Manuscript #198

1. Title: Albumin levels and atherosclerosis

2. Writing Group: Nieto
   Szklo
   CC representative
   Other field centers

3. Timeline: Immediately

4. Rationale: There is increasing evidence that serum albumin levels are inversely associated with total mortality as well as with coronary disease incidence and mortality. The mechanisms for these associations are not clear, although several explanations have been offered (see example Kuller et al., AJE 1991;134-1266). ARIC provides an excellent opportunity to examine population distributions of albumin levels as well as to explore the associations of albumin levels with clinical and subclinical atherosclerosis.

5. Hypotheses:
   1. The sex-gender specific distributions of albumin and globulin levels will be described.
   2. Albumin and globulin levels are associated with prevalent CHD and with IMT, independently of other risk factors.

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):

   Analyses will be done in the entire cohort.

   Dependent variables: prevalent CHD and mean for wall thickness.

   Independent variables: albumin, globulin levels

   Potential correlates of serum protein levels: sex, age, race, education, smoking, lipid levels, blood pressure levels, BMI, insulin, leukocyte count.