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Indicators of type 2 diabetes (NIDD). M Uttley. Lander University, Greenwood, SC.

Diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness and amputation, and accounts for 40% of new kidney disease. In 1997 the American Diabetes Association proposed universal screening for those above age 44, but at \$70 per test, this is infeasible. Using commonly obtained clinical values, I seek to discover character states indicative of NIDD that would warrant more expensive testing. The first step is to identify any variables that distinguish diabetics from non-diabetics more effectively than the risk factors used by the ADA. The NIH, for instance, identifies 55% of American adults as overweight (20% fully obese), the primary ADA risk factor, but only 5.9% of the general population and 18% of seniors develop NIDD.

Based on this pilot study, general risk factors should not be applied uniformly to women and men or to African-Americans and Caucasians. The set of variables that is useful in diagnosing NIDD among women is not congruent with that among men. The following variables distinguish significantly between NIDD and non-NIDD women: hemoglobin, LDL, HDL, globulin, caffeine, and ethnicity. They do not indicate NIDD among men.

Predictor variables also differ for Caucasians and African-Americans. The following variables distinguish significantly among Caucasian women with respect to diabetes classification: hemoglobin, iron, caffeine, and body mass index. They do not indicate NIDD for African-American women.

I continue to add medical records to my current sample to test these initial results. Significant differences based on sex and ethnicity mean that data for women, men, African-Americans and Caucasians must be analyzed separately. The next stage of my research will focus on discriminant analysis to identify combinations of variables that successfully discriminate between diabetics and non-diabetics, because such multivariate analysis should provide more sensitive and robust discrimination.

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Positive and negative secular trends in the height of Cape Verdean boys and girls. MI Varela-Silva¹, B Bogin¹, V Mendes², I Fragoso³, N Cameron⁴. ¹University of Michigan-Dearborn, ²Instituto Pedagógico, Cape Verde, ³Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, ⁴Loughborough University, UK.

The Cape Verde Islands lie about 500 KM west of Senegal, Africa. Until 1975 they were a colony of Portugal, but then became an independent nation. Records of the height of Cape Verde boys and girls (ages 5 to 15 years) exist from 1949 to the present. There are also studies of the growth of Cape Verdean children whose parents migrated to Portugal. These data provide an opportunity to evaluate the influence of changes in the environment, both in Cape Verde and in Portugal, on height. A positive secular trend in average height of boys and girl living in Cape Verde is noted in studies dating from 1949 to 2003, and accelerates after Cape Verdean independence. Cape Verdean Portuguese (CVP, children of Cape Verde immigrants to Portugal) have been measured since 1988. Early on, the CVP show an increase in mean height over children still residing on the Cape Verde Islands. Subsequent surveys of CVP boys and girls show that mean height seems to increase further until 1993, but then there is a significant negative trend in the mean height of CVP boys. In contrast, the mean heights of CVP girls do not differ significantly from that of Cape Verdean girls at any of the moments of measurement. We interpret these positive and negative trends in stature to be caused by powerful influences of the social, economic, and political environment.

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Heritability of hand, foot, and eye preference in Mexican Americans. D Warren¹, M Stern², R Duggirala¹, L Almasy¹. ¹Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio, TX; ²University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX.

Side preferences for hand, foot, and eye use have been well studied but remain poorly understood. Data on the preferential use by side of the hand, foot, and eye were collected from 582 participants in the San Antonio

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Cover photo: Yakut man and woman in traditional garb. Photo by William R. Leonard. See article on page 155.

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