# The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study: Introduction and Objectives of the Hemostasis Component

A. Richey Sharrett, and the ARIC Investigators

The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study is an observational epidemiologic study conducted in four communities. ARIC has two major components: One records the occurrence of myocardial infarction resulting in hospitalization and coronary heart disease in adults aged 35 to 74 living in communities; the other is a prospective study of representative cohorts aged 45 to 64. Measurement of hemostatic factors is part of the cohort study, whose major objectives include investigating etiologic factors associated with Atherosclerosis and its clinical outcomes. Arterial intimal-medial wall thickness, an index of early Atherosclerosis, is measured precisely from ultrasound images of carotid and popliteal arteries. Participants (n = 15,801) completed their first examination, which included measurements of factors associated with coagulation (fibrinogen, factor VII, factor VIII, and von Willebrand factor) and coagulation inhibition (protein C and antithrombin III). Measures of coagulation activation, and fibrinolytic activity will be performed on stored plasma from selected case patients and control subjects.

**Related to MS #037A**