ADNI Biostatistics conference call
Minutes for 14 October 2008

Present on call: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, Hao Zhang, John Kornak, Fred Immerman, Joanna Fueyo, David Shera, Kurt Engleman, Bongin Yoo.

Danielle updated us on the MRI world. She has summarized the images available at LONI for 12 month data. We have about 644 individuals with both screening and 12 month imaging for MRI, and for PET about 334. For 1.5T vs 3T comparisons we have about 141; restricted to individuals for whom scans got the highest QC rating (1 and 2, not 3 and 4). Danielle has not yet put together the common list for PET and 1.5T. We are hoping to have the labs process all the 1-year data by end of December. The PET labs are very far along in this process. Some MRI labs are close to done and others are lagging behind. Danielle is generating a list, by lab, of what's done and what remains to be done.

There are some other issues that the labs are working on. For example, some scans had missing rank information; people at Mayo went back and traced this and it has now been uploaded. David had identified some other problems, e.g. duplicates, and this is being sorted out now. Norbert Schuff had processed some of the duplicates and gotten identical information but other labs got slightly different results even though Mayo says the images are exact duplicates. Mayo says they will get one of the duplicates removed from LONI and notify people who downloaded. They are also trying to track down missing images. There are some people who are missing scans but have no indication that they withdrew, or there is some indication they did have a scan. ADCS and Mayo are trying to trace the missing stuff, on a case-by-case basis.

The biomarker core is waiting for completion of the 12 month samples. They will then do a batch analysis of the samples and post the summary data to LONI. Our best guess on this is early 2009, perhaps February.

None of the material from the training has been posted yet but Danielle and Hao are going to work on getting it posted to the LONI wiki site.

Laurel reported that the Executive Committee call indicated there is likely to be a call for "pilot grants" to fund outside analysis of ADNI data. NIH in particular is eager to see the resource get used. Laurel mentioned that several grants and projects are already underway and that we have had to provide a lot of support and guidance to get people started, as the database is complex and the data issues obscure at times (for example, what do you use as the diagnostic category, and what are the implications of using screening diagnosis vs. baseline diagnosis). There is a need for help even if the group has experienced statisticians. The group thought it would be a good idea to support, say, a 50% effort at ADNI Biostat to provide such help and advice.

Laurel will be in Tokyo the first week of November to meet with the Japan ADNI group and give a talk. We hope to learn from their statisticians' experiences, also.

Our next call is 11 November, which is Veterans' Day; the consensus was that we should go ahead with a call on that day.