ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #250
(Conference on CVD in African Americans)

1. Title:
Risk Factors - the big three: association with prevalent cardiovascular disease (CVD)

2. Writing Group:
(lead) Lloyd Chambless, Ed Davis, Aaron Folsom, Gerardo Heiss, Richard Hutchinson, Richey Sharrett, Moyses Szklo

3. Background:
Smoking, elevated serum cholesterol, and hypertension have been well established in many populations as risk factors for coronary heart disease (CHD), yet it is less clear if the size and relative importance of these associations is the same in black and white Americans. The ARIC study is unique in having large sample sizes from both races, a thorough and standardized assessment of risk factors at baseline and every three years thereafter, as well as an assessment of existing CHD at baseline and new or recurrent CHD at annual follow-up. CHD will be defined by existing disease at baseline (ECGMI, self-reported MI, or coronary revascularization).

Further, peripheral vascular disease (PVD) can be assessed at baseline by the ankle-brachial index (ABI), the ratio of ankle and brachial blood pressure, and cerebral vascular disease can be assessed by a history question for TIA/stroke.

4. Hypothesis:
The paper will be primarily descriptive of the association between CVD (CHD, PVD, TIA/stroke, individually and combined) and the three risk factors smoking, elevated serum cholesterol, and hypertension, by race. The difference in the size and relative importance of these relationships will also be considered.

5. Data:
Only baseline data will be used, and only the three risk factor variables and two disease variables described above, with age, body mass and size, sex, and field center as covariables.