1. Title:
Correlates of prevalent diabetes by race

2. Writing Group:
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3. Timeline:
Immediate

4. Rationale:
Diabetes is over 50% more common in African Americans than in their white counterparts. The excess prevalence of diabetes in blacks contributes to the large black-white disparity in diabetic complications, especially end-stage renal disease and lower extremity amputation. Only three population-based studies have examined possible explanations for the excess prevalence of diabetes among blacks. All suggested a strong independent association of black race with diabetes even after accounting for racial differences in obesity and socioeconomic status. None of these studies, however, had the extensive data regarding physical activity available in ARIC. A cross-sectional analysis of possible risk factors for diabetes will provide the context for the first prospective study of incident diabetes among blacks (ARIC MS #167).

5. Main Hypotheses:
The excess prevalence of diabetes among African Americans compared to whites is largely explained by racial differences in obesity, socioeconomic status, and physical activity.

6. Data:
Dependent variable: Prevalent diabetes at baseline, defined as either: 1) self-reported diabetes, 2) use of hypoglycemic medication, or 3) glucose > 140 mg/dl after a 12 hr fast.

Independent variables: Race, body-mass index, waist-hip-ratio, socioeconomic status, physical activity, serum magnesium