

7. Article Title: “HLA-DRB1*1101: A Significant Risk Factor for Sarcoidosis in Blacks and Whites”

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Sarcoidosis is a disease in which the immune system “overreacts.” ACCESS used modern technology to look at how genes that control the immune system might be different in sarcoidosis patients compared to controls. The study found differences between sarcoidosis patients and the matched controls in one important set of genes (which researchers call the “HLA”). These genes tell the immune system when (or when not) to respond to things that are foreign to the body. Some of these genetic differences in the immune system that were seen in sarcoidosis patients were present more frequently in African-American than in Caucasian patients. This discovery may explain why African-Americans with sarcoidosis are more likely than Caucasians to have family members diagnosed with sarcoidosis. The key conclusion is that ACCESS found support for the idea that part of the reason why some people get sarcoidosis is because of an inherited (genetic) risk.