1. Title (length 26):
Plasma FAs - Atherosclerosis

2. Writing Group (list individual with lead responsibility first):
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3. Timeline:
   Analysis - winter 1992;  Draft - Spring 1993

4. Rationale:
An ancillary study measure plasma fatty acids (FAs) in Minneapolis ARIC participants at visit 1. This is Dr. Ma's PhD work. It is known that saturated fatty acids (SFA) are positively and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) are negatively associated with risk of cardiovascular disease. The association of plasma FAs with asymptomatic atherosclerosis needs to be investigated.

5. Main Hypothesis:
   Plasma saturated (SFA) and monounsaturated (MUFA) fatty acids are positively, while polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) are negatively associated with carotid artery wall thickness measured by B-mode ultrasound.

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):
   Visit 1 data and plasma fatty acids measurement in Minneapolis Center:
   Dependent variables: the average of the intima-media thickness of the common carotid, the carotid bifurcation, and the internal carotid on both left and right sides (sum45_1).
   Independent variables: plasma fatty acids in phospholipids and cholesterol esters.