

ADNI Biostat conference call, 11 September 2007

On call: Danielle, Laurel, Brandon, John K, David, Monica, Mike.

We have the telephone training session scheduled for next week 20 September, 9-12 Pacific time. Danielle reports that the list of participants includes more than 50 names. Danielle has circulated instructions for getting log-in from LONI.

We are not sure whether we will have imaging data available from LONI but the UCSF and Bill Jagust's PET data are being uploaded to ADCS database at UCSD and they should then be readily available from LONI. They will be in the same format as sent out. We can include information about tables available when we do the call, and as new ones become available, we can send out occasional updates.

Danielle reminds us that the imaging summaries will be updated periodically and that some kind of versioning is going to be available. What are the plans for tracking versions? Monica says there will likely be some kind of archive for older versions, and a heads-up alert that there is a new version available. We need to give people in the training some idea on how versioning will be handled. Monica will check with Mike Donahue for an update. Both LONI and ADCS have been working hard to get this in place; it has been hard to get started until data were actually available.

Biomarker group is batching stuff and sending along when they get a big batch.

UCSF has sent data, and Bill Jagust. They are currently working with Anders Dale's group and they are close to ready to send stuff. Charlie DeCarli has not sent stuff but Laurel and Danielle will see him on Thursday and check how things are going; he was close to ready but when his father died suddenly, he got behind. We also don't know what is coming, if anything, from Norm Foster's group. The two voxel-based groups that will generate summaries are Eric Reimann for SSP (he will send summaries) and Paul Thompson has some regional measures (10 per image) that he generates from tensor-based morphometry. Monica says they have not received anything from either group.

Monica will be meeting with Mike and working on it this week. There are some issues with needing LONIUID's on some summaries. Also, some things that are uploaded very close in time need to have careful ID to keep stuff straight.

Qian has been looking both cross-sectionally and longitudinally at clinical measures. Laurel will prepare a report by end of Sept and distribute, covering both clinical and, if we have had a chance, some quick preliminary looks at the first imaging measures and how well our strategy is working.

We are also talking with Ron Peterson about a baseline paper on the clinical data, what specific analyses would be relevant. We are going to meet and talk to Ron.

John reported that voxel based call does not have much biostatistics progress. There will be a call this week. It would help to have Gene and Paul on the call because they have strong input. John is working on that. Colin may not make it.

Mike reports that the big question that keeps coming up on clinical trial planning boards is the need for information on rates of decline, variation in rates of decline. Groups that get data sit on it or don't publish. Many people don't decline at all on ADAS-COG; is that because they are on some drugs already. ADNI data will be very helpful; also information is needed on things like site effect. Any kinds of power analysis will be very helpful.