

ADNI Biostatistics Core
Conference call, 15 February 2005

Present on call: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, John Kornak, ADNI Team – Sarah, Devin, and Mike Biglan, Brad Whitcher, Mike Weiner.

1. John updated us on voxel-based analysis conference call. Two sets of analyses: the summary-based will use global summaries, but there will also be looking at voxel level. (Statistics obtained at each voxel, compare the map.) John and Danielle had a meeting with the voxel analysts to talk about concerns. Three main areas:
 - a. What template to use if warping to standard? Would be ideal to all use same, but there are complications. One might be average brain generated by Gene Alexander.
 - b. How to generate summary statistics: for example, integrating brain change over template to see how it changes over time. John raises question of how this would differ from the global summaries (sort of like changing order of integration.)
 - c. Final issue, John will send an e-mail: what needs to be stored in data bases to allow us to carry out analysis. Summary maps, information on how things done? John will send out minutes soon.

Monthly telephone meeting now arranged. Details will follow up on John's summary and minutes.

2, 3. Industry and non-industry access is an ongoing discussion, at Executive Committee meeting (delegated). Mike notes that Siemens just requested access to prep phase data, for example. We need to think about overall plan for what is publicly available. Data to be public, even if not final. Big danger: start getting requests for help – what does it mean, etc. Have to limit our responsibility for answering questions and such; maybe have a FAQ or chat room or something.

4. Danielle has updated the Prep Phase Imaging document to reflect all the changes, including fact that MGH images now being done at San Diego, and part of Aim 7 may not be done, depending on what the first few images show. Anders thinks we will find grad warp far superior to standard.

5. Methodology conference: Late summer or early Fall. Laurel will check some possible dates.

6. Danielle is putting together a summary document for the execution phase; this will be circulated as soon as she has an actual draft. She will try to incorporate the various flow charts for connections and show what information will come from where and what analyses will use different pieces.

New items:

Ron asked Anthony Ganst to take on the leadership of ADNI-UCSD. Mike knows him from his graduate studies at Berkeley and will be happy to work with him.

MRI decision meeting will be held 8 May in Miami. Decisions will be made by MRI advisory core; Mike says it is not mandatory that any of us to go. But John, Laurel and Danielle should be available by phone for conference. We will hold that date reserved and will see how the data look and whether it is obvious in advance or whether statistical discussion will be needed.

Sarah reports that the Executive Committee and Art Toga liked the diagram of flow for execution phase, so this looks pretty stable as a plan.

Hippocampal volumes have not come in yet but Sarah is getting set. Range checks have been obtained for hippocampal volumes and Anders Dale, and they are in place. An error checking mechanism is in place. Anders would like to run his own QC but we are going to include ranges in our data base for reference. Mike says we should have range checks for all data.

Mike suggests that we set a close date for the last data to be included in analysis for 8 May. We can expect data to come dribbling in right up till the 8th. We should just tell people when to have it in to be sure it is included in the analysis.

Meetings to continue every other Tuesday 29 March, 12 and 26 April, and add one on 3 May, 10 AM on Tuesday.

Mike asks us to think about what kind of tracking metrics we can do – including range and data checks as well as accrual.