ADNI biostatistics conference call 6 December 2006

Danielle reports that enrollment is up to 30 subjects from 13 sites (15 normal, 9 MCI and 6 AD). Ten have been randomized to just get 1.5 Tesla, 16 to get PET and 1.5 Tesla, and 4 to get 1.5T and 3T). More sites are about to come on.

They anticipate having half the sites approved by end of 2005.

We summarized recent Executive Committee reports on data release (not until data are cleaned) and agreement that people sign before getting data.

One discussion that bears on our group is the status of additional analyses such as Paul Crane's proposed neuropsych item analytic approach. Paul is proposing some sophisticated item analytic approaches and there was a question of how much of this is duplicative of ADNI analyses. Paul was advised that this proposal is not "ancillary" as an add-on because it does not directly affect the conduct of ADNI. It would have to go in as a separate proposal. He would have to make a very strong case that this is different from the ADNI analyses. This would presumably also apply to our group should anyone want to apply for funding for novel statistical methodology.

John is interested in learning about the Bayesian aspects of the proposal. Danielle will keep him posted. We don't know yet whether statistical methodology development will be included in the proposal. Danielle will be on this as a link to ADNI and a program project that would also contribute data. John notes that many neuropsych tests have serious floor and ceiling problems. Our understanding is that while ADNI is going to look for imaging and biomarker measures that optimally capture clinical change, the Crane proposal is rather to look for properties of the neuropsych testing that optimally reflect what we learn from imaging.

John reported on the voxel based group. He's trying to get their summary together and get data to play with (by New Year, hopefully).

We agreed to cancel the call on the 20th and get together on 3rd January, same time.