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# Cross-cohort collaboration: meeting introduction

Bruce M Psaty, Gregory Burke,  
Anne Newman, Mary Cushman,  
Michelle Carlson, Russell Tracy

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# Funding

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- Thanks for participating in this largely unfunded activity
  - Limited support provided by the University of Washington and, with approval of the contracts office, by the MESA contract, which explicitly encourages cross-cohort collaboration
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# Origins

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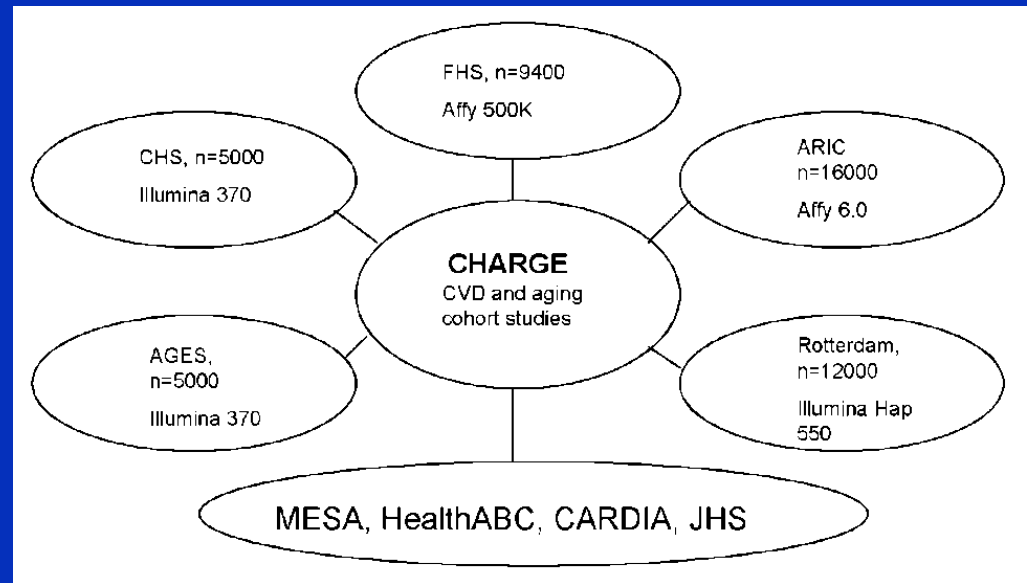
- CHS Steering Committee, May 2014
- NHLBI Working Group Report
  - Recommendation to identify key public health questions and data fit for purpose
  - Recommendation for a cohort consortium
    - A functioning group of investigators can provide bottom-up direction to NHLBI
- New program in precision medicine



# CHARGE as one example

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- Side effect of GWAS technology
  - The search for improved power or replication
  - Cohort design as the organizing principle
- Voluntary federation of studies
  - Prospective meta-analyses across multiple common phenotypes



# CHARGE organization

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- Steering committee, analysis committee, genotyping committee, and about 40 phenotype-specific working groups (WG)
  - CHARGE as matrix of cohorts and WGs
    - WGs include cross-cohort teams
    - SC includes representatives from cohorts
      - Communications and coordination
      - Setting up consortium-wide meetings
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# CHARGE working groups

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- About 40 phenotype-specific WGs
    - Source of scientific leadership
    - Importance of a “champion”
    - Role for young investigators
  - One side effect of the genetic WGs has been some non-genetic collaborations
  - Many cohorts already use WG structure
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# Times have changed

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- Generous funding from the NIH enabled collaborations among GWAS studies
  - NHLBI interest in “data commons”
  - Fiscal constraints and shift from contract- to R01-funding for cohorts seem like existential threats
    - Different context, but cross-cohort collaborations may still be useful response
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# Agenda and outcomes

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- Each cohort invited to present
    - A cross-cohort project
    - Future directions for CV epidemiology
    - Design and scope of on-going collaboration
  - Desirable outcomes of this meeting
    - A grant application or two
    - Some published commentaries
    - A start on plans for future organization
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# How CHARGE started

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- Nominate two from each cohort and start with two conference calls a month
    - Develop agreements and procedures
    - Rely on WG experience to expand efforts
    - Seek funding and opportunities for meetings and, due to multi-site structure, a coordinating center as well
  - Will require effort and leadership
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# Non-disclosure

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- An informal agreement to keep new unpublished science confidential
  - Plan a website to post
    - Slides from each presentation (edited)
    - List of attendees
    - Agenda for the meeting
    - URLs for participating cohorts
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