ADNI Biostatistics Conference Call: 26 August 2008

Present on call: Laurel Beckett, Hao Zhang, John Kornak, Danielle Harvey, Bill Billings, Kurt Engelmann, Joanna Fueyo.

Laurel reviewed the budget situation for years 5 and 6. Mike is trying to save money for year 6 and has proposed a 10% cut in year 5 to do this, but this would not affect money saved from previous years. Since we tried hard to anticipate this problem and save some money at front end, we should be OK, but we will have to document and remind UCSF of the money that we should be getting from that. We would anticipate some money from the supplement in Year 6, to support analysis of the continuation of data.

We have a training session scheduled for Monday, September 15, 8 AM to 12 PM Pacific time. There are at least 40 people signed up. Topics will include cross-validation of the ADNI data, and other topics including general usage and the kinds of longitudinal analyses we have been doing. We will provide code for the types of analyses we presented in Chicago. If you have additional topics that may be of interest, please let Laurel and Danielle know as soon as possible.

Danielle will share an outline with the biostat core early next week.

John reported that the voxel-based calls have been switched to the MRI calls. Most of the open questions seem to have been settled now. They are trying to use the common core subjects that Danielle provided so that comparisons would be possible. Another concern, Danielle reminded us, was to make sure that the voxel-based groups are using the cross-validation appropriately. For example, some of the groups are using the test set to fine tune the methods. Despite the fact that we provided training and test sets, some people are not using these as recommended, and their results are not really comparable with anyone else's.

The group agreed that Danielle and Laurel should send an announcement of the training session to the MRI and PET groups and strongly advise that each lab have at least one person sit in on this session so that they can be sure they understand correct use of the training and test sets. John will email as well to hammer the point home to the voxel-based people (Paul, Eric, etc.).

Laurel will circulate the proposed Aims for ADNI II.

Laurel will be going to Tokyo in November to work with the J-ADNI people on their study, which is coming along well.

Danielle is continuing to sit in on PET calls; the next one is in September. John will try to be on that call but after that she will have a conflict with teaching; if there is more need for statistical support, John will try to be on.

The next scheduled call is September 9 at 10 AM, Pacific time.