

## BEST Graduate Student Exit Survey Pilot Testing

OMB # 0925-0046 Expiration Date: 5/31/2016

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# BEST Graduate Student Exit Survey Pilot Testing

## Introduction

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Thank you for agreeing to participate in the pilot testing for the surveys for BEST trainees. Please note that this pilot testing will only be used to improve the instructions and wording of the survey questions.

**\*Please record the start time when you begin, so we can approximate the time it takes to complete the survey.**

Start Time

HH	MM	AM/PM
<input type="text"/>	:	<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>

# BEST Graduate Student Exit Survey Pilot Testing

## SECTION 1. UNDERSTANDING OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, CONFIDENCE IN CAREER, CAR...

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**\*1. In the past 12 months, which of the following have you done as a part of your career exploration and development?**

	Yes	No	I don't remember
a. Completed an Individual Development Plan (IDP)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Held internship(s) internal to the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Held internship(s) external to the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Attended a course(s) about career planning for credit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Attended a course(s) about career planning not for credit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Sought career advice from your PI	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Sought career advice from a faculty member (other than your PI) or a staff member	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Discussed career plans with professionals outside of academia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Attended career-related event(s) at your institution (e.g. workshops, speakers, career fairs, seminars, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Attended career-related event(s) NOT at your institution (e.g. workshops, speakers, career fairs, seminars, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Read books, articles, and/or online sources about career development or planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

l. Other (please specify)

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## \*2. How confident are you in your ability to do the following?

	5 Complete confidence	4 High confidence	3 Moderate confidence	2 Minimal confidence	1 No confidence	I don't know
a. Accurately assess your abilities to pursue your desired career path(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Determine the steps to pursue your desired career path(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Talk to your PI/faculty advisor regarding your desired career path(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Seek advice from professionals in your desired career path(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Identify potential employers, firms, and institutions relevant to your desired career path(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Achieve your career goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## SECTION 1. UNDERSTANDING OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, CONFIDENCE IN CAREER, CAR...

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**Table 1**

Below is a list of possible career paths commonly followed by Ph.D.-level scientists. These career paths come from the my Individual Development Plan. If you are not familiar with the career paths on this list, please read the descriptions before proceeding with the survey. You will be asked to answer a question about these career paths.

<b>Career Path</b>	<b>Description</b>
Principal investigator in a research-intensive institution	Independent researcher at a medical school, private research institute, government lab or university with minimal teaching responsibilities.
Research in industry	Discovery or preclinical researcher; manager of a research team or facility.
Research staff in a research-intensive institution	Staff scientist or researcher in academia or government, lab manager, director of a multi-user research facility in an academic institution.
Combined research and teaching careers	Faculty at a liberal arts college or university whose job includes both research and major teaching responsibilities.
Teaching-intensive careers in academia	A primarily teaching faculty position in a research university, liberal arts college, community college.
Science education for K-12 schools	Classroom teacher; curriculum developer; science specialist.
Science education for non-scientists	Education or public outreach specialist such as at a science museum or scientific society.
Clinical practice	Clinician such as genetics counselor, therapist, physician.
Public health related careers	Public health program analyst or evaluator; epidemiologist; biostatistician; medical informaticist.
Scientific/medical testing	Testing specialist in an environmental, public health, genetics, or forensic science setting (intelligence agencies, federal/state departments of justice); clinical diagnostician.
Science writing	Science, medical, or technical writer or journalist; science editor; science publisher.
Research administration	Research administrator in private or public research institutions, government or academia, including compliance officers, grants and contracts officers, dean or director of research programs.
Science policy	Public affairs/government affairs staff at scientific societies, foundations, government entities, or think tanks.
Intellectual property	Patent agent; patent attorney; technology transfer specialist.
Business of science	Management consultant; business development professional in a biotech company venture capitalist; market researcher; investment analyst.
Entrepreneurship	Starting your own business.
Sales and marketing of science-related products	Medical science liaison; technical sales representative; marketing specialist.
Support of science-related products	Technical support specialist; field application specialist; product development scientist or engineer.
Drug/device approval and production	Regulatory affairs professional; quality control specialist.
Clinical research management	Clinical research project/trials manager or coordinator.

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**\*3. Based on the list of career paths, to what extent are you currently considering the following?**

	5 Will definitely pursue	4 Strongly considering	3 Moderately considering	2 Slightly considering	1 Not considering	I don't know
a. Principal investigator in a research-intensive institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Research in industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Research staff in a research-intensive institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Combined research and teaching careers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Teaching-intensive careers in academia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Science education for K-12 schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Science education for non-scientists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Clinical practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Public health related careers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Scientific/medical testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Science writing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Research administration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Science policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Intellectual property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Business of science	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Entrepreneurship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Sales and marketing of science-related products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
r. Support of science-related products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
s. Drug/device approval and production	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
t. Clinical research management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
u. Career that is not related to science	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

v. Other (please specify)

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## \*FEEDBACK FOR QUESTION 3

**Please comment if the descriptions in the career path table were helpful in answering Question 3.**

# BEST Graduate Student Exit Survey Pilot Testing

## SECTION 1. UNDERSTANDING OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, CONFIDENCE IN CAREER, CAR...

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**\*4. To what extent has your interest in the career paths you are currently considering changed during graduate school?**

- a. A great deal
- b. Quite a bit
- c. Somewhat
- d. Very little
- e. Not at all

**\*5. How influential are the following factors in your choice of desired career path(s)?**

	5 Extremely influential	4 Very influential	3 Moderately influential	2 Slightly influential	1 Not at all influential	I don't know
a. Professional satisfaction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Geographic location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Work-life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Salary level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. More job opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Availability of funding for research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Mentor advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>					

**\*FEEDBACK FOR QUESTION 5**

**What are your thoughts on changing the wording from “important” to “influential”?**



## SECTION 2. FACULTY SUPPORT AND GRADUATE PROGRAM

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**\*6. Thinking about your interactions with your PI/faculty advisor, how much do you agree with the following statements?**

	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	2 Disagree	1 Strongly disagree	I don't know
a. My PI/faculty advisor supported my career goals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. My PI/faculty advisor supported my professional development towards my desired career goals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**\*7a. Thinking about your graduate program as a whole, how much do you agree with the following statements?**

	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	2 Disagree	1 Strongly disagree	I don't know
a. I feel I received the training I need for my desired career path(s).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I feel I received support from my graduate program to pursue professional development activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I feel I received support from my graduate program for a broad range of career path(s).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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**\*7b. Thinking about your institution as a whole, how much do you agree with the following statements?**

	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	2 Disagree	1 Strongly disagree	I don't know
d. I feel I received the training I need for my desired career path(s).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. I feel I received support from my institution to pursue professional development activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. I feel I received support from my institution for a broad range of career path (s).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## **\*FEEDBACK FOR QUESTIONS 7A AND 7B**

**What are your thoughts about Questions 7a and 7b? Regarding professional development activities, what types of distinctions do you make between the support you receive from your graduate program and your institution?**

## SECTION 3. BEST ACTIVITIES

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### \*8. Did you participate in the BEST program?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I do not know/I do not remember.

## SECTION 3. BEST ACTIVITIES

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**\*9. Thinking about all the career-related activities you may have participated in, how helpful was the BEST program in the following areas?**

	4	3	2	1	I do not know
	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not very helpful	Not at all helpful	
a. Providing you with knowledge of the skills for a wide range of careers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Making career decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**\*10. What BEST program activities or events did you find most helpful in your career planning? Please explain.**

## SECTION 3. BEST ACTIVITIES

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**\*11. Did you participate in career-related activities other than the ones provided by the BEST program?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I do not know/I do not remember

**SECTION 3. BEST ACTIVITIES**

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**\* 12. What activities did you find most helpful in your career planning? Please explain.**

**SECTION 3. BEST ACTIVITIES**

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**\*13. Please describe activities that helped you most in your career planning and whether the activities were offered by your institution.**

## SECTION 4. INFORMATION ABOUT DEGREE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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**\* 14. When did you defend your dissertation? (MM/YYYY)**

**\* 15. When is your expected graduation date? (MM/YYYY)**

**\* 16. What graduate degree have you received or will you receive from this institution?  
(Check all that apply)**

- a. Ph.D. (or equivalent)
- b. M.D. (or equivalent)
- c. D.V.M. (or equivalent)
- d. M.S., M.A., M.B.A.
- e. I left graduate school before attaining a degree.
- f. Other type of master's degree(s) or doctoral degree(s) (please specify)



## SECTION 4. INFORMATION ABOUT DEGREE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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**\* 17. Please indicate whether each of the following was a source of financial support during graduate school.**

	Yes	No	I do not remember	I do not know
a. Grant, fellowship, or scholarship (awarded to you)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Research, teaching, or other assistantship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Internship, clinical residency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Loans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Personal or family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Employer reimbursement/assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Foreign (non-U.S.) support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

h. Other (please specify)

### \* FEEDBACK FOR QUESTION 17

**What are your thoughts on items a and b in Question 17?**

## SECTION 4. INFORMATION ABOUT DEGREE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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### **18. Approximately how much money do you owe that is directly related to your graduate education? (optional)**

- None
- Less than \$10,000
- Between \$10,000 and \$30,000
- More than \$30,000

**SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**\*19a. Have you been a first author on a publication in a peer reviewed journal?**

a. Yes

b. No

**SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**\*19b. How many first author publications do you have in peer reviewed journals?**

## SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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### \*20. What is your current employment status?

- a. Have accepted a position, other than a postdoc
- b. Have accepted a position as a postdoc at another institution
- c. Have accepted a position as a postdoc at my current institution
- d. Negotiating for a position other than a postdoc with one or more specific organizations
- e. Negotiating for a postdoc position with one or more specific organizations
- f. Seeking employment but have no specific prospects
- g. Seeking postdoc position but have no specific prospects
- h. Enrolling in a full-time degree program
- i. Do not plan to work or study
- j. Other (please specify)

**SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**\*21. What is your job title?**

**SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**\*22. What is the name of the institution in which you accepted or are negotiating for a position?**

**SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**\*23. What degree program will you be pursuing?**



## SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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**\*24. In which type of organization will you be employed? If you are negotiating, in which type of organization would you be employed?**

- a. Research intensive university or medical school
- b. College or universities which are not research intensive but which conduct some research
- c. University affiliated research institute
- d. Community or two-year college
- e. Pre-college educational system (preschool through high school)
- f. U.S. Federal government
- g. U.S. State government
- h. U.S. Local government
- i. Foreign government
- j. Not for profit organization
- k. Industry/Corporate (for profit)
- l. Self-employed
- m. Other (please specify)

## SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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### \*25. What best describes your position?

- a. Academic Faculty, tenure-track
- b. Academic Faculty, not tenure-track
- c. Administration/management
- d. Non-faculty Researcher
- e. Teaching
- f. Other (please specify)

**SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**\*26. Where is the location of your employment?**

- a. In the U.S.
- b. Outside the U.S.

**SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**\*27. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with this position?**

- a. Very Satisfied       b. Satisfied       c. Neutral       d. Dissatisfied       e. Very dissatisfied

## SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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### \*28. In what career path does this position fit?

- a. Principal investigator in a research-intensive institution
- b. Research in industry
- c. Research staff in a research-intensive institution
- d. Combined research and teaching careers
- e. Teaching-intensive careers in academia
- f. Science education for K-12 schools
- g. Science education for non-scientists
- h. Clinical practice
- i. Public health related careers
- j. Scientific/medical testing
- k. Science writing
- l. Research administration
- m. Science policy
- n. Intellectual property
- o. Business of science
- p. Entrepreneurship
- q. Sales and marketing of science-related products
- r. Support of science-related products
- s. Drug/device approval and production
- t. Clinical research management
- u. Other (please specify)

## SECTION 5. RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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### \*29. How did you first hear of this position? (Check all that apply)

- a. Posting on online job board
- b. Professional organization sites or listservs
- c. Previous internship, job, or volunteer experience with the employer
- d. Previous job shadowing experience with the employer
- e. Institution's career services
- f. On-campus interview
- g. On-campus career fair
- h. Institution sponsored networking such as advisor referral, other faculty referral, or alumni network
- i. Social Networking site (LinkedIn, etc.)
- j. Colleague
- k. Your PI/faculty mentor
- l. Another faculty mentor
- m. Family/Friend
- n. I do not remember
- o. Other (please specify)

## SECTION 6. POST-EXIT FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

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**30. NIH is conducting a long-term study of the training and career outcomes of graduate students and postdoctoral scientists. NIH would like to invite you to participate in post-exit surveys in 2, 6, 10, and 15 years after you exit this institution. The information you provide in the surveys could improve doctoral and postdoctoral training experiences within the biomedical science programs/departments at your institution. There will be raffles for prizes offered to the participants of these surveys. Your participation in the surveys is voluntary. You are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation without penalty at any time.**

**The surveys will take between 5-10 minutes. If you are interested in participating in these surveys, please provide your email address(es) below.**

Primary Email Address (e.g.   
personal or non-  
institutional):

Secondary Email Address   
(optional):

**If you agree to participate in the follow-up surveys, the data from surveys you have participated in during graduate school or your postdoctoral training will be linked to the data in the post-exit surveys. Please check the box below to consent.**

I consent to have my data from surveys linked to post-exit survey data.

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## FEEDBACK

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**\* Please record the end time when you finish, so we can approximate the time it takes to complete the survey.**

End Time      HH    MM    AM/PM  
                  :

**\* A. What is your overall impression of the survey?**

**\* B. Were any of the instructions unclear? If yes, which questions and why? Please feel free to use the back button to go back through the survey.**

**\* C. Where there any questions where you feel the wording could be improved? If yes, which questions and why? Please feel free to use the back button to go back through the survey.**

**\* D. Were there any questions you feel did not apply to you? Why?**

**\* E. What are your comments about the order of the questions?**

**\* F. What suggestions do you have to encourage participation in the surveys?**