

**Biostat Conference Call  
Minutes, 5 July 2005**

Present: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, Brandon Witcher, Mike Weiner,

Danielle updated us on plans for papers on the MRI prep phase data. Cliff's group has plans for 8-9 papers on the prep phase. We will be working with Norbert on the hippocampal volumes, but they still have to acquire some more data. Anders is going to be doing something with stability over time, and the effect of gradwarp. Nick Fox has something on brain masking and segmentation. Danielle has told them to come to her with all analyses of numerical summaries. Cliff is going to write a general paper on the prep phase. They have a list of authors. John is on the list, and the voxel based group is also working on a list of papers. They are sending the list to the publication committee also to get started. The only one close to manuscript form is Paul Thompson, who wrote up his power point from May 8. He also wants to get stuff written up before some of his group leave.

It would be very helpful to have specific aims or research questions laid out precisely for each paper. We may not do statistics for all papers, but this would help on review for publication committee as well. Co-authorship is also going to be an issue to sort out. Mike will keep a watchful eye on the process and work closely with first authors and the publication committee.

No specific statistical methodological papers are laid out now, but possibilities abound. We will continue to monitor and discuss this.

Mike says the execution phase is taking a little longer to get started than he had hoped; no site is fully qualified yet. Patients should start being enrolled in the next few weeks. We need to set up a monitoring and data metrics. We need to coordinate this with the UCSD group (no one on this call from there, late announcement.) The big issue will be how to co-analyze the imaging and the clinical/ neuropsych data set. The easy thing will be, as we did for prep phase, to merge numerical summary data (eg the hippocampal volume) with clinical database. But no one has looked at how to move clinical data into the large voxel data base world. This should be quite interesting because all the images will be available not just in one standardized space but in several different types of standard space. There has been talk, Danielle reports, of having a standardized atlas (possibly Gene Alexander's SPM standardized atlas) and using that for Paul's and Colin's approaches as well. But they might also use their own atlases. What is the most sensitive way to capture change?

We will put together a meeting in early Fall at Davis of the statistical group (Danielle, John, Laurel, Anthony, and others with strong stat interests) to talk about the principal challenges facing us and novel ideas for working on them. This should be a chance for us to be creative and brainstorm together.

The next call is 19 July.

