

ADNI Biostatistics Conference Call
22 November 2005

Present on call: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, John Kornak, Brandon Whitcher, Sarah Walter.

Danielle reports that the MRI group is considering an add-on study to get funds to analyze more of the images. They would focus on comparison between 1.5T and 3T. Danielle thinks this will be for a 1 February submission and she will help with an analytic section. Paul's paper has been revised for resubmission. Otherwise they have been busy with site qualification, issues with the phantom, and other technical issues. One more add-on might be developed at Davis. It would have more to do with item response data.

Laurel says Howie Rosen's study went in on time. The European ADNI has been funded and Laurel has sent congratulations to Giovanni and asked him to let the statisticians know that we would be happy to work together on challenges arising in imaging data.

John has had a voxel-based call since our last call. Much was discussing details about comparisons of voxel-based and tensor-based and how to do this without introducing biases. We should get real longitudinal data to play with around January or February. John is setting up tools, asking questions that need to be answered, and setting up. We want to be able to pull out regions automatically for comparisons. The MNI brain may be the best because there is a lot of segmentation. A lot of discussion also took place about signal to noise ratio. There is no plan to do further analysis at the moment on the prep phase data. John can use it though to test data set up for the longitudinal data.

Data availability is a concern from industry. The Executive Committee has decided not to release data until the MRI group has certified it as clean. They will then require agreement to a consent form that includes things like proper credit to ADNI on publications, proper credit to co-authors, and so on.

Danielle reports there are 24 subjects enrolled: 12 normal, 7 MCI, and 5 AD. Seventeen have consented to lumbar puncture, so this is not yet a problem. Eight subjects are just getting 1.5T, 10 also getting PET, and 6 just getting the 3T. Danielle's paper is progressing.

Sarah reports that the interface across 3 different databases is progressing, and they will have a way to release scans from quarantine. Next step will be a search function to get this. She thinks LONI will be available as soon as it is de-quarantined but no word yet on when there will be a link to clinical data. There is a public web site now available for ADNI so you can refer them to www.adni-info.org. We looked at it and it looks great. If something should be added, let Sarah know (remembering this is public, not secure.)

Our next call will be on 6 December. We will leave the 20 December call as scheduled but will consider canceling if there is no particular need, and plan also for 3 January.