Supplementary Appendix

This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Niacin Use in Cardiovascular Patients
Receiving Intensive Statin Therapy

The AIM-HIGH Investigators

Atherothrombosis Intervention in Metabolic Syndrome with Low HDL/High Triglycerides: Impact on Global Health Outcomes (AIM-HIGH) Trial

Online Appendix
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Table 1: Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria
Men and women aged 45 and older with established vascular disease and atherogenic dyslipidemia, defined in the following ways:

1. Established Vascular Disease satisfying at least one of the following:
   a. Documented CHD with ≥ one of the following:
      i. Documented multi-vessel CHD, with one or more ≥ 50% stenoses in ≥ two major epicardial coronary arteries by angiography. Patients with prior successful percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), even with no residual stenosis, were eligible.
      ii. Documented prior MI satisfying ≥ two of the following:
         • Characteristic ischemic chest pain or pain in associated referral areas
         • Elevation of CK (≥ twice the upper limit of normal) and/or CK-MB (≥ twice the upper limit of normal) and/or troponin T or I (≥ twice the upper limit of normal)
         • New Q waves in adjacent ECG leads, or new dominant R wave in V1
      iii. Hospitalization for non-ST segment elevation acute coronary syndrome with objective evidence of ischemia (ST-segment deviation or biomarker positivity), stable ≥ 4 weeks following hospital discharge.
   b. Documented cerebrovascular or carotid disease with at least one of the following:
      i. Documented ischemic stroke within the past 5 years but not < 8 weeks prior to enrollment
      ii. Symptomatic carotid artery disease with ≥ 50% stenosis
      iii. Asymptomatic carotid stenosis ≥ 70%
      iv. History of carotid revascularization (surgical or catheter based)
c. Documented PAD with ≥ one of the following:
   
   i. Ankle-brachial index < 0.85 with or without claudication
   
   ii. History of aorto-iliac or peripheral arterial intervention (surgical or catheter based)

2. AND Atherogenic Dyslipidemia defined as:

   a. If off statins at entry, all of the following:
      
      i. LDL-C ≤ 180 mg/dL (4.7 mmol/L)
      
      ii. HDL-C ≤ 40 mg/dL (1.0 mmol/L) for men or ≤ 50 mg/dL (1.3 mmol/L) for women
      
      iii. Triglycerides 150 – 400 mg/dL (1.7 – 4.5 mmol/L)

   b. If on a statin with or without ezetimibe at entry, the equivalent lipid criteria satisfied¹:
      
      i. Upper limit for LDL-C adjusted according to dose and published effect of particular statin
      
      ii. HDL-C ≤ 42 mg/dL (1.1 mmol/L) for men or ≤ 53 mg/dL (1.4 mmol/L) for women
      
      iii. Triglycerides 100 – 400 mg/dL (1.1 – 4.5 mmol/L)

**Exclusion Criteria:**

1. Hospitalization for acute coronary syndrome and discharge within 4 weeks prior to planned enrollment

2. Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) surgery within 1 year of planned enrollment (run-in phase), unless there has been a new, intercurrent acute coronary syndrome event or recurrent angina, associated with angiographic evidence of disease progression (≥ 50% stenosis) in 1 or more native vessels or bypass grafts, regardless of whether subsequently treated with PCI/stenting

3. Planned percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) within 4 weeks prior to planned enrollment

¹ Except for statin and/or ezetimibe, all other drugs affecting lipid levels, such as fibrates, niacin, bile acid sequestrants, fish oils were washed out for ≥ 4 weeks prior to the baseline.
4. Stroke within 8 weeks prior to enrollment

5. Fasting glucose >180 mg/dL (10 mmol/L) or hemoglobin A1C >9.0%

6. Inability or refusal to use a glucometer for home glucose monitoring (diabetic patients)

7. CHD associated with unstable angina and symptoms refractory to maximal medical therapy

8. Post MI course complicated by persistent rest angina, shock or persistent congestive heart failure, or if need for urgent revascularization is high

9. Patients with left main coronary disease ≥50% and no prior CABG

10. Ejection fraction <30%

11. Cardiogenic shock, pulmonary edema or CHF unresponsive to standard medical therapy

12. Concomitant valvular heart disease likely to require surgery or adversely affect prognosis during follow-up

13. Congenital or primary cardiomyopathy likely to adversely affect prognosis during follow-up

14. Resuscitated out-of-hospital sudden death or symptomatic sustained or non-sustained ventricular tachycardia without an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD)

15. Significant systemic hypertension (blood pressure >200/100 mmHg) unresponsive to medical therapy

16. Active peptic ulcer disease

17. AST or ALT > 2 times upper limit of normal or active liver disease

18. Recent history of acute gout. (For patients with baseline uric acid > 7.0 mg/dL [415 umol/L], treatment with allopurinol is recommended but not mandated)

19. Chronic renal insufficiency with creatinine ≥ 2.5mg/dL (220 umol/L)

20. Patients who cannot discontinue the following excluded concomitant medications:

- Drugs with a high probability of increasing the risk for hepatotoxicity or myopathy, such as those predominantly metabolized by cytochrome P450 system 3A4, including, but not limited to:
cyclosporine, itraconazole, ketoconazole, HIV protease inhibitors, nefazodone, verapamil, amiodarone

- Lipid-lowering drugs (other than the investigational drugs), such as statins, bile-acid sequestrants, fish oils, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, fibrates
- High-dose, antioxidant vitamins (vitamins C, E, or beta-carotene)

21. Pregnant (or likely to become pregnant) women or pre-menopausal women not using adequate contraception

22. Significant co-morbidity likely to cause death in the 3-5 year follow-up

23. Patients with AIDS/active HIV infection, due to potential confounding drug interactions

24. Significant active history of substance abuse within 5 years

25. Unwillingness/inability to give informed consent or follow study protocol

26. Current participation in another clinical study or trial that involves a study drug or intervention

27. Unwillingness of patient’s physician to allow participation in the study
Figure 1: Study Diagram

Screened
N=8,162

Excluded (N=3,889)
• No documented CV disease N=112
• Declined N=143
• Did not meet lipid criteria N=2,807
• Other exclusion N=827

Eligible, enrolled and began open-label Niaspan
N=4,273

Up-titrate open-label Niaspan in weekly increments of 500 mg

Reasons did not tolerate Niaspan
• Flushing N=304
• Pruritis N=253
• Other N=374

Tolerted ≥1,500 mg Niaspan Randomized (1:1)
N=3,414

Niaspan + simvastatin
N=1,718
• Lost to follow-up N=11
• Withdrew consent N=14
• Discontinued Niaspan N=436

Placebo + simvastatin
N=1,696
• Lost to follow-up N=14
• Withdrew consent N=13
• Discontinued placebo N=341
Figure 2: Median Lipid Levels at Baseline and During Follow-up:

Figure 2A: Median HDL-C

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<tr>
<td>Combination Therapy</td>
<td>1716</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1548</td>
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<td>2 Years</td>
<td>1326</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1559</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Years</td>
<td>1329</td>
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<td>3 Years</td>
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Figure 2B: Median LDL-C

![Graph showing median LDL-C levels over time for different treatments.](image)

**No. of patients**

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Figure 2C: Triglycerides

No. of patients

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</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3: Forest Plots

Panel A: Components of the Endpoint Constellation

Chart shows hazard ratio (squares) and 95% CI (horizontal lines). For components of the primary outcome (CHD death, non-fatal MI, ischemic stroke, hospitalization for ACS or symptom-driven coronary or cerebral revascularization), the hazard ratio for all patients with that outcome is depicted.
Panel B: Pre-specified Subgroups

Chart shows hazard ratio (squares) and 95% CI for the primary endpoint over all patients randomized and in each subgroup. P-value is from a Cox proportional hazards model testing for the significance of the interaction between treatment assignment and the subgroup of interest, with no adjustment for multiplicity of comparisons.
Writing Group
William E. Boden, MD, Jeffrey L. Probstfield, MD, Bernard R. Chaitman, MD, William Weintraub, MD, Patrice Desvignes-Nickens, MD, Koon Teo, MB, PhD, Todd Anderson, MD, Ruth McBride, Kent Koprowicz, MS.

Executive Committee
William E. Boden, MD, FACC, University of Buffalo (Co-Principal Investigator); Jeffrey L. Probstfield, MD, FACC, University of Washington (Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Director, Coordinating Center); Ruth McBride, Axio Research (Co-Director, Coordinating Center); Todd Anderson, MD, University of Calgary and Libin Cardiovascular Institute (Chair, Substudies, Ancillary Studies and Publications Committee); Moti Kashyap, MD, VA Long Beach Healthcare System (Co-Chair, Substudies, Ancillary Studies and Publications Committee); Bernard R. Chaitman, MD, FACC, St. Louis University (Director, Central Electrographic Laboratory and Chair, Clinical Events Committee); Santica Marcovina, PhD, ScD, University of Washington (Director, Northwest Lipid Metabolism and Diabetes Research Laboratory); William Weintraub, MD, FACC, Christiana Care Health Services (Principal Investigator, Economics Substudy), Xue-Qiao Zhao, MD, University of Washington (Principal Investigator Carotid MRI Substudy); Koon Teo, MB, PhD, FACC, McMaster University (Canadian Investigator Representative); Patrice Desvignes-Nickens, MD, NIH/NHLBI (Project Officer, NHLBI); Jerome L. Fleg, MD, FACC NIH/NHLBI (Project Officer, NHLBI); Mark E. McGovern, MD, FACC, Miami FL (Cardiovascular Clinical Trials Consultant and Industry Liaison). Ex-officio: James C. Stolzenbach, PhD and Robert J. Padley, MD, Abbott Laboratories (Industry Representatives).

Publications Committee
Chairs: Frederick Samaha*, MD, Todd Anderson, MD, Moti Kashyap, MD. Members:, William E. Boden, MD, Santica Marcovina, PhD, ScD, Ruth McBride, Jeffrey L. Probstfield, MD, William
Weintraub, MD, Ronald Goldberg, MD, University of Miami; John Guyton, MD, Duke University; Jerome Fleg, MD; Patrice Desvignes-Nickens, MD; Mark McGovern, MD (non-voting).

* Original Chair, deceased.

**Clinical Event Adjudication Committee**
Bernard R. Chaitman, MD, Chair. Members: David C. Anderson, MD; Richard G. Bach, MD; Salvador Cruz-Flores, MD; Gilbert Gosselin, MD, CM; Stephen D. Nash, MD; Cathy A. Sila, MD.

**Project Office, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health**
Patrice Desvignes-Nickens, MD, Project Officer; Jerome Fleg, MD, Co-Project Officer; Song Yang, PhD, Biostatistician.

**Data and Safety Monitoring Board**
Janet Wittes, PhD (Chair), Donna Arnett, PhD, MSPH; John LaRosa, MD; Trevor Orchard, MD; Karol E. Watson, MD; Eric M Meslin, PhD (Judith Hsia, MD served as chair until 2007).

**Coordinating Center**
Jeffrey L. Probstfield, MD, Co-Director; Ruth McBride, Co-Director; Judy Kaiser, RN, BSN; Kasey Seymour; Sophie Claire, MPH; Barb Ricker, RN, BSN, MPH; Connie Wallum, RN, BSN; Joy Nelson, RN; Hyogin Yi, RN; Suzanne Peck; Catherine Ruha; Kelli Jarvis; Andreeanne Lacroix; Laurie Mitchell; Rose Mitchell; Pamela Collins; Rebecca Putnam; Kim Trotter; Elaine Nasco; Lynn R. Shemanski, PhD; Kent Koprowicz, MS; Grace Ng; Kathy Saunders; Grace Ng; Mary McConney; Shannon Grant, MS; Tina Liu, PhD.
Other Core Units

Central Electrographic Laboratory (St. Louis University)
Bernard Chaitman, MD, Director; Teri Bertram, RN, CCRC, Laboratory Manager; Karen Stocke, BS, MBA.

Northwest Lipid Metabolism and Diabetes Research Laboratory (University of Washington)
Santica Marcovina, PhD, ScD, Director; Jessica Harting, Site Liaison.

Clinical Sites (in order of number of participants randomized)
58-Wake Forest - Department of Cardiology, David Herrington, Vickie Wayne, Lynda Doomy; 47-University of Washington - Cardiology Division, Xue-Qiao Zhao, Kevin O’Brien, Suzanne Williams; 71-Cardiovascular Consultants, Chris Geohas, Rose Prasad, Annie Laborin; 33-Recherches Clinicaal, Paul Talbot, Michelle Tremblay, Marie-Christine Talbot; 06-Clinique de Cardiologie - Levis, Pierre Auger, Noella Bilodeau, Francine Dumont, Melissa Cote; 92-Iowa Heart Center, William Wickemeyer, Sara VanEffen: 36-CSSS Beauce, Richard St-Hilaire, Andree Morissette, Nancy Gilbert; 09-Duke University Medical Center, John Guyton, Shubi Khan, Kathy Ramadanovic; 49-VA Long Beach Healthcare System, Moti Kashyap, Nicole St. Vrestil, Olaf Fallye; 10-Foothills Medical Center, Todd Anderson, Bev Madden; 55-Wake Forest University- Internal Medicine-Endocrinology, John Crouse, Donna Davis, Greg Terry, Ethel Kouba; 34-HealthPartners Riverside Clinic, JoAnn Sperl-Hillen, Shelly Cook, Chhavi Chadha; 25-Montreal Heart Institute, Richard Gallo, Myriam Brousseau, Suzanne Bujold; 27-New Mexico VA Healthcare Systems, Michelle Ratliff, Robyn Elliott, Karon Wagoner; 30-Philadelphia VA Medical Center, Frederick Samaha, Lee Zeng; 76-Cardiology Associates VRH - Kentville NS, Howard Wightman, Sharon Slipp; 44-University of Miami, Ronald Goldberg, Diane Sabogal; 17-Internal Medicine Associates of Greenville, William Craig, Judy Heath, Bonnie Miller; 01-Cambidge Cardiac Care Center, Amritanshu Pandey, Brenda Irvine, Carolyn Wang; 11-G V “Sonny” Montgomery VAMC, Brendan Ross, Lisa Henegar; 46-University of Virginia, Allan Simpson, Linda Bailes, Robyn McKenzie; 98-North Ohio Research, Patrick
McGuinn, Karlene Humphrey, Amy Walton; 13-Hamilton Health Sciences - McMaster University, Eva Lonn, Barbara Miller; 21-London Health Science Centre, University Hospital, William Kostuk, Catherine Bone; 53-Vancouver Hospital, Anthony Fung, Rebecca Fox; 05-CSSS Sud de Lanaudiere - Hopital Pierre-Le Gardeur, Gilbert Gosselin, Margaux David, Nancy Harvey; 64-Memorial University of Newfoundland, Bruce Sussex, Anne-Marie Luther; 74-Mayo Clinic, Stephen Kopecky, Cindy Woltman, Dawn Shelstad; 66-St Louis University, Denise Janosik, Krista Havlin, Jill Newgent; 28-Sudbury Cardiovascular Research, Shah Nawaz, Cynthia Dewar; 51-VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Kenneth Lehmann, Julie LaGuire; 56-Wake Forest University - Geriatrics-Gerontology Department, Jamehl Demons, Tricia Wittmer; 89-Pentucket Medical Associates, Seth Bilazarian, Kati Roach; 24-Mid Valley Cardiology, Ellis Lader, Martha Meyer; 29-Parkview Research Center, Michael Miro, Rob Plant, Sue Budzon; 38-Syracuse Preventive Cardiology, Stephen Nash, Jeannine Moore; 43-University of Maryland, Michael Miller, Abigail Roberts; 57-Washington State University, Carol Wysham, Shannon Yedinak, Debbie Weeks; 37-St Michael’s Health Centre, Lawrence Leiter, Leslie Berndl, Marjorie Burnett; 52-VAMC Memphis, Marshall Elam, Sheronda Peeples, Janelle Turner; 65-Newmarket Cardiology Research Group, Allan Hess, Catherine McPhearson; 03-Cardiovascular Associates of Wausau, David Murdock, Mary Peksa; 42-Lipid Research Clinic - University of Iowa, Jennifer Robinson, Nancy Merideth, Devona Chun Furlong; 35-St Vincent Charity Medical Center, Laurie Sadler, Mariellen Desmit, Tania Zaletel; 02-Cardiology Consultants of Philadelphia, Dean Karalis, Sharon Budzinski, Susan Galardi; 31-Portland VA Medical Center, Edward Murphy, Kathy Avalos, Tera Krall; 50-VA NY Harbor Healthcare System, Lois Katz, Elizabeth Richardson, Amy Nieves; 84-Clinique des maladies lipidiques de Quebec, Claude Gagne, Julie Sills; 32-Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Center, Lawrence Title, Jill Cossett, Monica Francis; 48-University of Washington - NW Lipid Research Center, Robert Knopp (deceased), Pathmaja Paramsothy, Alice Dowdy, Barb Twaddell; 95-Camp Lowell Medical Specialists, Timothy Fagan, Janna Deckert, Lisa Montante; 54-Veterans Affairs Health System of Ann Arbor MI, Claire Duvernoy, Patricia Rose; 19-James A Haley
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Veterans Hospital, Robert Zoble, Ileana Fernandez; 82-Alegent Health Heart and Vascular Specialists, Jeffrey Carstens, Jacque Taylor; 78-Heart Health Institute, Patrick Ma, Donna Louch; 83-Cardiovascular Consultants of Maine, Leonard Kielson (deceased), Edward Teufel, Brenda Glasgow; 45-University of Minnesota, Kevin Peterson, Ellen Dodds; 59-Womens Cardiac Center at The Miriam Hospital, Barbara Roberts, Patricia Leary; 62-Baylor College of Medicine, Peter Jones, Diane Tanksley; 12-Grunberger Diabetes Institute, George Grunberger, Delaine Douglas; 16-Idaho State University, Rex Force, Nicole Murdock, Shancy Lusk, Katie Gamble; 72-Pennsylvania Cardiology Associates, Robert Norris, Maureen Boyle, Julie Yoon; 77-Johns Hopkins University, Peter Kwiterovich, Kathleen Byrne; 86-Kelsey Research Foundation, Haroon-Ur Rashid, Stacy Meadows; 69-McGuire VAMC, Franklin Zieve, Melissa Kimmel; 63-University of Alabama Birmingham, Vera Bittner, Meredith Fitz-Gerald; 73-New Brunswick Heart Center, Goeffrey Douglas, Elizabeth Collings; 75-Kaleida Health-Diabetes Center, Ajay Chaudhuri, Lisa Martin, Cathy Gamel; 41-University of Arkansas, Debra Simmons, Katherine Dishongh; 60-Berman Center, Woubeshet Ayenew, Deb Lascewski; 67-Christiana Care Health Services, Edward Goldenberg, Jackie Laucirica; 88-Health Sciences Center - Diabetes Research Group, Vincent Woo, Claudia Mandock, Lori Berard; 80/Cardiovascular Associates PC, Russell Reeves, Brandon Williams, Suzanne Frew; 08-Cooper Clinical Trials Center, Minh Huynh, Susan Grudzinski, Charlotte Baker; 20-Intermountain Medical Center, Brent Muhlestein, Casey Jacketta-Dunyon; 70-Heart and Vascular Research Center, Clayton Bredlau, Amy Heineman; 81-Sterling Research Group, Eli Roth, Jeannie Piccola; 94-Victoria Heart Institute, Peter Klinke, Noreen Lounsbury, Anthony Della Siega; 40-UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, John Kostis, Nora Cosgrove; 15-University of Southern California, Patrick Colletti, Andrea Contreras; 79-Methodist Hospital, Alan Hoffman, Mary Rangel; 04-Carl T Hayden VAMC Phoenix, James Felicetta, Shannon Cook; 14-University of Pennsylvania, Richard Dunbar, Monica Williams; 61-Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center, Daniel Eisenberg, Barbara Rolph; 07-Columbia University, Daniel Donovan, Carlos Lopez-Jimenez; 22-Medstar Research Institute - Phoenix, Marie Russell, Damon Davis, Suzanne
Lipke; 85-Cardiovascular Associates of the Delaware Valley, Mark Gelernt, Traci Vogt; 90-McConnell Medical Center, Paul DeYoung, Marian Watt; 26-Royal Alexandra Hospital, Neil Brass, Linda Kvill; 91-Clinical Research Consultants, Inc, Donald Kwong, Janet Edwards; 97-Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Kenneth Tam, Susie Parker; 18-Jacobi Medical Center, Ulrich Schubart, Cecilia Gutierrez; 23-MedStar Research Institute - Washington DC, Wayman Cheatham, Debra Wells.