

ADNI Biostat conference call

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

On call: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, Hao Zhang, David Shera, Bill Billing, Joanna Fueyo.

We sent out slides for the talks at ADNI meetings this coming weekend. These are very preliminary – they represent a sample of analyses done, which are also a sample of what was posted to LONI, and still incomplete even at 1 year.

We sent out results to each lab, and got feedback and in some cases corrections to data or analysis. The MRI call on Friday discussed the results and whether they were what was anticipated; the one big concern was that there were a few normals who were changing way more than people expected, and there are a few outliers. But for the most part, our results were pretty consistent with what they were expecting. We have also shown slides to Bill Jagust, Cliff Jack, and Mike Weiner for feedback.

Feedback on slides – folks think that we have done a pretty good job of summarizing a lot of early work and making cautions clear.

The ADNI II slides seem to cover most of the issues. Will we need to do a prep phase on each new measure? If so, we should budget that in. Last time there was a prep phase for MRI and a round robin for biomarkers. PET is talking about doing a prep phase. We need to emphasize the importance of the quality control and prep phase for establishing consistency between sites and over time.

Joanna and David have downloaded some data and queried the database and explored the data but have not done lots of analyses yet. We are working to get better documentation of the imaging summary measures posted online; some of the explanations in the data dictionary are pretty sketchy. Right now someone might download the data and not know what they are getting unless they have been in communication with labs directly. Danielle is passing requests along to LONI and ADCS on both the data interface and the documentation and what would be helpful. There will be a discussion Sunday afternoon, which is mostly likely to focus on tracking, but we also are advocating for having ability to query the clinical database rather than just getting a huge data dump. Someone familiar with big databases would not have trouble but Danielle gets a lot of “HELP!” requests from people who can’t find what they are looking for.

Laurel suggested an ADNI focused session at JSM 2009 in DC, and that we should try to build communication and discussion with ADNI statistical users. Joanna suggests a “best practices” discussion. This would be great to have online, too.

Laurel and Danielle would like any feedback on slides; the printed slides will be going in today but we can get changes up till Friday for the actual presentation.

Next call is Tuesday, 22 April.