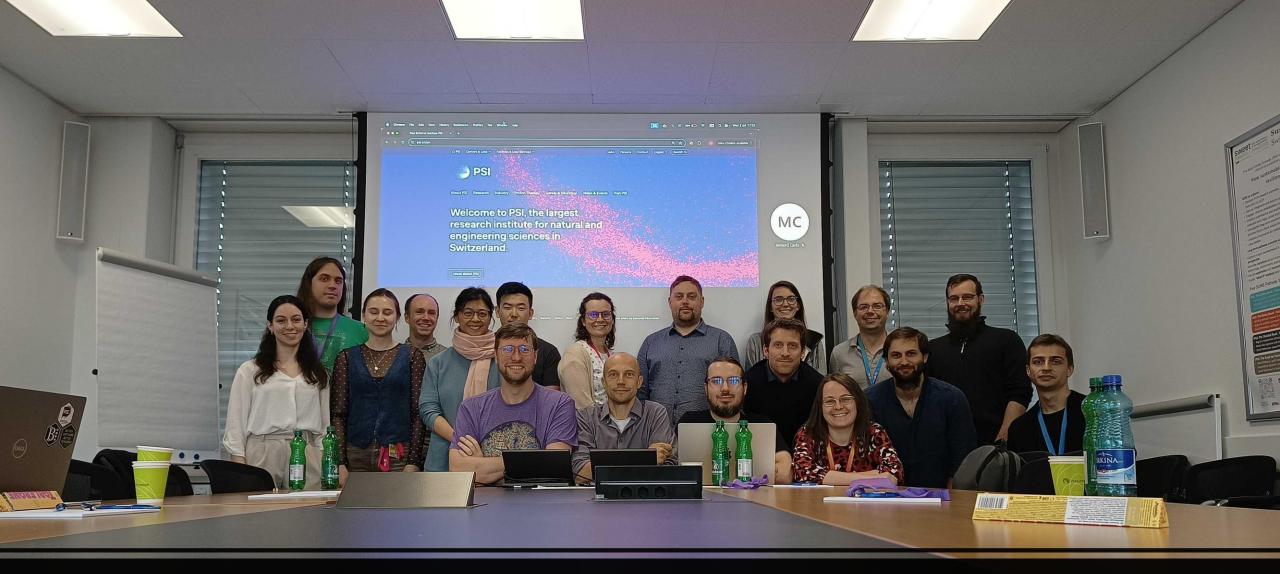# Lessons Learnt 2024/2025

Dr Laura Shemilt, The Rosalind Franklin Institute

24/06/2025

SciCatCon24 PSI, Villigen, Switzerland

Lesson 1: The evolution and importance of SciCatCon

SciCatCon25 is the 4th meeting

Increased engagement and participation

Discuss features

Plan and make decisions for the future

Lesson 2: Dedicated Volunteers has led to big technical achievements this year

- Highly configurable Jobs pipeline reimplemented

- Auto-generated SDK

- New frontend features to improve search

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Lesson 3: If no one can use your software, then it does not work

- SciCatLive to ease getting started and to trial new features

- Documentation review and work

- We have a better product, but significant barriers to entry still remain

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Lesson 4: Building our brand, building our community

- New website

- Clear mission statement

- Consistent approach

- Industry partnership

- Continued Growth

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Lesson 5: It's time to start thinking about UI/UX

- Start to think about SciCat as whole product rather than as individual needs

- We need to get closer to our user base to understand how SciCat is being used and what people need from it

- Do we change our development culture to embrace more UI/UX driven design?

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Lesson 6: Coming of age… SciCat turning 10

How we started

How it's going

Where we want to be

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Lesson 6: Coming of age ... SciCat turning 10

- Governance and membership
  - How do we ensure a good working environment
  - How do we ensure the quality of the product
  - How do we make sure that member contribution is recognised

- Funding
  - how will we continue to fund SciCat going forward?

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Lesson 7: Thanks to All of You!