1. Title:
   Plasma N-3 PUFA & COPD

2. Writing Group (list individual with lead responsibility first):
   (lead) Shahar            Comstock
       Folsom                  McGovern
       Tockman                   Eckfeldt

3. Timeline:
   A draft manuscript will be prepared by May 1995

4. Rationale:
   Manuscript #156 (Fish and Lung Function) reported an inverse relation between dietary n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids and smoking-related COPD. Plasma levels of n-3 fatty acids correlate with dietary intake and may also reflect between-person biological variation in the response to diet. Measurements of plasma fatty acid levels that were taken in the Minneapolis cohort provide an opportunity to further study the relation of n-3 fatty acids to COPD.

5. Main Hypothesis:
   Smoking-related COPD is negatively associated with the levels of n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids in plasma phospholipids and in cholesterol esters.

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):
   Visit 1
   Plasma levels of fatty acids (Minneapolis ancillary study)
   Spirometry (FEV1, FVC, FEV1/FVC)
   Respiratory symptom questionnaire
   Derived variables (smoking, demographics)