ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #057A

1. Title:
Menopause - Lipid Risk Factors (NOTE: this is a subproposal of Writing Group #057)

2. Writing Group:
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3. Timeline:
The data from the complete Visit 1 cohort are currently available. Conditional upon the Publications Committee approval, analyses can begin immediately.

4. Rationale:
Evidence from both the Evans County and Minnesota Heart Surveys suggests a racial difference in the association of menopausal status and total serum cholesterol. In each study, white postmenopausal women had a significantly higher mean cholesterol level than white premenopausal women; in contrast, in neither study was there a significant difference between levels in black pre- and postmenopausal women. Differences in the relationship between menopause and cholesterol by type of menopause were observed in the Minnesota study. Although the effects of age, body mass index and smoking on the observed associations have been examined, the role of body fat distribution has not. The proposed study will describe the cross-sectional association of menopausal status with lipid risk factors (including, but not limited to, total cholesterol) in the black and white female participants in the ARIC study.

5. Main Hypothesis:
Postmenopausal status will be associated with a more atherogenic lipid risk factor profile in white, but not in black, women.

6. Data:
The analyses will be limited to women between the ages of 45 and 55 at the time of the Visit 1 exam. Variables: (RHXA variables) Menopausal status (including cause of menopause), hormone use, age at/time since menopause
          (Lipid variables) Total cholesterol, LDL, apo B, HDL, HDL2, HDL3, apo A-I, triglycerides
          (Covariates) Age, smoking, body mass index, waists'hip ratio, alchol use, physical activity, diabetes status,
          lipid-altering medication use