

To editor

Editöre

Dear Dr. Timuralp,

I hope that you have had a good summer and that you and your family are doing well. We have now completed the move of the Gladstone to our new laboratories and everyone is fully back to work. All three institutes are now together in the new building. Presently we have about 345 employees, and this will increase to 520. I have included a brief write up about the labs, including a photo of the Gladstone building.

The linkage analysis of our genome scan data has identified a number of loci influencing lipids. The study involved 6 centers: United States, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, Finland, and Turkey. As you will see from the enclosed manuscript that will be published soon, the data from the Turkish families are most exciting.

One of the most interesting results relates to a locus on chromosome 15q22 demonstrating linkage to HDL-C levels in Turks. This locus is near the hepatic lipase gene. Previously we tried to find a unique polymorphism in hepatic lipase that might explain the 25% elevation of hepatic lipase in Turks and might account for the very low HDL-C levels. However, we failed to identify such a site. Now we must go back and completely re-

examine the hepatic lipase gene - we must have missed an important site.

A second important outcome of the initial analysis of this new data is that the heritability of HDL-C in Turks is 80%. This is very high. Typically from our study in western Europeans and from other studies, genetics contributes to 50-60% of the heritability of HDL-C. This is further evidence that there is an important genetic component to the low HDL-C in Turks. Hopefully we will be able to sort all this out and identify the important genes, not only for low HDL-C but also high triglycerides (possibly for the metabolic syndrome in general).

I look forward to seeing you again sometime soon. Linda and I remain committed to our work in Turkey for the purpose of contributing to the health and welfare of the Turkish People

Best Regards.

Sincerely Yours

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