1. Title (length 26):
Passive Smoking Correlates

2. Writing Group (list individual with lead responsibility first):
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CC representative

3. Timeline:
Analysis could be started immediately. The timeline will depend on assigned priority and availability of support.

4. Rationale:
Passive smoking, as assessed in spouses, appears to be associated with an increase in overall mortality and mortality from specific causes, including cardiovascular disease. At least part of this increased risk may be due to assortative mating for other risk factors rather than the effects of inhaling second-hand cigarette smoke. That is, non-smokers who live with smokers may differ from non-smokers who live with non-smokers in important ways (e.g., diet or physical activity). By identifying spouse-pairs within the ARIC population, we will be able to address this question.

5. Main Hypothesis:
Non-smoking spouses of smokers will differ from non-smoking spouses of non-smokers for other risk factors for cardiovascular disease and will differ in degree of atherosclerosis after adjustment for risk factors affected by smoking (e.g., HDL cholesterol level).

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):
Baseline data from Visit 1 for spouses will be used, which will require identification of spouses (perhaps through the Fasting/Tracking form and the Identification Form). Traditional cardiovascular disease risk factors will be requested, including the following Forms: Anthropometry, Dietary, Hemostasis, Home Interview, Lipids, Physical Activity, and Blood Pressure. Measures of degree of atherosclerosis will also be requested.

Keywords: Smoking, passive smoking, family, CHD, cholesterol