ADNI Biostat Conference Call
September 27, 2005

Present: Danielle Harvey, John Kornak, Sarah Walters

Sarah gave a summary of the ISAB meeting that took place on Sunday. She mentioned that many of the industry folks were requesting training for analysis of MRI data as well as in using the query tools that are in place or will be in place for searching the ADNI database. The biggest hurdle at this point for the ADCS and LONI groups is the development of a coordinated query tool that allows for interfacing between the LONI image database and the ADCS clinical database. The ADCS team is working closely with LONI to get this set-up, and once it is working, the individuals from industry would like a training session, so they know how to access the data. She also mentioned that industry typically contracts out for analysis and for handling MRIs. It was made clear to the industry group that our group would not be carrying out their analyses for them, but that the results and methods from our analyses would be made available.

Sarah also reported on the current state of the iQuery tool that exists in the ADCS database. She said the biggest thing that is missing in the tool (which will be very important for the Execution Phase) is the ability to differentiate by diagnostic category. Once that system is in place, our group will be given access to the Execution Phase data. She will give us access to the enrollment reports, so that we can keep track of enrollment. Sarah told us that 8 sites have been approved for screening, 4 of the sites are actively screening, 17 screens have been completed, and 4 subjects have been randomized.

In terms of getting race/ethnicity information from the Prep Phase, all sites were able to enter this information, except for UCLA. UCLA was unable to provide any demographic information on their subjects, because the consents came from other studies and no data sharing was in the consent.

Sarah is going to check with Norbert Schuff's group to see if all of the hippocampal volume data acquired for the prep phase is accurate. The ADCS database is missing a lot of hippocampal volumes, but Danielle has spreadsheets from Sabrina and Norbert that have complete data. If Norbert and Sabrina say that this data is correct, that data will be sent directly to Sarah and her group so that it can be entered into the Prep Phase database.

John reported on the voxel-based group. He said that Paul's group is pulling images together to send to John, so that he can begin to play with the data and get systems in place for comparing VBM and TBM methods as well as for generating summaries from the voxel-based analyses. He is waiting to hear back from Gene on some possible numerical summaries (regions of interest, etc.). So, hopefully soon, John can start generating differences between methods. Once he has some possible approaches in place, he would like to come up to UC Davis and meet with Laurel, Danielle, and Qian to go over what he has come up with.   He also mentioned that the effect of signal to noise on VBM and TBM methods remains unknown. He is waiting to hear from Anders on the methods used to generate the SNR and CNR for the Prep Phase to see if that data can be used as a covariate in the voxel-based models. John is guessing that even with the data from the Prep Phase, that there won't be enough data to really understand what is going on, so

the different groups may try to pull together images and signal to noise information from other studies, so that we can begin to understand how VBM and TBM is impacted. He also said that by the end of the ADNI study, we should have ample data to study this, so it may be something that we truly investigate later in the course of the study.

Next call: Tuesday, October 11.