

ADNI Biostat conference call
25 September 2007

Present on call: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, Qian Weng, Monica Chu, John Kornak, Rob Croop.

Danielle updated us on last Thursday's training session on access to data through LONI. We had about 60 people from industry and a few other places call in, and we spent about 2 hours going through the image data and the clinical data. Danielle showed them examples of how to download images, variables you could select on, how to merge clinical data, and some sample code in R, SAS and Stata. She will follow up with some more specifics, e.g. when the image summaries become available. She is also going to forward some suggestions to LONI. For example, queries are available now in "OR" format but not in "AND" format, and it would be helpful to have both options, both for images and for clinical data. Monica suggests working with Mike Donohue for communication with LONI. Feedback so far is encouraging, and a number of people are now using LONI and getting some data. John would like a copy of the handout; we will send a copy to everyone. Laurel asked if it would be a good idea to send out a survey asking for feedback, and Rob thinks this would be an excellent idea. Danielle will draft something. John suggests asking if there are any issues they have run into since the call.

Qian has put together a nice summary of the clinical/ neuropsych data, including things like number of conversions, rates of change and variation in change for each neuropsych test, and some graphics. We will be writing this up for Mike to give a short presentation at the October 4 meetings in DC. We will send a copy out to the biostat group next week. We will also present a more detailed summary on November 2 at the small meeting in San Diego, and we will be discussing that presentation over the next two calls, especially the October 23 call.

Qian has also done some quick looks at the imaging summaries that we obtained unofficially from ADCS as a preliminary step to the LONI download. The data are mostly PET summaries from Bill Jagust's lab, and also some hippocampal volumes, and a few sample numbers from Anders Dale's lab. There is very little longitudinal data so far. Mike had sent around a list of questions he wanted people to look at. We will be preparing some analyses for the November 2 meeting (maybe just a quick look for October 4, but we won't have official access much before that.)

Danielle notes that the data dictionary on LONI already shows the names and descriptions of the imaging summary data even though they are not up there yet. Monica thinks that the data will be up this week. Good job, ADCS!

Next call is October 9 at 10 AM Pacific time.