

ADNI Biostat conference call, 7 August 2012

Present on call: Laurel Beckett, Danielle Harvey, Naomi Saito, Arnold Huang, David Verbel, Peter Quark, Nandini Raghavan, Mike Donohue, Dan Tancredi.

Mike Donohue went to AAIC and presented. Not a lot of new data presentations, but the biomarker session was interesting. Mike and the Hopkins group presented different approaches to the same data, with contrasting results; the Jedniak presentation used a more parametric approach and Mike did a more semi-parametric effort to generate Cliff Jack diagram pictures based on ADNI data. Mike thinks there were some issues with the assumptions on shape that were made by Jedniak group, and the results turned out strikingly different. They had RAVLT damage earlier. There is, Mike believes, a fundamental issue in comparing trajectories from markers with very different signal-to-noise ratios. Mike's approach could lead to spurious conclusions if there is very high signal-to-noise. Slides from WW-ADNI will be available on ADNI-Info, and Mike will share slides from his talk.

Mike also reported that U Penn has sent ADNI-Go and ADNI-2 CSF data (under name Biomark 5). There is also an update from UCSF, the Freesurfer X data (cross-sectional). A group from NYU sent some measure of FDG in hippocampus. All these are posted.

Danielle reports that the MRI core has decided to upload data on a quarterly basis, formally, instead of the more-or-less annual pattern that has existed.

We are about ready to post the FAQs – Naomi, Mike and Danielle will go over to see if they are still timely with changes in data tables. We hope to do a workshop in Fall. We would like to have the data more or less stabilized. Documentation is now included with all the new data (methods document). Complete download now includes methods document and data dictionary along with data file, with same file name initial title to make this clear. Mike has fixed the SAS package following Naomi's suggestions, so this is now just about ready to be posted.

ADNI presentations at JSM included Laurel's presentation on the generalized Mallows model and its applications. The methods paper is nearly ready to submit. Danielle presented the comparisons paper (methods for comparing biomarkers on things such as precision, clinical validity). She plans to submit by end of month. Dan presented techniques for information-based design for scheduling exams for progression. Mike presented to the CTSA group but not in the regular JSM.

We are planning on a call on September 4, the day after Labor Day.