

Attachment 3
E-Mail Survey Invitation to NRC NIST Non-Awardees

Dear Sir or Madame, *[WE WILL USE MAIL MERGE TO CUSTOMIZE]*

I am contacting you today on behalf of the National Research Council (NRC) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST's International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO) has contracted Westat, an independent research firm located in Rockville, Maryland, to conduct a comprehensive external evaluation of the NRC Research Associateship Program at NIST. The purpose of the evaluation is to collect information on the professional pursuits and experiences of applicants to the NRC Research Associateship Program at NIST.

Westat is conducting an online survey of randomly selected individuals who applied for an NRC postdoc at NIST between 1980 and 2010. The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the survey (OMB No.: 1234-5678). **Instructions on how to access the online survey can be found in the attached cover letter.**

Participation in the survey is voluntary and your confidentiality is assured. The survey data will be collected by Westat; individual responses to the survey will not be shared with NRC or NIST. The information collected will be published in aggregate form only and will not identify individuals in any reports or presentations. Your participation will help provide valuable information that will assist NIST in making decisions about future program initiatives to improve postdoctoral training. A pretest of the survey indicates that it will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator Dr. Keith MacAllum at keithmacallum@westat.com, 1-800-937-8281, ext. 8854 (toll free) or 301-610-8854. This communication, and all components of the evaluation, have been reviewed and approved by Dr. Susan Heller-Zeisler, NRC NIST Program Manager in the IAAO [szeisler@nist.gov].

On behalf of NIST and NRC, we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Best regards,

Kimberley Raue
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