

ICH GWAS Monthly Newsletter

Issue 4 - March 2009

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May 26th – 29th 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

This is the fourth issue of the monthly newsletter for the ICH GWAS Study Group. This newsletter is meant to be a tool to keep investigators participating in the ICH GWAS updated on all aspects of this project, including phenotyping, genotyping, data analysis and logistics.

The newsletter will be sent out to participants on the 15th of each month (or nearest workday) as an email attachment from the Program Manager at the Coordinating Center.

If you want to add topics relevant to all investigators involved in the ICH GWAS to the next newsletter, or you'd like to give general feedback to the Newsletter Design Team please contact:

[Lynelle Cortellini](#)

lcortellini@partners.org.



Please do not forget to mark your calendars with the date for the next ICH GWAS Conference Call:



**Tuesday, March 24 2009
10-11 am, Eastern USA time**

PLEASE NOTE:

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IN EFFECT IN THE US

Call hours: 14 – 15 pm Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)



**More detailed information will be sent out next week
(March 16th-20th 2009)**



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Recruitment Updates

Sites recruiting prospectively as part of GOCHA

Study site	Period	Warfarin		Non Warfarin		Total
		Case	Control	Case	Control	
Mass General Hospital	December 2008	-	-	2	-	2
	January 2009	4	2	4	-	10
	February 2009	2	4	4	-	10
University of Michigan	December 2008	-	2	-	-	2
	January 2009	-	-	-	2	2
	February 2009	1	2	1	1	5
University of Virginia	December 2008	1	-	4	-	5
	January 2009	-	-	5	-	5
	February 2009	-	-	-	-	-
Mayo Clinic - Jacksonville	December 2008	-	-	-	1	1
	January 2009	1	-	1	-	2
	February 2009	-	-	1	-	1
University of Florida	December 2008	-	-	-	-	-
	January 2009	1			1	2
	February 2009	-	-	-	-	-
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	December 2008	1	1	1	-	3
	January 2009	-	-	2	-	2
	February 2009	-	5	1	1	7
Total		11	16	26	6	59

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Sites recruiting prospectively as part of ICH GWAS

Principal Investigator		Institution	Country of Origin	Status
Last Name	First Name			
Majersik	Jennifer	University of Utah	US	Joining
Thjis	Vincent	Leuven	Belgium	Joining
Dichgans	Martin	Graz	Germany	Joined

Sites recruiting retrospectively as part of ICH GWAS

Principal Investigator		Institution	Country of Origin	Number of Cases	Number of Controls	Samples received by Genotyping Center
Last Name	First Name					
Lindgren	Arne	University Hospital, Lund	Sweden	250	250	
Markus	Hugh	St. George's, University of London	UK (England)	200	200	
Melander	Olle	Malmo University Hospital	Sweden	100	300	
Montaner	Joan	Vall d'Hebron Hospital	Spain	185	270	
Roquer	Jaume	Hospital del Mar	Spain	200	200	
Schmidt	Reinhold	Medical University Graz	Austria	400	1000	
Slowik	Agnieszka	Jagiellonian University	Poland	350	430	Yes

Please note that data presented in the table above are to be intended as estimates of the number of samples each participating center has pledged to provide for the ICH GWAS. Actual numbers of samples analyzed might vary depending on DNA and phenotype quality.

For further info on this topic please contact:

Alessandro Biffi, M.D.

abiffi@partners.org



Spotlight: Article

Genes for Cerebral Hemorrhage on Anticoagulation (GOCHA) Collaborative Group.

Exploiting common genetic variation to make anticoagulation safer.

Stroke. 2009;40(3 Suppl):S64-6. Epub 2009 Jan 15.

EXTRACT

Within the past 2 years, genome-wide association studies have identified nearly 200 new chromosomal regions at which variation in DNA sequence influences risk of common human diseases as well as traits such as height and eye color. The success of the genome-wide association study method, particularly given the limited success of previous approaches to find these "culprit" loci, has heightened optimism for the development of so-called personalized medicine. Perhaps more than any area, the field of anticoagulation and making it safer has raised hopes for using genetic information to improve individual patient outcomes.

Discoveries, before the genom-ewide association study era, that common DNA sequence variants in *CYP2C9* and *VKORC1* play a substantial role in determining an individual's warfarin dose requirement, led to an update of the US Food and Drug Administration label for Coumadin/warfarin suggesting that clinicians consider genetic testing before initiating warfarin.¹ Although these discoveries represent a crucial first step toward the application of genetic information to make anticoagulation safer, it is clear that identifying an individual patient's risk for hemorrhage on anticoagulation or thromboembolism in atrial fibrillation (and other diseases) will require many more genetic discoveries.

Full text and PDF version available at:

http://stroke.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/extract/40/3_suppl_1/S64

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ICH GWAS Conference Calls: Schedule and Information

Please mark your calendars with dates for the next
ICH GWAS Conference Calls:

Tuesday, March 24 2009
10-11 am Eastern USA time

PLEASE NOTE: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IN EFFECT IN THE US

Tuesday, May 19 2009
10-11 am, Eastern USA time

As announced in an email addressed to all Investigators, we will be moving to a web-based conferencing system for the next ICH GWAS Conference Call. This means that we will be using Internet Connections and a Voice over IP provider. Still, we have arranged for Investigators who prefer to use a telephone line to join to be able to do so.

To get more information on the service we will be using you can visit:

<http://www.paetec.com/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the equipment needed for the Web-Conferencing (see box).

For further info on this topic

please contact:

Alessandro Biffi, M.D.

abiffi@partners.org



EQUIPMENT NEEDED

In order to participate to the Conference Call over the Web (please note that telephone conferencing will still be a possibility)

Investigators will need:

- **Internet Connection**
- **Mac or PC computer**
- **Communication set**

This typically consists of a headset: unlike music headsets, these also include a built-in microphone for conversations. They are commercially available and can be bought both online and at electronics retailer stores.

Alternatively, users can use speakers on their computers to listen to conversations and buy a separate stand-alone microphone to talk. However, this solution is technically not recommended. Moreover most stand-alone microphones are only available in packages that also include a web-cam, specifically intended for use in video-conferencing.

European Stroke Conference 2009

We are extremely pleased to provide coverage for the European Stroke Conference 2009, chaired by fellow ICH GWAS Investigator Bo Norrving. Below is the welcome address from the ESC 2009 Chair (Bo Norrving) and Co-chair (Nils G. Wahlgren).

Welcome Address

On behalf of our colleagues in Scandinavia, we are pleased to welcome you to the 18th European Stroke Conference (ESC) in Stockholm 26–29 May 2009. For some of you it is a welcome back: in 1994 the 3rd ESC was held in the same city, passed the 1000 participants limit, and turned from a biannual to an annual event. 15 years later the ESC is the largest stroke conference in Europe and beyond, with about 3700 participants at the Nice meeting in 2008.

Scandinavia has a long tradition in stroke research in a breadth of topics including basic science, epidemiology, diagnostics, organisation of stroke care, large clinical trials and rehabilitation. Sweden created the 1st National Stroke Register in the world, and the largest ever observational study in the stroke field (SITS-MOST) was led from Stockholm. The Swedish stroke community is proud to have been given the opportunity to host the 2009 congress. Stockholm International Fairs is an ideal meeting venue offering easy access and refined facilities.

Stockholm has been called the “Venice of the North”. It is built on 14 islands linked by 52 bridges, and is a city rich in history and culture. Essential experiences include visits to the many museums (including the Vasa Museum and Skansen), exploring the archipelago by boat, enjoying innovative Swedish cooking, and strolling in the old city – discovering that all Swedes are not blond. Late May is an excellent time to visit Stockholm, and the streets are guaranteed to be free from ice bears.

The 18th ESC will provide you with the best of science in all aspects of stroke including translational research from bench to bedside and backwards. The educational full first day will be of utmost importance with increasing numbers of teaching courses and the new programme for

nurses and AHPs, first established in Glasgow 2007. A series of oral and poster presentations will update the most recent original research worldwide, along with educational mini-symposia and scientific symposia. As the preparation of the programme evolves, further details will be disclosed at the www.eurostroke.eu website.



Bo Norrving
Chair



Nils G. Wahlgren
Co-chair

We trust you will share our excitement in making the 2009 ESC “jättebra” (fantastic).

Make sure to plan ahead, and welcome to Stockholm!

For more information please visit the European stroke Conference 2009 website:

<http://www.eurostroke.eu>