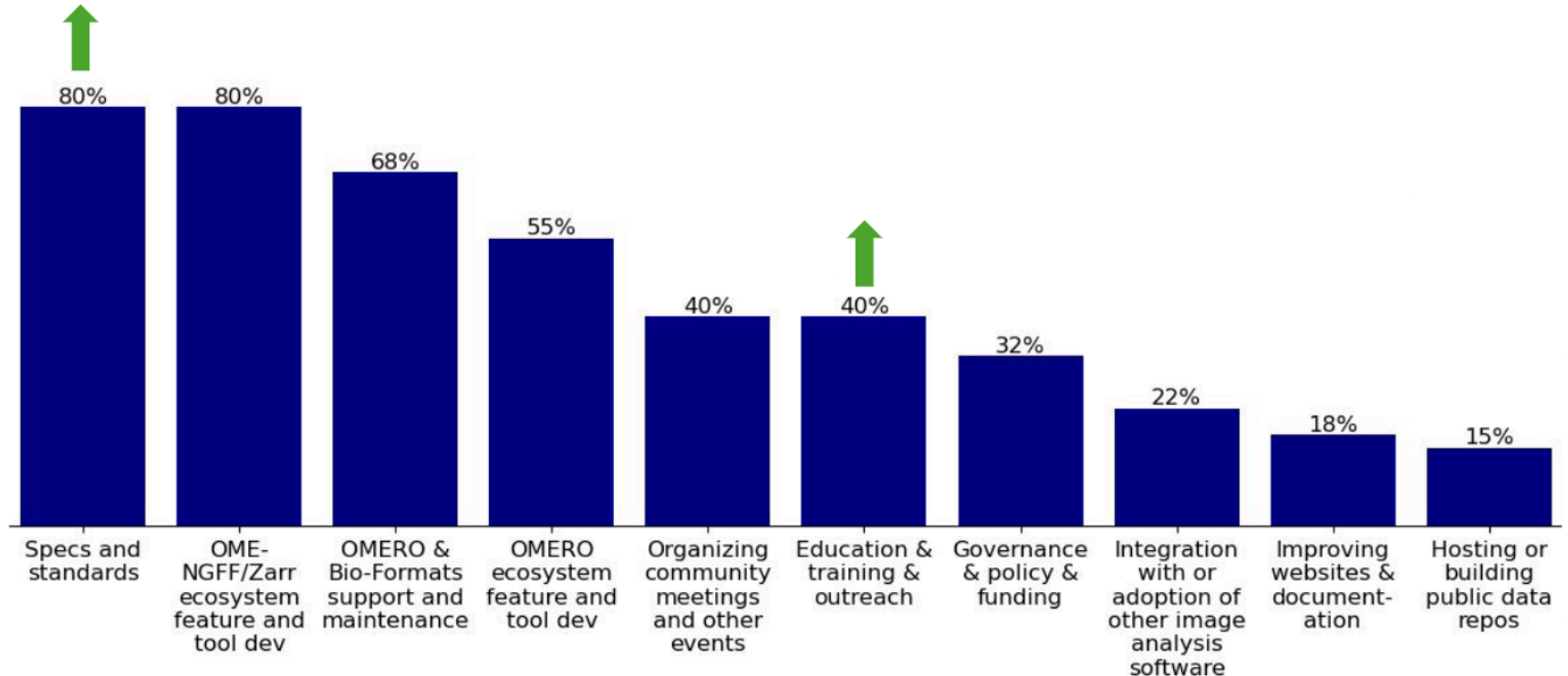
How does this relate to common problems in bio-image work?

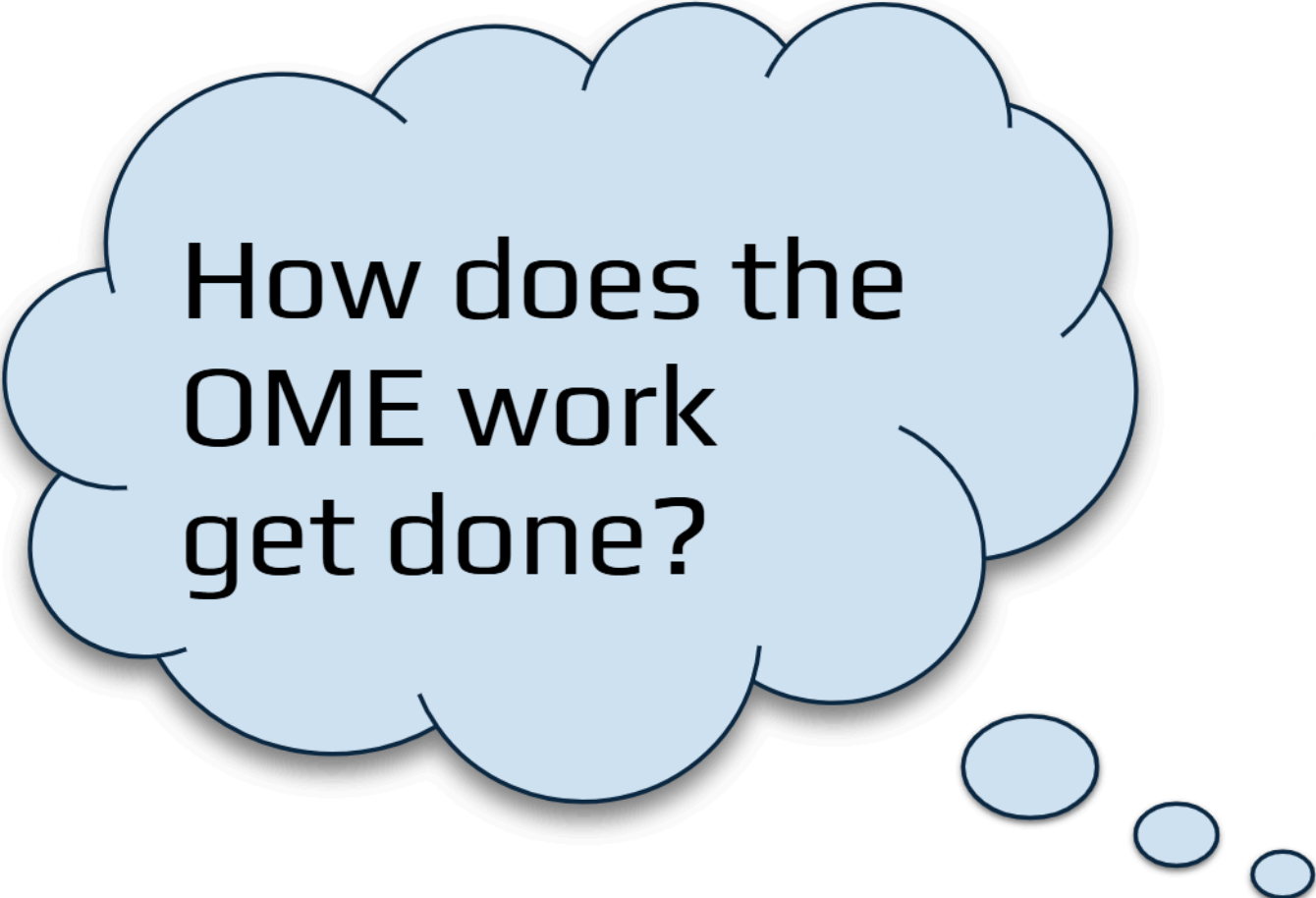


What do you think the priorities of the OME community are?



How will these priorities change?





How does the
OME work
get done?

omero-documentation Public

Sphinx-based documentation for the Open Microscopy Environment

[documentation](#) [omero](#) [ome](#)

• Python •  BSD 2-Clause "Simplified" License •  52 •  24 •  22

omero-server Public

Gradle project containing main server logic for OMERO

[component](#) [server](#) [jar](#) [lib](#) [omero](#)

• Java •  GNU General Public License v2.0 •  14 •  8

omero-server-docker Public

OMERO.server production docker image

[docker](#) [omero](#) [ome](#) [openmicroscopy](#) [omero-server](#)

• Shell •  BSD 2-Clause "Simplified" License •  33 •  16 •  12

omero-figure Public

An OMERO.web app for creating Figures from images in OMERO


[webapp](#) [omero](#)

• JavaScript •  GNU Affero General Public License v3.0 •  38 •  20

omero-cli-transfer Public

An OMERO CLI plugin for creating transfer packets between OMERO servers.

[omero](#) [omero-server](#) [omero-import](#)

• Python •  GNU General Public License v2.0 •  18 •  19 •  6 •  0

github.com/ome

www.openmicroscopy.org Public

OME main website

[jekyll-site](#) [ome](#)

• HTML •  Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International

bioformats Public

Bio-Formats is a Java library for reading and writing data in life sciences image file formats.

[java](#) [metadata](#) [image](#) [format-reader](#) [format-converter](#) [bio-formats](#) [life-sciences](#)

[lightsheet](#)

• Java •  GNU General Public License v2.0 •  254 •  418 •  162 •  9 • Updated on

ngff-spec Public

Next-generation file format (NGFF) specifications for storing bioimaging data in the cloud.

• Python •  10 •  12 •  8 •  5 • Updated 2 days ago

ome-zarr-py Public

Implementation of next-generation file format (NGFF) specifications

[ome](#) [zarr](#) [ngff](#) [ome-zarr](#)

• Python •  Other •  67 •  235 •  70 •  10 • Updated 1

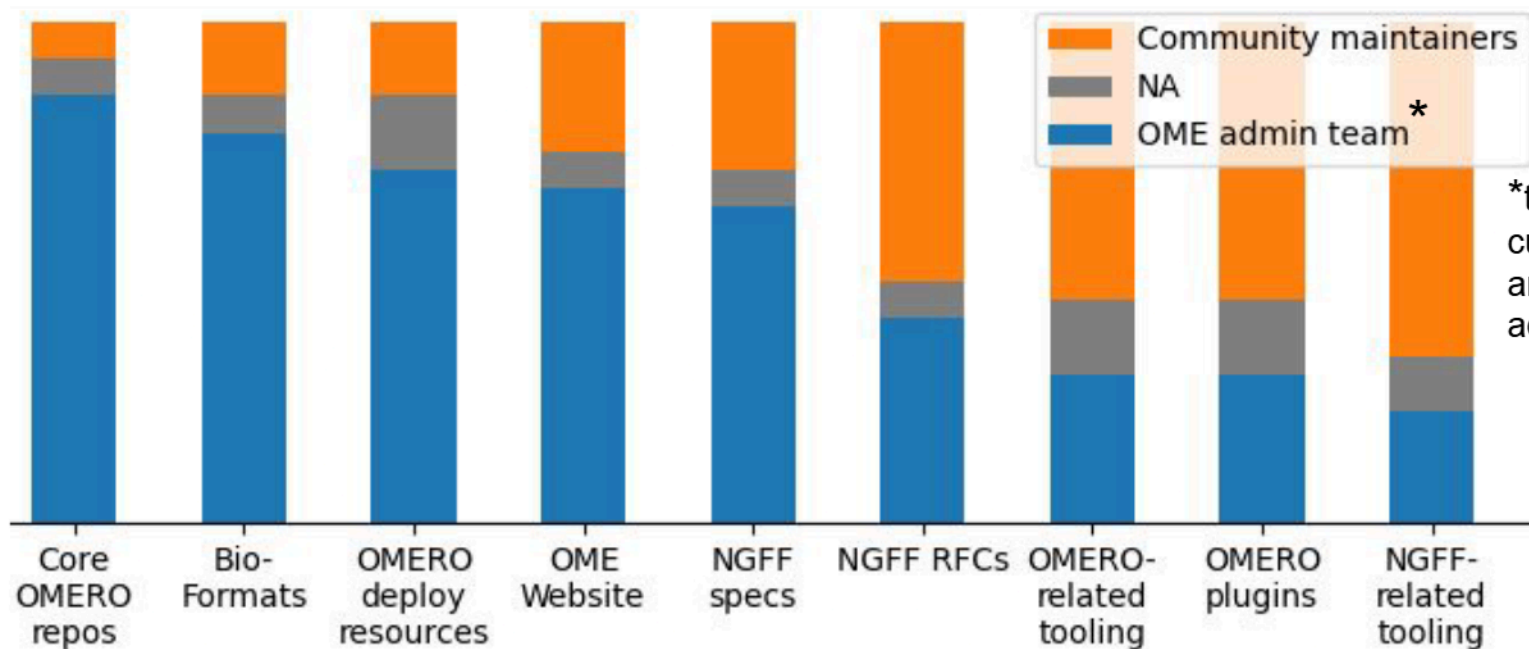
napari-ome-zarr Public

A napari plugin for zarr backed OME-NGFF images

[python](#) [napari-plugin](#) [zarr](#) [ngff](#)

• Python •  BSD 3-Clause "New" or "Revised" License

Which OME repos should be centrally managed?



*there does not currently exist an official OME admin team

How would *you* like to contribute?


Issues and bug fix PRs

**Documentation and other
content writing (specs)**

Feature or tools code

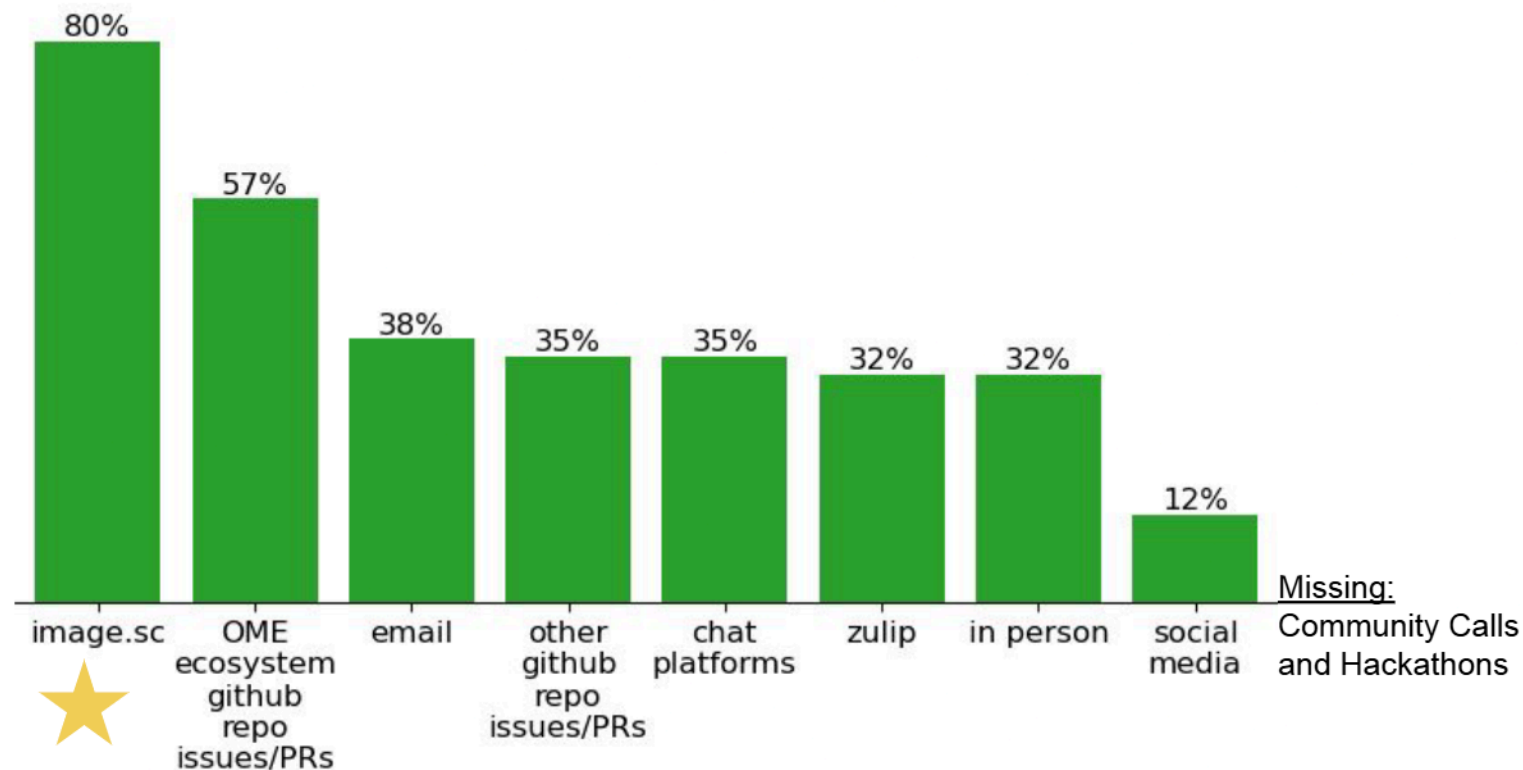
How can we enable these contributions?

- What repos do we want to put effort into making more accessible to new contributors?
- Define and communicate governance
 - Who is responsible for reviewing PRs?
 - Who is responsible for triaging issues?
- Communicate where help is needed & what current development goals are



How do we
engage as a
community?

How do people connect within OME?



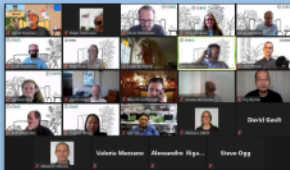
Making the most of OME events



Presentations



Coffee hours & flex time



Remote community calls

How can you get and stay involved?

image.sc: <https://forum.image.sc/>

Community calls: <https://ngff.openmicroscopy.org/community/index.html>

Save the date: OME-Zarr hackathon in Zurich, November 2nd - 6th

■ Announcements ome-ngff



Joel Lüthi jluethi

21d

Dear all,

We're happy to announce that we'll organise the 4th annual OME-Zarr November hackathon in Zurich this year, from November 2nd to November 6th. Please save the date if you're interested in developing the OME-Zarr spec further.

What will we be doing at this hackathon? Find some examples in our 2024 OME-NGFF workflows hackathon preprint: [OSF](#) 5

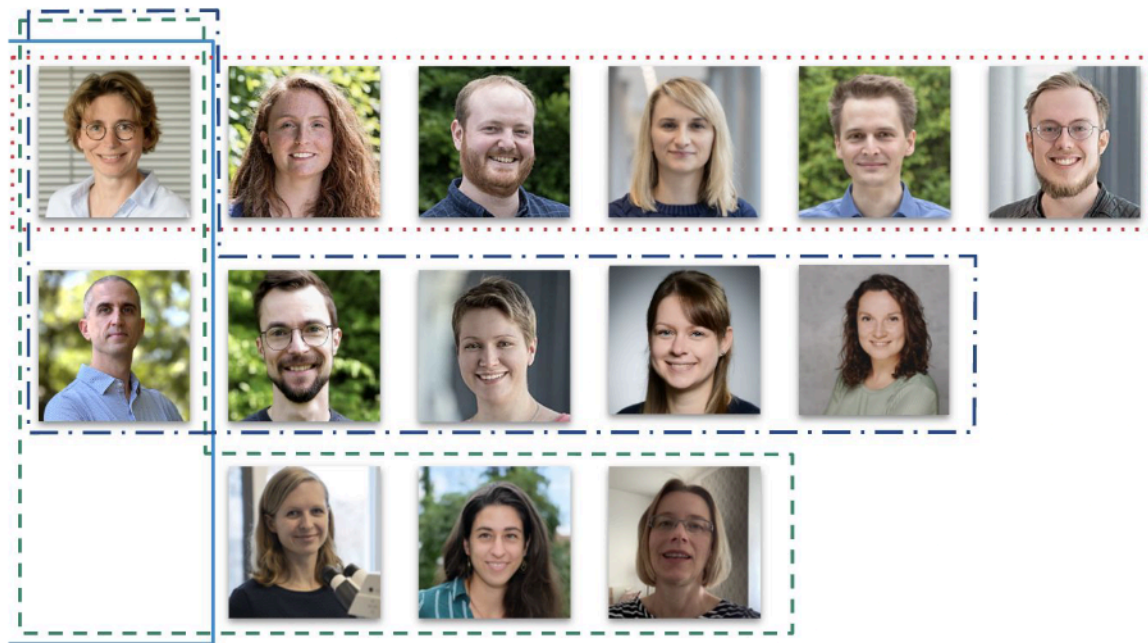
More details to follow by early summer 😊

Get in the room!

- **50%** said they'd be interested in helping organize a future OME Community Meeting
- Volunteer to organize 2028!
- Hackathons, other topics for community calls, etc



Thank you!



Responses

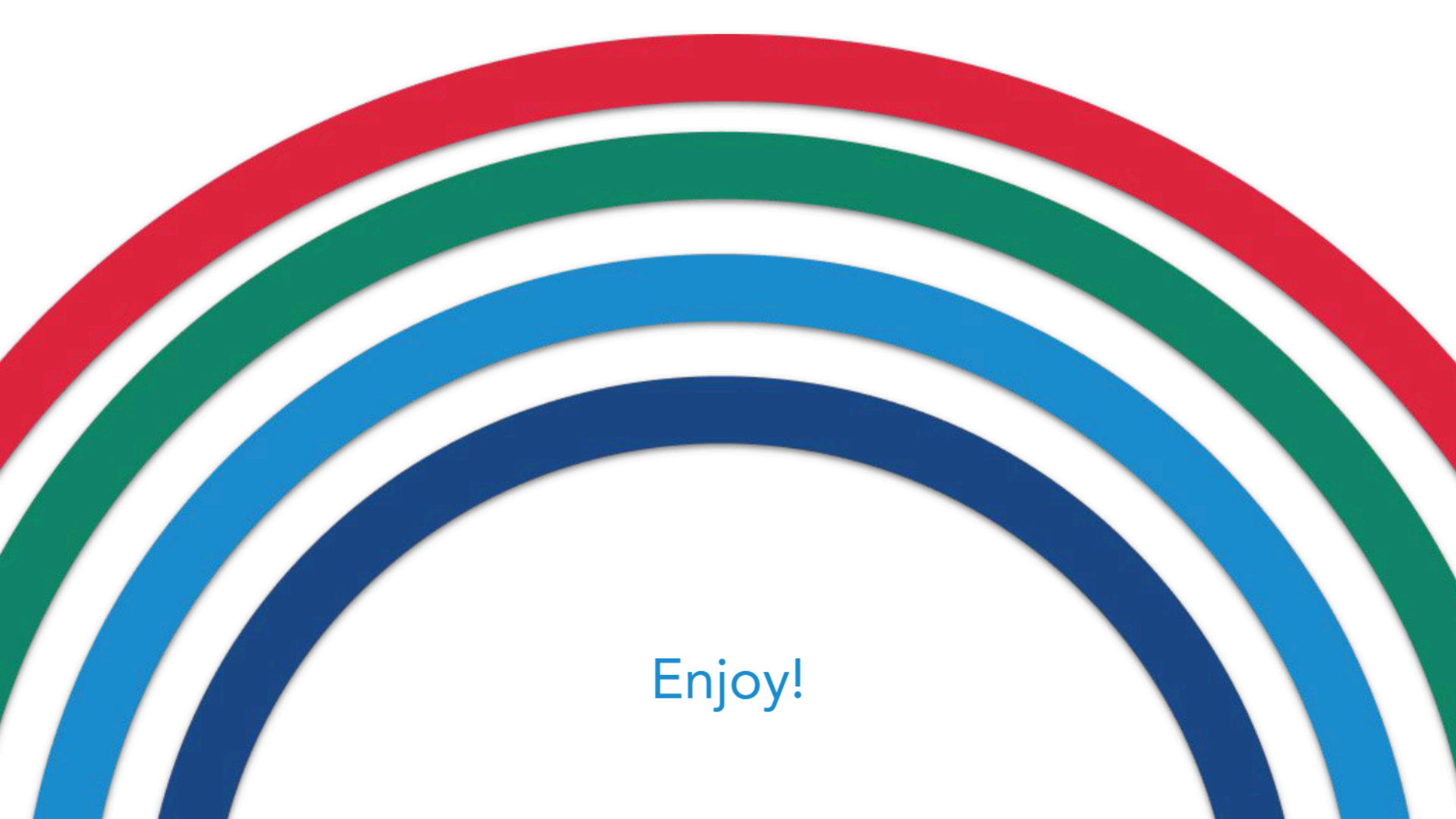
40

Group Photo!

(then beverages)



Photo by [Chris Curry](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Enjoy!

Up next: Session 1

Update OME Ecosystem

Beverage break



Photo by [JOYUMA](#) on [Unsplash](#)



NFDI4
BIOIMAGE

NFDI4BIOIMAGE Research Data Management Community Survey 2026

What are the needs & challenges of the community?
RDM | Data sharing | practical implementation of FAIR practices



<https://nfdi4bioimage.de/en/community-survey-2026/>

Please participate & Spread the word
Thank you!

