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Dear Professor Peter Bandettini,

On behalf of all the coauthors, it is with great pleasure that I submit our manuscript entitled “Large-Scale Evaluation of ANTs and FreeSurfer Cortical Thickness Measurements.” Predictive comparisons with the very popular FreeSurfer package on data of nearly 1200 subjects show that our ANTs cortical thickness pipeline significantly outperforms FreeSurfer in predicting well-known demographical relationships of age and gender in normal populations. Given the open science nature of our work in terms of both software and data, we strongly believe strongly that this is a very important contribution to be considered by *NeuroImage*.

Please note that we submitted a related manuscript entitled “Large-scale cortical thickness quantification with Advanced Normalization Tools (ANTs)” which was rejected some time ago. However, the current submission constitutes a completely new work, most notably the comparative evaluation of FreeSurfer cortical thickness estimation on the largest cohort of which we are aware.

We believe that *NeuroImage* is the most appropriate venue for this work considering the relative number of publications published by *NeuroImage* which deal with this precise topic. A Pubmed query shows that *NeuroImage* has published nearly 50 such articles strictly concerning the very popular and widely used FreeSurfer package. In contrast, its closest competitor, *PLoS ONE,* has published only 20 such articles. For a much more general “cerebral cortical thickness” topical query, *NeuroImage* continues to lead with approximately 125 articles with the next closest journals, *Cerebral Cortex* and *PLoS ONE*, having published only about 50 each.

We sincerely hope that you consider our manuscript for review.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Tustison