Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) is the rate-limiting enzyme for the conversion of angiotensinogen to bioactive angiotensin II. An insertion/deletion polymorphism in intron 16 of the ACE gene has been related to plasma ACE levels and coronary heart disease. It has been suggested that the ACE polymorphism may be especially predictive of CHD in subjects traditionally thought to be at low risk of CHD (e.g. low LDL cholesterol and/or low IMT).

5. Main Hypothesis:
   a. Ability of the ACE polymorphism to predict incident CHD case/control status, both individually and after considering the predictive ability of other (traditional) risk factors.

   b. Ability of the ACE polymorphism to predict carotid artery disease case/control status, both individually and after considering the predictive ability of other (traditional) risk factors.

   c. Comparison of the ability of the ACE polymorphism to predict incident CHD case/control status between groups differing with respect to CHD "risk" as determined by plasma LDL-cholesterol concentrations, hypertension status, or IMT.
6. Data:

The three groups study sample will be used for these analyses. The primary dependent variable is the incident CHD case/control status. However, the results from incident CHD status will be compared to those obtained from the analysis of carotid artery wall thickness. Independent variables include, but are not limited to the ACE polymorphism and the vector of traditional risk factors, such as age, BMI, plasma lipids, hypertension status, etc.