Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of sICAM-1 and MCP-1 with Coronary Artery Calcification in the NHLBI Family Heart Study Follow-up Examination

Version: 1 Date: 30 July 2007

Reviewer: Iftikhar Kullo

Reviewer’s report:

General
Tang et al investigated the association of ICAM-1 and MCP-1 with CAC in 2716 subjects (2246 Whites and 470 African Americans).

Significance
The paper adds an important piece of information to the rapidly growing field of the interaction of cardiovascular biomarkers with subclinical coronary atherosclerosis.

Clarity of hypothesis and rationale
The hypothesis is based on a well established set of existing data linking some cardiovascular biomarkers with coronary atherosclerosis, and is clearly stated.

Adequacy of experimental design and methods
The design was a cross-sectional which has limitations. The manuscript is well written and methods are appropriate and well described.

Quality of data and presentation of results
Data is presented clearly and in an unbiased fashion; however the authors may want to shorten the results section. e.

Comments to the Author
What determined the choice of biomarkers for the study. Why did the authors chose ICAM-1 among the adhesion molecules family? Have the authors measured the level of VCAM-1 or Pselectin? How was CRP related to CAC presence?

Did the authors consider measuring ICAM-1 levels by an alternative commercial human sICAM-1 ELISA (BMS201INST; Bender MedSystems)?

Did the authors test the interaction of age and sex on the association between these biomarkers and CAC?

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests