Award Number: W81XWH-10-1-0675

TITLE: Genome-Wide Association Study in African-Americans with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: John Harley, M.D., Ph.D.

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: Children’s Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45229-3026

REPORT DATE: September 2011

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;
Distribution Unlimited

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unless so designated by other documentation.
1. REPORT DATE
September 2011

2. REPORT TYPE
Annual

3. DATES COVERED
1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE
Genome-Wide Association Study in African-Americans with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
W81XWH-10-1-0675

5b. GRANT NUMBER

5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER

5d. PROJECT NUMBER

5e. TASK NUMBER

5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER

6. AUTHOR(S)
John Harley, M.D., Ph.D.
E-Mail: john.harley@cchmc.org

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)
Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45229-3026

8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER

9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)
U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)

11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

14. ABSTRACT
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15. SUBJECT TERMS
Lupus, African-American, Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS), genetic association, genetic susceptibility, candidate gene association study, genotyping

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:

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17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT
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18. NUMBER OF PAGES
5

19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
USAMRMC

19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)
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1. Abstract/Introduction (SF298 requirement)

Systemic lupus erythematosus is a potentially deadly systemic autoimmune disease that disproportionately afflicts women and African-Americans. This project is designed to discover genes that increase the risk of lupus in African-Americans. Our goal was to expand the genotyping density in African-Americans (2000 cases and 2000 controls) to increase the number and distribution of genetic markers tested. The genotyping on samples collected in Oklahoma and Birmingham is virtually complete. The control samples from Detroit have had quality and availability issues, which will be addressed in the coming year. At this time genotyping on the OMNI-1s arrays is underway. We have genotyped 2260 subjects on the OMNI-1s single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays. The quality of the data, in general, has passed our standards. The analysis will begin in year 2 and continue into year 3. The project is proceeding as originally planned.

2. Body

Since the population history of African ancestry appears to reach back in time much further to the most recent small founder population (~200,000 years) than the other major human ancestries (<50,000 years for Asian, European, or Amerindian), the extent of linkage disequilibrium is much lower in population samples of African ancestry. This means that the usual approach for finding genetic association using haplotype block tagged markers will be less successful in this ancestry. One way to partially compensate for this problem is to increase marker density, which is what we are funded to do in this project in our genetic study of systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus).

Lupus in African-Americans is more severe and more deadly than in other populations, and especially so compared to European-Americans. Indeed, lupus afflicts women ten times more frequently than men with a strong tendency to strike during the child-bearing years and is relatively common among the Active Duty Military (1).

3. Key Research Accomplishments

Our DOD project is a component of a larger project to more fully characterize African-American genetic association with lupus. Using the other resources we have genotyped 1626 cases and 1572 controls on the OMNI-1 SNP arrays, which provide 1.2 million genetic markers for each subject. Of the 3200 samples genotyped, 1489 cases and 1167 controls satisfied our data quality standards. Data cleaning and preliminary analysis has been completed on these subjects with strong genetic effects found at HLA, IKKB-PLAT1, ITGAM, BANK1, STAT4, IRF5, ATP108/MIR146a, SMO/LOC407835 and SEZ6LFHIT. We are now searching for collaborators with whom to exchange data from controls. This has the potential to double our statistical power, but would require >4000 additional controls.

Meanwhile, genotyping on the OMNI-1s genotyping provides another 1.2 million markers per subject and progresses according to schedule. We have genotyped 1669
cases and 591 controls on this platform. The initial data quality appears to be acceptable, but full data analysis has not been initiated. The DNA from one set of controls from Detroit has issues of quality and availability that we will be addressing in the coming budget year. Otherwise, the plan to genotype as many cases and controls on both the OMNI-1 and OMNI-1s is being executed, following the original specific aims.

4. Reportable Outcomes


5. Conclusions

The planned project to expand the density and number of markers in a case-control study of African-American systemic lupus erythematosus is proceeding as planned.

6. References


7. Appendices

NONE.