

ADNI Biostatistics Conference Call
11 March 2008

Present on call: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, David LastShera, Hao Zhang, John Kornak, Joanna Fueyo, Mike Weiner, Bill Billing.

Danielle has been sending out weekly reports on the status of imaging and biomarker summary data at LONI. (She has updated more frequently recently as we converge on the target date of 15 March.) She has summarized data from each MRI/ PET lab on how many people have data processed for just baseline, baseline + 6 month, baseline + 12 month, or baseline, 6 and 12 month. She also included a summary of how many verified images are available for download from LONI. The labs with just baseline so far will be uploading longitudinal data later this week.

Some people have seen numbers and become confused by the columns that break down people by how many have different combinations of images.

We will have half an hour to present. We plan to give a quick overview of methods, illustrated by something familiar like the ADAS-COG, to show heterogeneity, differences across and within groups, and how we estimate sample size. Then we will summarize the means and SD of 12-month change for each measure, by diagnostic group, and highlight the sample size comparison (most likely just for AD but maybe also MCI). We will try to take a quick look at the correlation between imaging and clinical measures.

Mike had some suggestions for presentation. He suggests including 3 or 4 clinical measures (ADAS COG, CDR, sum of boxes, maybe a measure of memory.) He also suggests focusing on the AD group. He wondered about comparisons across measures; how feasible this will be depends on how much overlap, and since different groups did different subsets. We will take a quick look but expect that most of the data analysis for comparison will require more people completed and more overlap. We also plan to be very explicit about the limitations of this early analysis.

Laurel will be doing 3 presentations at the April meeting: a major half-hour presentation at the steering committee meeting Monday morning, which will be the most comprehensive; a short one Sunday night at the Scientific Advisory Board; and a short one Monday afternoon at the Industry leaders group.

Mike would like two teleconferences: one first week of April, one in the second week, to go over the preparations.

Danielle and Laurel are exploring the possibilities of an in-person training session. Mike suggested that we might be able to get by with another teleconference or series of teleconferences instead of in-person. David, Bill and Joanna think that either would be good but that teleconference might be faster and easier. We will check to see how many folks are interested and what is preferred.

Next call is in two weeks, Tuesday 25 April.