

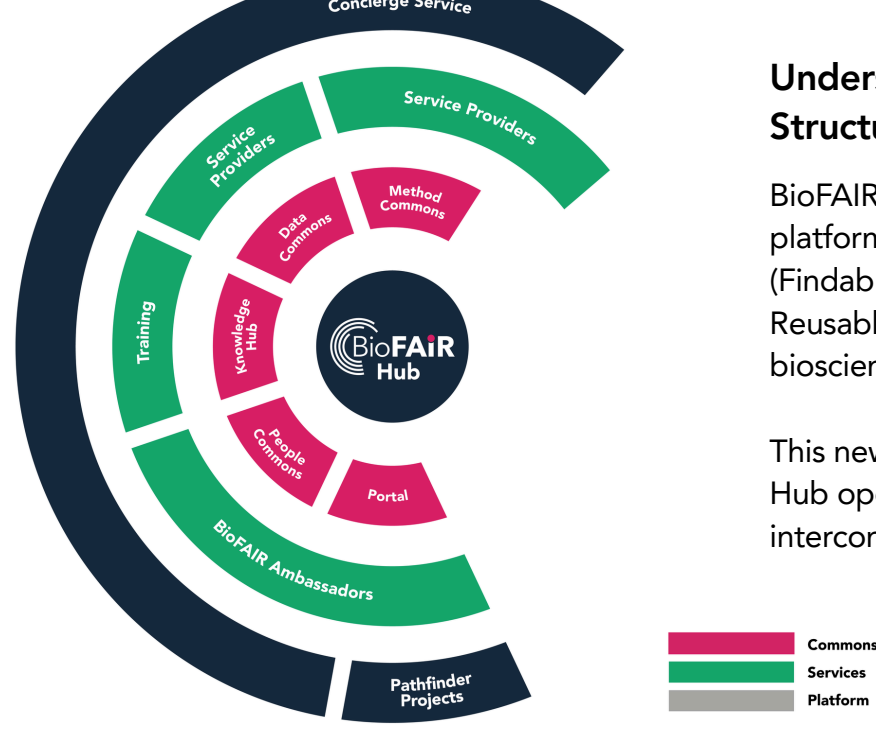
## Building the Future of FAIR Life Science Data Infrastructure

### Where We Are: BioFAIR in Action

After completing a UK-wide roadshow, the BioFAIR hub is kicking off its 2025/26 delivery phase. BioFAIR will support UK life sciences through four connected capabilities: a data commons, methods commons, knowledge centre, and people commons—all accessible via a single portal.

In the year ahead, we'll focus on:

- Supporting and sharing community needs via pathfinder projects
- Launching the first platform components, starting with the Methods Commons
- Building a national People Commons
- Setting up the BioFAIR operating framework



### Understanding the BioFAIR Structure

BioFAIR brings together people, platforms, and services to advance FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) research practices across the biosciences.

This new visual model highlights how the Hub operates through three interconnected layers.

Alt text: A circular diagram titled "BioFAIR Hub" depicting its structural model. At the center is the BioFAIR Hub logo, surrounded by three concentric arcs representing components of the hub. The innermost ring labeled "Commons" (in pink) includes: Data Commons, Method Commons, Knowledge Hub, People Commons, and Portal. The middle ring labeled "Services" (in green) includes: Service Providers (listed twice), Training, and BioFAIR Ambassadors. The outermost ring labeled "Platform" (in dark blue) includes: Concierge Service and Pathfinder Projects. A key at the bottom shows color coding: pink for Commons, green for Services, and dark blue for Platform.

## Welcoming New Leaders to the BioFAIR Team

We're excited to announce several new appointments to the BioFAIR Hub Team who will play a key role in delivering our technical vision.

### Senior Technical Project Manager Appointed

We welcome **Dr Nishadi De Silva** as BioFAIR's **Senior Technical Project Manager**. Nishadi brings extensive experience managing cross-sector technical programs and will lead the delivery of BioFAIR's MVP, coordinating teams and ensuring strategic alignment across the Hub.

*"I'm thrilled to join BioFAIR! I am looking forward to championing the FAIR principles that I have always believed in, and to collaboratively building solutions that empower researchers across the life sciences in the UK."*

— Dr Nishadi De Silva

### Architects Join to Develop the BioFAIR MVP

We've also welcomed two **initial Architects**, **Tom** and **Justin**, who have joined us on a six-month secondment to begin development of BioFAIR's MVP. Their experience across research infrastructure and systems design will be critical in laying the foundation for a scalable, federated platform that supports FAIR principles.

*"I'm thrilled to join the BioFAIR team - we have a unique opportunity to champion FAIR principles, spark collaboration across the UK life-sciences community, and apply cutting-edge technologies to accelerate innovation and interoperability in research."*

— Tom Paine

*"I'm really looking forward to working closely with scientists and developers to build a service that meets their needs in consuming, managing and publishing FAIR data."*

— Justin Clark-Casey

## Launching the BioFAIR People Commons

BioFAIR's first call for Ambassadors will open in June. This new, community-led initiative will support culture change, professional development, and peer learning within the UK life science research and digital infrastructure ecosystem. To begin building this community, we are recruiting 8 BioFAIR Ambassadors, on a part-time basis, to form our inaugural cohort.

Becoming a BioFAIR Ambassador means helping shape the future of data stewardship in UK life sciences, while gaining time, funding, and support to champion FAIR practices, grow your skills, and connect with a national community of peers.

To kick things off, we're holding an introductory webinar on **Wednesday 11 June, 11:00–12:00 GMT, where we'll outline the role, benefits, and how to apply.**

👉 Register now to attend the webinar:

Register

## What's Next for BioFAIR?

As we move into the next stage of BioFAIR's development, our immediate priority is launching a series of Pathfinder Projects. These projects will explore community needs for FAIR data, and test the emerging BioFAIR platform in real-world settings. We'll be open for expressions of interest in the next few months - watch this space!

Later this year, we'll also begin rolling out the first of our platform's core components, starting with the Methods Commons — a space to discover, share, and evaluate computational methods and workflows that align with FAIR principles.

Stay tuned for updates!

## How to Get Involved

We're currently looking for:

- Pathfinder Project Ideas — later this year, we'll be launching a call for Pathfinder Projects that can demonstrate the value of FAIR data and workflows across UK life sciences.

👉 Get in touch if you've got an idea, or are interested to find out more!

- Methods Commons Wishlists — As we bring BioFAIR services online, we want to understand where the bottlenecks are in working with analysis platforms, workflows and tools.

👉 Get in touch to contribute your perspective or explore potential collaboration.

## Upcoming Events & Community Engagement

We're looking forward to connecting with our community at a number of exciting events this summer.

### BioFAIR-Sponsored Events:

UK Human Functional Genomics Symposium  
16 June 2025 | Exeter  
[Learn more about the event here](#)

ISMB/ECCB 2025 (Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology & European Conference on Computational Biology)  
20 - 24 July 2025 | Liverpool  
[Learn more about the event here](#)

### Other Events:

ELIXIR All Hands Meeting 2025  
2–5 June 2025 | Thessaloniki, Greece  
[Learn more about the event here](#)

If you're attending any of these events and would like to meet the BioFAIR team, we'd love to hear from you — please reach out to set up a meeting!

## Why FAIR Data Matters

At the heart of BioFAIR is a shared commitment to FAIR data—but why does this matter?

FAIR data is critical for reproducibility, efficiency, and innovation in modern science. It enables collaboration, reduces duplication, and ensures research outputs can be reused across disciplines and sectors. As AI and machine learning become integral to life sciences, access to structured, machine-readable data is increasingly essential.

Learn more in this article from the Earlham Institute featuring BioFAIR Director Tony Burdett:

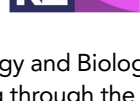
AI and Life Sciences:  
Why FAIR Data Is Essential

## Let's Stay Connected

We're always keen to collaborate with researchers, institutions and organisations aligned with our mission. If you'd like to get involved, learn more, or just stay in touch:

CONTACT US

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Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council



Medical Research Council

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