

ETHIC STATEMENT

The ASKLEPIOS study complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Ghent University Hospital and Ghent University (reference numbers 2002/133 and 2011/439; Belgian Registration Number B67020111695) and all subjects gave written informed consent.

The BLSA Study complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board Office for Research Integrity, MedStar Health Research Institute in Baltimore (USA), and participants signed written informed consent form.

The Guimaraes Study complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Comite' de Etica da Administracao de Saude-Northern Administration Ethics Committee. All subjects signed a written consent form.

The Hygeia Study complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Athens Medical School, and participants signed written informed consent form

The LitHir Study for Primary Prevention complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Vilnius Regional Bioethics Committee of Clinical Research (08-11-2011 n° 158200-11-417-117).

The Malmoe Diet Cancer study complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Ethical Committee at the Lund University in 1990 at baseline screening with reference number LU 51-90.

The Rotterdam study complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by of Erasmus Medical Center, and written consent was obtained from all participants.

The SardiNIA Project complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board Office for Research Integrity, MedStar Health Research Institute, for NIA, and the Ethics Committee of ASL4 Lanusei, for the Sardinian side.

For the SHIP study, the Ethics Board of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, has approved the study. All participants provided written, informed consent.

The SMART study was approved by Bro Taf Local Research Ethics Committee in Cardiff, UK.

Toledo Study for Healthy Ageing complies with the declaration of Helsinki, the protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Complejo Hospitalario de Toledo and the Ethics Committee of the Hospital Universitario de Getafe.

The Vobarno study was approved by the institutional Ethical Committee on human research of the University of Brescia in 1992. All subjects gave written informed consent.

FUNDING

The Asklepios Study is supported by the Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders (FWO research grants G042703 and G083810N).

The Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA) is supported in part by the Intramural Research Program of the NIH, National Institute on Aging.

The Rotterdam Study is supported by the Erasmus Medical Center and Erasmus University Rotterdam; the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw); the Research Institute for Diseases in the Elderly (RIDE); the Netherlands Heart Foundation; the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; the Ministry of Health Welfare and Sports; the European Commission; and the Municipality of Rotterdam.

The SardiNIA team was supported by Contract NO1-AG-1-2109 from the NIA. This research was supported in part by the Intramural Research Program of the NIH, National Institute on Aging (USA)

The Study of Health in Pomerania (SHIP) is part of the Community Medicine Research net (CMR) of the University of Greifswald, Germany, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs as well as the Social Ministry of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. The CMR encompasses several research projects that share data from the population-based Study of Health in Pomerania (SHIP; <http://www.medizin.uni-greifswald.de/cm>).

The SMART study was originally funded by Takeda.

The Toledo Health Study on Aging (THSA) was funded by Grants RD06/0013 and RD12/0043, ISCIII, Ministry of Economics and Competitiveness

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