

VIII PMT meeting on the EADC-ADNI Harmonization of Protocols for Hippocampal Segmentation

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Participants:

Giovanni B. Frisoni	(GBF)	– IRCCS S. Giovanni di Dio - Fatebenefratelli, BS, Italy
Marina Boccardi	(MB)	– IRCCS S. Giovanni di Dio - Fatebenefratelli, BS, Italy
Martina Bocchetta	(MBocch)	– IRCCS S. Giovanni di Dio - Fatebenefratelli, BS, Italy
Simon Duchesne	(SD)	– Laval University, Québec City, Canada
Lennart Thurfjell	(LT)	– GE
Gunnar Krueger	(GK)	– Siemens

IMAGE ORIENTATION:

GBF and MB described the Delphi V Round frame, underlined the information provided regarding the issue of the image orientation and the clear statement that the final decision will be taken by the project Steering Committee.

No objection arose for this Questionnaire, thus it is ready to be submitted to the panelists.

NEUROPATHOLOGICAL VALIDATION:

We are waiting for dr. de Leon's answer about his sample details. He has already confirmed that he has a sample of “15AD+5CTRL” with postmortem MRI and quantitative histology.

Dr Jack's sample consists in controls and cases with pathologically confirmed diagnosis (Braak's stages), but not post-mortem hippocampal measurement.

SD suggested to use the Quebec brain bank, which may also be provided with histopathological data.

For the dr. de Leon sample, GBF suggested to skip the hippocampal tracing following the local protocol, and only to trace the post-mortem MRI and the histopathological specimens following the Harmonized Protocol.

PUBLICATION POLICY:

The Protocol and the digital data will be available only for beta-testing users in the period (at least 1 year) between the end of the Delphi Panel and the publication of the paper with the full validation data (i.e. the final analysis regarding the whole set of hippocampal tracings by all naïve tracers). To be a beta-tester, one user must submit his/her proposal to the project Steering Committee; if accepted, the beta-tester can use the protocol and digital data, but only under the condition that he/she will provide feedbacks of the use of the Harmonized Protocol, to help fine-tuning of the project.

GBF suggested to add a specification in the Policy regarding a written cooperation agreement that needs being signed between Steering Committee and beta-testers. It concerns the forbidden use of protocol and digital data beyond what's written and signed in the Policy.

Before making the Publication Policy available to the public, Jack's approval is needed.

Regarding the logical sequence of publication papers and the adherence to the publication policy regulations, the group decided to consider the “Delphi consensus” paper and the “Master tracers’ practice and reliability” one as companion papers, if possible based on journal rules. Based on content, the Protocol should be published as an appendix of the “Delphi consensus” paper. (This would need the reformulation of the examined sentence to be added to the Publication Policy).

The next TC is scheduled for Thursday May, 3 2012 from 4 pm to 5 pm CET.

Approval of dr. Jack is required for the issues discussed in this TC, except for Delphi V Round, which will be launched as soon as possible.