

Response to Cigarette Smoking, Metabolic Gene Polymorphism, and Psoriasis

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TO THE EDITOR

Sequence variation in genes coding for phase I and phase II enzymes, including members of cytochrome P450 (CYP) family may alter individual susceptibility to cancer (Hashibe *et al.*, 2003) as well as other chronic diseases including coronary heart disease and psoriasis.

The observation by Krämer and Esser (2006) of a stronger association between smoking and psoriasis in subjects with non-variant CYP1A1 genotype and psoriasis in current smokers compared to non or former smokers, goes along this line. This is therefore a useful observation. However, there is no sig-

nificant heterogeneity across strata of smoking status in Table 1 of the original paper by Krämer and Esser, this underlines the difficulties in studying gene-environmental interaction and the requirement of very large sample size (ie, in the order of thousand rather than hundred subjects) for studying it (Wang and Zhao, 2003; Wacholder *et al.*, 2004).

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