

New genetic risk factor for inflammation identified in African American women

African Americans have higher blood levels of a protein associated with increased heart-disease risk than European Americans, despite higher “good” HDL cholesterol and lower “bad” triglyceride levels. This contradictory observation now may be explained, in part, by a genetic variant identified in the first large-scale, genome-wide association study of this protein involving 12,000 African American and Hispanic American women.

Lead researcher [Alexander Reiner, M.D.](#), an epidemiologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and colleagues describe their findings online ahead of the Sept. 7 print issue of the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

Specifically, the researchers looked for genetic signposts associated with elevated levels of C-reactive protein, or CRP – a marker of inflammation that is linked with increased risk of heart disease, diabetes and some cancers.

View the original article here: [New genetic risk factor for inflammation identified in African American women](#)