

**EMAIL INVITATION [TO BE SENT THE DAY THE SURVEY IS DEPLOYED]**

Dear NIH Research Scientist:

NIH is conducting a survey of scientists to gather information about NIH peer review. The objectives of this survey are to better understand investigators' interests in serving as a peer reviewer and to help define appropriate expectations for reviewer commitments. The information may be used to further improve the peer review process.

You were **randomly selected** to participate in this survey from a pool of scientists who have applied for research grant funding in the past five years. We are interested in the opinions of potential reviewers with different levels of research and peer review experience. Even if you have limited experience reviewing research grant applications, **your opinions are very important to us.**

I ask that you take a few moments to share with us your experiences, and complete the questionnaire at the link below. To access the survey, click the link below, or copy and paste it into your browser.

[ENTER UNIQUE URL]

This link provides access to your personal copy of the survey. **To protect your privacy under the Privacy Act, and the integrity of the survey, please do not forward this link to anyone else.** Should you need to stop in the middle of your survey and return at a later time to complete it, this link will return you to the last question that you answered.

The survey is anonymous and takes about 15 minutes to complete. You are being asked for your opinions, and you may skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

RTI International, an independent, not-for-profit research firm based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, is carrying out this study in collaboration with the NIH Office of Extramural Research (OER). If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to call [REDACTED] of RTI toll free at 1-800-334-8571 ext. [REDACTED] (NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org) or Luci Roberts in OER at (301) 594-1841.

Again, thank you for your commitment to peer review at the NIH. Ongoing evaluation helps to ensure that the NIH peer review process is as rigorous, efficient and effective as possible. I hope you will take the time to share your opinions and help to improve NIH peer review.

Sincerely,

*Sally J. Rockey, Ph.D.*

**NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research**  
OD/NIH/DHHS  
One Center Drive  
Building 1, Room 144  
Bethesda, MD 20892

## REMINDER EMAIL #1

### A. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE STARTED BUT NOT COMPLETED THE SURVEY

Dear NIH Research Scientist:

Recently we sent you an invitation to participate in a survey to gather information about NIH peer review. The objectives of this survey are to better understand investigators' interests in serving as a peer reviewer and to help define appropriate expectations for reviewer commitments. The information may be used to further improve the peer review process.

Because you have applied for research grant funding in the past five years, your opinions are very important to us.

We see that you've started the survey but were unable to finish. You can complete the questionnaire at [ENTER UNIQUE URL]. Once you click on the link you will be taken to the last question that you answered.

If you have questions about the survey or need assistance accessing the website, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] of RTI toll free at 1-800-334-8571 ext. [REDACTED] or by email at NIH-Reviewsurvey@rti.org.

Thank you for your time.

### B. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET STARTED THE SURVEY

Dear NIH Research Scientist:

Recently we sent you an invitation to participate in a survey to gather information about NIH peer review. The objectives of this survey are to better understand investigators' interests in serving as a peer reviewer and to help define appropriate expectations for reviewer commitments. The information may be used to further improve the peer review process.

We've yet to hear from you and your insight is very important to us. To access the survey, click the link below, or copy and paste it into your browser

[ENTER UNIQUE URL]

This link provides access to your personal copy of the survey. **To protect your privacy under the Privacy Act, and the integrity of the survey, please do not forward this link to anyone else.** Should you need to stop in the middle of your survey and return at a later time to complete it, this link will return you to the last question that you answered.

If you have questions about the survey or need assistance accessing the website, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] of RTI toll free at 1-800-334-8571 ext. [REDACTED] or by email at NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org.

Thank you for your time.

## REMINDER EMAIL #2

### A. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE STARTED BUT NOT COMPLETED THE SURVEY

Dear NIH Research Scientist:

Thank you for beginning the survey on the preferences of prospective and current NIH peer reviewers. Your insight into the peer review process is very important!

We see that you've started the survey but were unable to finish. You can complete the questionnaire at [ENTER UNIQUE URL]. Once you click on the link, you will be taken to the last question that you answered.

We hope that you will be able to complete your survey soon. Please don't forget that the survey will only remain open until [REDACTED] 2014.

If you have questions about the survey or need assistance accessing the website, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] of RTI toll free at 1-800-334-8571 ext. [REDACTED] or by email at NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org.

Thank you for your time.

### B. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET STARTED THE SURVEY

Dear NIH Research Scientist:

Recently, we sent you an e-mail invitation to participate in a survey about NIH peer review. The objectives of this survey are to better understand investigators' interests in serving as a peer reviewer and to help define appropriate expectations for reviewer commitments.

If you have not had a chance to complete the survey, we would greatly appreciate your participation. Your insight into the peer review process is very important! This is an anonymous survey and should take about [REDACTED] minutes to complete. This survey will end on [REDACTED] 2014.

To access the survey, click the link below, or copy and paste it into your browser

[ENTER UNIQUE URL]

This link provides access to your personal copy of the survey. **To protect your privacy under the Privacy Act, and the integrity of the survey, please do not forward this link to anyone else.** Should you need to stop in the middle of your survey and return at a later time to complete it, this link will return you to the last question that you answered.

If you have questions about the survey or need assistance accessing the website, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] of RTI toll free at 1-800-334-8571 ext. [REDACTED] or by email at NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org.

Thank you for your time.

### REMINDER EMAIL #3

#### A. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE STARTED BUT NOT COMPLETED THE SURVEY

Dear NIH Research Scientist:

**Thank you for beginning the survey on the NIH peer review process.** This is a friendly reminder that the survey will end on [REDACTED] 2014, and your opinions about peer review are very important!

You can complete the questionnaire at [ENTER UNIQUE URL]. Once you click on the link you will be taken to the last question that you answered. You will have until [REDACTED] 2014 to complete the survey.

If you have questions about the survey or need assistance accessing the website, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] of RTI toll free at 1-800-334-8571 ext. [REDACTED] or by email at [NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org](mailto:NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org)

Thank you for your time.

#### B. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET STARTED THE SURVEY

Dear NIH Research Scientist:

Recently, we sent you an e-mail invitation to participate in a survey on peer review. The objectives of this survey are to better understand investigators' interests in serving as a peer reviewer and to help define appropriate expectations for reviewer commitments.

If you have not had a chance to complete the survey, this is the last reminder you will receive. Your participation in this project is critical to its success. The survey is anonymous and should take about [REDACTED] minutes to complete.

This survey will end on [REDACTED] 2014. We would greatly appreciate if you could complete the survey by then.

To access the survey, click the link below, or copy and paste it into your browser

[ENTER UNIQUE URL]

This link provides access to your personal copy of the survey. **To protect your privacy under the Privacy Act, and the integrity of the survey, please do not forward this link to anyone else.** Should you need to stop in the middle of your survey and return at a later time to complete it, this link will return you to the last question that you answered.

If you have questions about the survey or need assistance accessing the website, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] of RTI toll free at 1-800-334-8571 ext. [REDACTED] or by email at [NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org](mailto:NIH-Reviewersurvey@rti.org).

Thank you for your time.