

Attachment C – Protocol for ECD Contact

Based on our experience in the Early Career Doctorates (ECD) methodological study, four contact protocols are designed for this follow-up survey: High Authority (HA), HA Opt-out, HA Opt-in, and NSF protocols. In the methodological study, respondents in the HA treatment group were more likely to respond and respond more quickly than those in other treatment groups. Therefore the HA treatment is our preferred contact protocol, and each institution will begin the survey in this treatment group. All individuals in this group will receive an initial pre-notification e-mail from the HA and nonrespondents will receive a letter of support from the HA in the mail reminder sent later in the survey.

We know based on the methodological study, however, that not all HAs will agree to send a pre-notification e-mail. Some institutions, for example, have policies whereby a university president does not send e-mails to solicit help on the behalf of others. In these situations we will negotiate with the HA to ensure the best possible option given the unique circumstances of the case. For example, if an institution HA does not send e-mails, we will request that another authority figure within the institution send the e-mail. If no HA from an institution can or will send the pre-notification, the institution will be reassigned to the NSF group. In the NSF group the pre-notification will come from NSF. In this situation we will request letters of support to include in communications from NSF (see Attachment B.3).

We also know from the methodological study that some institutions have policies that forbid sharing of personal or contact information without the consent of the individual. In these cases, we will sample respondents based on an anonymous listing provided by the List Coordinator (LC) and an HA from the institution will send them a modified pre-notification asking the sampled respondent to opt-out or opt-in, depending on the institutional policies. Based on the results of the methodological study, the Opt-out treatment is substantially preferred to the Opt-in method as very few respondents opted-out.

A summary of the contact materials and timing of the notifications are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1. List of Notifications to ECD

Protocol group and contact description	Contact number and timing of events ¹												
	1	2a	2b	2c	2d	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Begin Date	*	+1	+3	+5	+3	+5	+5	+10	+10	+5	Post-CATI ²	Post-complete
ECD - High Authority Group³													
Pre-notification e-mail from High Authority (includes link to survey website and brochure)	C.1												
Login credential e-mail				C.2									
ECD – High Authority Opt-out Group													
Opt-out e-mail from HA	C.1												
Login credential e-mail ⁴			C.2										
ECD – High Authority Opt-in Group													
Opt-in e-mail from HA	C.1												
Login credential e-mail ⁵		C.2											
ECD - NSF Group⁶													
Pre-notification letter from NSF, enclosing ECD brochure and letter of support from HA	C.1												
Login credential e-mail					C.2								
All Groups													
Reminder e-mail # 1						C.3							
Reminder e-mail # 2							C.4						
Reminder phone call								C.5					
Reminder e-mail # 3									C.6				
Mail reminder with ECD brochure and letter of support from HA										C.7			
CATI calls begin											C.8		
Final e-mail reminder												C.9	
Thank you e-mail													C.10

¹ The timing of each event is represented by a “plus number of business days” from the proceeding event.

² The duration of the CATI phase will vary for each case.

³ HA group means the institutional high authority sends the first contact to the ECD and provides a letter of support for a mail reminder. All other contacts come from NSF.

⁴ Login credential e-mails for the Opt-out Group will be sent within 1 day of receiving a list of ECDs who have not opted-out of the survey.

⁵ Login credential e-mails for the Opt-in Group will be sent when respondents notify the survey team that they would like to participate. Login credential e-mails will be sent out as soon as possible, usually within a few minutes of receiving opt-in notification.

⁶ NSF group means NSF sends all contacts to the ECD.

**Attachment C.1 – ECD Contact
Pre-Notification E-mail to ECDs – HA Group**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Institution High Authority Figure>>
CC: ECDS@rti.org
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<Respondent Last Name>>,

In the next few days, you will be receiving a request from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to participate in the Early Career Doctorates Survey. On behalf of <<Institution Name>>, I am writing to urge you to complete this survey at your earliest convenience.

In this survey, you will be asked to provide information on your current and past work experiences, the research and training you have completed, and your future career plans.

The data will provide NSF and other agencies with key information, not available from any other source, regarding the career paths and research opportunities open to recent doctorates. It will also inform future decisions regarding the best ways to support this important segment of the U.S. workforce. Responding to this survey is a service to your peers and to the academic community in general

Please know that your responses are confidential; neither I nor any other employee of this institution will know how you answered the questions. NSF has retained RTI International, a highly reputable non-profit research institute, to collect and protect your data.

Your participation is completely voluntary, but extremely important due to the sample design. If you have any questions about participation, please contact the survey staff at 1-800-848-4075 or ECDS@rti.org and reference Survey ID <<number>>.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

<<Institution High Authority Name>>
<<Title>>
<<Institution>>

**Attachment C.1 – ECD Contact
Institutional High Authority Opt-Out E-mail – HA Group**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Institutional High Authority >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

This year <<our institution>> is participating in the Early Career Doctorates Survey, a survey sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that focuses on individuals who earned a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, or equivalent) in any discipline within the past 10 years. You were randomly selected to be one of a limited number of survey participants from <<our institution>>.

I hope you will consider participating in this survey. The Early Career Doctorates Survey is unique in scope and will provide NSF and other agencies with key information regarding the career paths and research opportunities open to recent doctorates. The survey will also inform future decisions regarding the best ways for federal agencies to support this important segment of the workforce. Participation in this survey will require approximately 30 minutes of your time to complete a web-based questionnaire about current and past work experiences, research and training, and future career plans. For more information about the survey, you may visit www.earlycareerdoctoratessurvey.org.

Your participation is completely voluntary and extremely important. Only a small number of doctorate recipients have been selected to participate in the survey, so your participation is critical to ensure the validity of the survey. Your responses are also completely confidential; no one at <<our institution>> will ever know how you answered the questions. If you have any questions about participation, please contact the survey staff at 1-800-848-4075 or ECDS@rti.org.

If you wish to participate, there is no need to respond to this e-mail. You will be contacted directly by RTI International, NSF's survey contractor, after <<insert date>> with a secure link to the survey. If you do not want to participate, please reply to this e-mail by <<insert date>> and I will remove you from the survey.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
<<Name>>

**Attachment C.1 – ECD Contact
Institutional High Authority Opt-in E-mail – HA Group**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Institutional High Authority >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

This year <<our institution>> is participating in the Early Career Doctorates Survey, a survey sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that focuses on individuals who earned a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, or equivalent) in any discipline within the past 10 years. You were randomly selected to be one of a limited number of survey participants from <<our institution>>. As you may know, it is against our policy to share our employees' personal information without their permission. Therefore, I am asking you to opt-in to this survey by forwarding this e-mail to ECDS@rti.org, calling the survey staff at 1-800-848-4075, or letting me know that I can provide your name and address to NSF because this is an important survey. If you opt-in, you will receive an e-mail from RTI International, NSF's survey contractor, with a secure link to the survey.

I urge you to complete this survey at your earliest convenience. The Early Career Doctorates Survey is unique in scope and will provide NSF and other agencies with key information regarding the career paths and research opportunities open to recent doctorates. The survey will also inform future decisions regarding the best ways for federal agencies to support this important segment of the workforce. Participation in this survey will require approximately 30 minutes of your time to complete a web-based questionnaire about current and past work experiences, research and training, and future career plans. For more information about the survey, you may visit www.earlycareerdoctoratessurvey.org.

Your participation is completely voluntary and extremely important. Only a small number of doctorate recipients have been sampled, so your participation is critical to ensure the validity of the survey. Your responses are also completely confidential; no one at <<our institution>> will ever know how you answered the questions. If you have any questions about participation or would like to participate, please contact the survey staff at 1-800-848-4075 or ECDS@rti.org.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,
<<Name>>

**Attachment C.1 – ECD Contact
Pre-Notification Letter from NSF – NSF Group**

<Date>

Dear Dr. <<Respondent Last Name>>,

On behalf of the National Science Foundation (NSF), I am writing to let you know that you have been selected to participate in the Early Career Doctorates Survey. Uniquely focused on recent doctorates across all disciplines, this survey will provide NSF and other agencies with key information regarding the career paths and research opportunities open to doctorates early in their careers and will inform future decisions regarding the best ways to support the work done by this important segment of the U.S. workforce.

The research enterprise in the U.S. is continually evolving: postdoctoral training has become more prevalent, the global labor markets for researchers, scientists, and engineers have expanded, and interdisciplinary research continues to grow. The Early Career Doctorates Survey is unique in scope as it includes doctorates from a wide variety of disciplines and includes those who earned their degrees both in and outside of the United States. In this survey, you will be asked to provide information on your current and past work experiences, the research and training you have completed, and your future career plans. Please know that your responses are confidential – no one at <<institution name>> will ever know how you answered the questions.

NSF has retained RTI International to collect and protect these data. In a few days, we will be sending you an e-mail with a link to the survey. To protect your information, the secure link has your individual login credentials (username and password) embedded in it.

Your participation is completely voluntary, but extremely important. Only a small number of doctorate recipients have been selected to participate in the survey, so your participation is critical to ensure the validity of this survey. Enclosed please find a letter of support from <<HA name & title>> as well as the survey brochure that provides more information about the survey.

Responding to this survey is a service to your peers, to NSF, and to the academic community. If you have questions about participation, please contact the data collection team at 1-800-848-4075 or ECDS@rti.org and reference Survey ID <<number>>.

Thank you in advance for your time and for your help with this survey.

Sincerely,

<Signature>

John G. Gawalt
Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Enclosures

**Attachment C.1 – ECD Contact
Institutional High Authority Letter of Support – NSF Group**

See Attachment B.3 – H A Pre-notification Letter of Support Template.

**Attachment C.1 – ECD Contact
Early Career Doctorates Survey Brochure – NSF Group**

See separate pdf file for Early Career Doctorates Survey Brochure.

**Attachment C.2 – ECD Contact
Login Credentials – HA Group**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. <kphou@nsf.gov> >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

Within the past few days <<Institution HA Name & Title>> sent you an e-mail to notify you about the Early Career Doctorates Survey (ECD Survey), which is being funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). You are one of a small number of doctorate recipients in the United States who have been randomly selected to participate in this survey. As a result your response is very important. Findings from the survey will be used by NSF to help inform policy-makers, researchers, and others involved in the research enterprise about the career paths and research opportunities for doctoral degree holders in your field who received their degrees within the last 10 years.

Please follow the link below to access the survey. To maintain the confidentiality of your responses, a secure username and password were generated for you and are embedded in the link below.

[Secure Link to ECD Survey](#)

This survey should take about 30 minutes to complete. If necessary, you can complete the survey in multiple sessions. Clicking on the link above will bring you to back to the survey wherever you left off.

Once again, thank you for your time and assistance with this survey. If you have any questions, please e-mail me and the data collection team at ECDS@rti.org or call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075.

Sincerely,

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.2 – ECD Contact
Login Credentials E-mail – NSF Group**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. <kphou@nsf.gov> >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

A few days ago, you received a letter from Mr. John Gawalt, Director of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, notifying you that you were randomly selected to participate in the Early Career Doctorates Survey. This survey is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and endorsed by <<Institutional HA>>. Only a small number of doctorate recipients have been asked to participate in this survey, so your response is very important. Findings from the survey will be used by NSF to help inform policy-makers, researchers, and others involved in the scientific enterprise about the career paths and research opportunities for doctoral degree holders in your field who received their degrees within the last 10 years.

Please follow the link below to access the survey. To maintain the confidentiality of your responses, a secure username and password were generated for you and are embedded in the link below.

[Secure Link to ECD Survey](#)

This survey should take about 30 minutes to complete. If necessary, you can complete the survey in multiple sessions. Clicking on the link above will bring you to back to the survey wherever you left off.

Once again, thank you for your time and assistance with this survey. If you have any questions, please e-mail me and the data collection team at ECDS@rti.org or call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075.

Sincerely,

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.3 – ECD Contact
Reminder E-mail #1 – HA Group**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. <kphou@nsf.gov> >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

Approximately one week ago <<Institutional HA Name & Title>> sent you an e-mail requesting your participation in the Early Career Doctorates Survey. If you already completed the survey, thank you very much and please ignore this reminder.

If you have not completed the survey, we hope you will take a few minutes soon to complete this survey. It should only take about 30 minutes to complete. If needed, the survey can be completed over multiple sessions.

Your answers to this survey are critical to NSF's understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing individuals like you who completed their doctorate degree within the past 10 years.

Please follow the hyperlink below to access the survey. To maintain the confidentiality of your responses, a secure username and password were generated for you and are embedded in this hyperlink. You are the only person who has access to it. Please retain this e-mail. You can use the hyperlink below to start where you left off should you need to complete the survey in more than one session.

[Secure Link to ECD Survey](#)

Once again, thank you for your time and assistance with this survey. If you have any questions, please e-mail me and the data collection team at ECDS@rti.org or call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075.

Thank you for your assistance with this survey,

Sincerely,

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.3 – ECD Contact
Reminder E-mail #1 – NSF Group**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. <kphou@nsf.gov> >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

A few days ago, I sent you an e-mail requesting your participation in the Early Career Doctorates Survey. This survey is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and endorsed by your organization. If you already completed the survey, thank you very much and please ignore this reminder.

If you have not completed the survey, we hope you will take a few minutes soon to complete this survey. From the time you click on the below link, it should only take about 30 minutes to complete. If needed, the survey can be completed over multiple sessions.

Your answers to this survey are critical to NSF's understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing early career doctorates.

Please follow the hyperlink below to access the survey. To maintain the confidentiality of your responses, a secure username and password were generated for you and are embedded in this link. You are the only person who has access to it. Please retain this e-mail. You can use the hyperlink below to start where you left off should you need to complete the survey in more than one session.

[Secure Link to ECD Survey](#)

Once again, we thank you for your time and assistance with this survey. If you have any questions, please e-mail me and the data collection team at ECDS@rti.org or call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075.

Thank you for your assistance with this survey,

Sincerely,

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.4 – ECD Contact
Reminder E-mail #2 – All ECDs**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. <kphou@nsf.gov> >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

Over the last couple of weeks you should have received two e-mails from me inviting you to participate in the Early Career Doctorates Survey through our web survey. Our records indicate you have not submitted it. We understand you may have been busy and thus not yet had a chance to work on this, but we hope you will take some over the next few days to complete the survey.

There is currently a gap in knowledge about the experiences of early career doctorates. For this survey, an early career doctorate is defined as anyone who has received a doctorate in the past 10 years, regardless of how long they have been in the workforce. The purpose of this survey is to fill this knowledge gap and share, in aggregate form only, this information with academic researchers, other U.S. agencies, and policy-makers.

To begin the survey, please click the hyperlink below. This link includes an embedded, secure username and password to which only you have access. This will help protect your confidentiality.

[Secure Link to ECD Survey](#)

A small number of people have e-mailed or called us because their status at the institution has changed or they do not believe they are eligible for the survey for some other reason. If either of these situations is true for you, please contact us using the information below to let us know the circumstances and we will review your case. If you are not eligible we will remove you from our contact list.

Once again, thank you for your time and assistance with this survey. If you have any questions, please e-mail me and the data collection team at ECDS@rti.org or call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075.

Thank you for your assistance with this survey,

Sincerely,

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.5 – ECD Contact
Reminder phone call to ECDs – All ECDs**

WEBSTATUS

PROGRAMMER:

IF WEB SURVEY HAS BEEN ACCESSED THEN WEBSTATUS=1;

IF WEB SURVEY HAS NEVER BEEN ACCESS THEN WEBSTATUS=0;

VOICEMAIL MESSAGE

Hi, this is [name] calling from RTI International on behalf of the National Science Foundation. About a month ago we sent you an invitation e-mail to complete the Early Career Doctorates Survey.

[IF WEBSTATUS=0] Our records indicate you have not yet completed the survey. We hope you will find time to complete it soon.

[IF WEBSTATUS=1] Our records indicate you have begun, but not yet completed the survey. If you have not completed the survey, we hope you will find time to do so soon. If you believe you have completed the survey, please let us know so we can review your case.

The purpose of this survey is to gather data about individuals who have earned their doctorate degree within the past 10 years. It will help in making important decisions about how to support the research enterprise in the U.S. At present, no comparable data exist to guide these decisions.

If you did not receive the invitation or if you have any other questions, please call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075; that is 1-800-848-4075. Or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org that is E-C-D-S at R-T-I dot O-R-G.

Thank you, goodbye.

1. CONTINUE (CODE AS REMINDER LEFT ON VOICEMAIL)

REMINTRO

Hi, this is [name] calling from RTI International on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the NSF.

(READ IF NECESSARY: Have I reached <sample member's name>?)

IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE HAS QUESTIONS USE POINTS BELOW AS NECESSARY:

- We are a not-for-profit research institute calling on behalf of the NSF to conduct a survey
- The survey is called the Early Career Doctorates Survey
- We got contact information from a institutional point of contact approved by <HA name>
- <fill HA name if available> has supported this survey on behalf of <institution name>

1. CONTINUE → **GO TO INTRO2A**
2. REACHED GATEKEEPER (ONLY IF CAN'T GET TO R) → **GO TO GATEKEEPER**
3. NOT RESPONDENT NOR GATEKEEPER → **GO TO VERIFYPHONE**

VERIFYPHONE

Let me verify that I have dialed the correct number, that is <FILL RL PHONE NUMBER>?

1. CORRECT NUMBER → **ASSIGN 120 – NEED DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE**
2. NUMBER NOT DIALED CORRECTLY/NOT VERIFIED → **GO TO DIAL2A**

DIAL2A

TI: PLEASE RE-DIAL THE NUMBER <ROSTER NUMBER>

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE CALL?

- 1 A PERSON ANSWERED THE PHONE (NOT OPERATOR)
- 11 RING NO ANSWER
- 12 BUSY SIGNAL/ALL CIRCUITS BUSY
- 13 ANSWERING MACHINE
- 19 MOBILE CELLULAR PHONE
- 20 COMPUTER MODEM/FAX MACHINE
- 21 LINE TROUBLE
- 23 BEEPER/PAGER
- 24 BLOCKED LINE/# DOES NOT ACCEPT INCOMING CALLS
- 25 PRIVACY MANAGER
- 27 PHONE COMPANY RECORDING GIVES A NEW NUMBER
- 44 TDD (TELEPHONE DEVICE FOR THE DEAF) OR TYY (SOUND LIKE LITTLE BELLS)
- 99 DISCONNECTED NUMBER / CANNOT COMPLETE AS DIALED

GATEKEEPER

Hi, I was trying to reach <<ECD TITLE, FIRST & LAST NAME>> to talk about a survey being conducted for the National Science Foundation. Could you take a message?

COVER THESE POINTS:

- About a month ago we sent << ECD TITLE & LAST NAME>> an invitation e-mail to complete the Early Career Doctorates Survey.
- Our records indicate [he/she] has not yet completed it.
- We were calling to see if there were any questions we could answer.
- The survey is very important as it will help in policy-makers and others decide how to support the research enterprise in the U.S. At present, no comparable data exist to guide these decisions.
- If <<ECD TITLE & LAST NAME>> did not receive the invitation or if [he/she] has any other questions, [he/she] can call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

Thank you, goodbye.

1. CONTINUE (CODE AS REMINDER MESSAGE LEFT WITH GATEKEEPER)

INTRO2A

[IF WEBSTATUS=0] About a month ago we sent you an invitation to participate in a survey that the NSF is conducting called the Early Career Doctorates Survey. Our records indicate you have not yet started the survey.

I'm calling today to see if you received an e-mail from us with the hyperlink to the survey and to see if you have any questions about the survey that I can answer.

[INTERVIEWER: ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS RESPONDENT HAS BEFORE PROCEEDING]

1. YES, STILL HAS IT → **GO TO HASIT**
2. YES RECEIVED, BUT NO LONGER HAS IT → **GO TO OFFERSEND**
3. NO, DID NOT RECEIVE E-MAIL OR NOT SURE → **GO TO OFFERSEND2**

INTRO2B

[IF WEBSTATUS=1] About a month ago we sent you an invitation to participate in a survey that the NSF is conducting called the Early Career Doctorates Survey. Our records indicate that you have started the web survey, but have not yet had the chance to finish it.

I'm calling today to see if you have any questions about the survey that I can answer or if you experienced any issues that prevented you from being able to complete the survey.

[INTERVIEWER: CHECK WITH RESPONDENT TO SEE IF THEY STILL HAVE E-MAIL WITH LOGIN HYPERLINK AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS RESPONDENT HAS BEFORE PROCEEDING]

1. YES, STILL HAS IT → **GO TO HASIT**
2. YES RECEIVED, BUT NO LONGER HAS IT → **GO TO OFFERSEND**
3. DOES NOT RECALL RECEIVING/STARTING → **GO TO OFFERSEND**
4. EXPERIENCED PROBLEM, COULDN'T FINISH → **PROBLEMS**

PROBLEMS

I'm sorry to hear that you experienced a problem. Could you tell me a little bit about the problem? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

[INTERVIEWER: AFTER

1. SURVEY/SCREEN FROZE
2. TOOK TOO LONG BETWEEN SCREENS
3. QUESTIONS DIDN'T APPLY TO ME – GENERAL
4. QUESTIONS DIDN'T APPLY TO ME – WRONG PATH AFTER ANSWERING Q INCORRECTLY
5. QUESTIONS DIDN'T APPLY TO ME – FINISHED DOCTORATE MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO
6. ANSWERED A QUESTION INCORRECTLY AND COULDN'T FIX IT
7. OTHER

GO TO **PROBLEMTEXT**

PROBLEMTXT

[INTERVIEWER: RECORD ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP SURVEY TEAM FIX PROBLEM.]

I will have someone review your case to see if we can address the problem. We would like to send you another link to the survey after we address the problem. Would it be alright with you if we sent you another e-mail when the issue has been resolved? You would be able to use this link to complete the rest of the survey.

1. YES, SEND INVITE AFTER ISSUE RESOLVED → **GO TO OFFERSEND3**
2. NO, DO NOT CONTACT ME FURTHER → **CODE HARD REFUSAL**

HASIT

Great. You can complete the survey using the link in that e-mail at your convenience, or if you prefer we can complete it now over the phone.

[INTERVIEWER: GENTLY ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE R_s INTENTIONS IF THEY DO NOT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION]

1. RESPONDENT NEEDS INVITATION SENT AGAIN → **GO TO OFFERSEND**
2. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WOULD COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO TO THANKYOU**
3. RESPONDENT SAID THEY MAY COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO TO THANKYOU2**
4. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WILL NOT COMPLETE → **GO TO CODE AS REFUSAL; GO TO REASONS**
5. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WANT TO COMPLETE NOW BY PHONE → **GO TO BEGIN [IN CATI SPECIFICATIONS]**
6. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WANT APPOINTMENT TO COMPLETE BY PHONE → **GO TO APPTBEGIN [IN CATI SPECIFICATIONS]**

OFFERSEND

I would be happy to have the invitation sent to you again. I would like to confirm the e-mail address to which we should send it. I have your e-mail address as <<ECD E-MAIL ADDRESS>>. Is that correct?

1. YES → **GO TO RESEND**
2. NO → **GO TO NEWE-MAIL**

OFFERSEND2

I'm sorry you did not receive our invitation. We sent the e-mail invitation to <<FILL ECD E-MAIL>>. Is that the correct e-mail address?

INTERVIEWER: IF R SAYS THERE IS A BETTER E-MAIL ADDRESS SELECT 'NO'

1. YES → **GO TO RESEND**
2. NO → **GO TO NEWE-MAIL**

OFFERSEND3

I would like to confirm I have the best e-mail address to send the e-mail to when the problem is addressed. I have <<FILL ECD E-MAIL>>. Is this the best e-mail address to use?

1. YES → **GO TO RESEND2**
2. NO → **GO TO NEWE-MAIL2**

RESEND

Thank you, I will have the invitation resent to you. It should be sent in the next <<INSERT TIME PERIOD>>. If you do not receive it in your e-mail inbox please check any spam folder you have. If you do not receive the e-mail please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to resend it.

1. CONTINUE → **GO TO THANKYOU**

RESEND2

Thank you, I will have the invitation resent to you as soon as the issue is resolved. If you have any questions when you receive the e-mail, please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to discuss them.

1. CONTINUE → **GO TO THANKYOU**

NEWE-MAIL

I can have the invitation sent to a different e-mail address. Could you tell me the other e-mail address to which we should send the invitation?

INTERVIEWER: REPEAT E-MAIL ADDRESS TO R TO ENSURE CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS ENTERED

[AFTER TAKING E-MAIL ADDRESS] It should be sent in the next <<INSERT TIME PERIOD>>. If you do not receive it in your e-mail inbox please check any spam folder you have. If you do not receive the e-mail please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to resend it.

_____ (PROGRAMMER ALLOW UP TO 50 CHARACTERS)

1. CONTINUE → **GO TO THANKYOU**

NEWE-MAIL2

I can have the invitation sent to a different e-mail address. Could you tell me the other e-mail address to which we should send the invitation?

INTERVIEWER: REPEAT E-MAIL ADDRESS TO R TO ENSURE CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS ENTERED

[AFTER TAKING E-MAIL ADDRESS] Thank you, I will have the invitation resent to you as soon as the issue is resolved. If you have any questions when you receive the e-mail, please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to discuss them.

_____ (PROGRAMMER ALLOW UP TO 50 CHARACTERS)

1. CONTINUE → GO TO THANKYOU

THANKYOU

Thank you for your time today. Do you have any other questions before we end this call?

[ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS]

[INTERVIEWER SAY ONLY IF YOU HAVE NOT PROVIDED ALREADY] If you need to reach us for any reason, please call us at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org .

[INTERVIEWER: END CALL]

THANKYOU2

Thank you for your time today. We hope you will consider completing the survey. Your participation is critical to the success of this survey. If there are any questions that I have not been able to answer for you today that would help in your decision of whether or not to participate, please contact our data collection team at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

[INTERVIEWER: END CALL]

1. CONTINUE → GO TO REASONS

REASONS

INTERVIEWER: THIS SCREEN TO BE COMPLETE AFTER ENDING CALL WITH R

INTERVIEWER: WHAT WERE THE REASONS THE R DID NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE OR WAS RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

- 1. TOO BUSY
- 2. DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH
- 3. CONCERNED ABOUT PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY
- 4. CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WITH DATA
- 5. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS ABOUT RTI INTERNATIONAL
- 6. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS ABOUT NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
- 7. QUESTIONS IMPORTANCE OF SURVEY
- 8. OTHER _____(50 CHARACTERS)

**Attachment C.6 – ECD Contact
Reminder E-mail #3 to ECDs – All ECDs**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. <kphou@nsf.gov> >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

About a month ago, I sent you an invitation to participate in the Early Career Doctorates Survey – an NSF sponsored survey about the work experiences of individuals who earned their doctorate degree within the past 10 years. Our records indicate that you have not completed the survey. Please take time today to do so. If you are currently working on the survey, thank you for taking the time to provide us with this critical information!

Many early career doctorates have already participated in the survey and have provided very valuable information regarding their careers, research activities, and current and future goals and opportunities. This survey will provide extremely important information to NSF, other agencies, and policy-makers. However, the results will only be valid if we have the participation of a large proportion of those invited—you cannot be replaced.

Below you will find a hyperlink that will connect you directly to the survey. For confidentiality purposes, you are the only person who has access to this secure hyperlink. Should you be unable to complete the survey today, you can complete the survey in multiple sessions. Please retain this e-mail so that you can use the link again to return where you left off.

[Secure Link to ECD Survey](#)

Thank you for your time and cooperation. Please e-mail me and our data collection team at ECDS@rti.org or call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.7 – ECD Contact
Final Appeal FedEx Reminder Letter – HA Group**

Dear Dr. <<Respondent Name>>,

During the last couple of months, you have been sent several e-mails about the Early Career Doctorates Survey. This survey is being conducted by RTI International for the National Science Foundation (NSF). It has been supported by <<HA name & title>> who wrote the enclosed letter to all individuals from your institution. We are currently only contacting individuals, who according to our records have not completed the survey. However, neither <<HA name & title>> nor anyone else at <<Institution>> knows who is receiving this letter.

You are one of just a few people who have not yet responded to the survey. In order for our survey results to be valid, the voice of everyone who was selected to participate in the survey must be heard. But the time to do so is running out. Please logon now to complete this survey. It should only take about 30 minutes of your time. By taking the time to complete this survey you will be advancing knowledge about the research environment in the U.S and will therefore being doing a great service for yourself and the research community in general.

The survey will help the NSF answer important questions for which there is no current data source. Questions are asked on topics such as your educational background, the professional activities you are involved in, your work-personal life balance, and your career plans over the next 10 years. This information will help NSF and other funding agencies make decisions about how to best support the work and development of early career doctorates.

To participate, please go to the survey website – www.earlycareerdoctoratessurvey.org/login.aspx – and log in using the username and password provided below. You are the only person who has access to these login credentials. Please keep this letter in a secure place to ensure your privacy.

Username: <<username>>

Password: <<password>>

If you have any questions about participation, please contact us. You can call toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

In closing, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your willingness to consider this request. This effort to better understand the opportunities and experiences of early career doctorates is part of an ongoing effort at the NSF and will help in providing critical data to policymakers. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

<Signature>

John R. Gawalt
Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.7 – ECD Contact
Institutional High Authority Letter of Support #2 – NSF Group**

See Attachment B.3 – HA Reminder Letter of Support Template

**Attachment C.7 – ECD Contact
Final Appeal FedEx Reminder Letter – NSF Group**

Dear Dr. <<Respondent Name>>,

During the last couple of months, we have sent you several e-mails and mailings about the Early Career Doctorates Survey – an important survey RTI International is conducting for the National Science Foundation (NSF). You are one of just a few people who were randomly selected to participate who have not yet responded. In order for our survey results to be valid, the voice of everyone who was selected to participate in the survey must be heard. But the time to do so is running out.

Please logon now to complete this survey. It should only take about 30 minutes of your time. By taking the time to complete this survey you will be advancing knowledge about the research environment in the U.S and will therefore being doing a great service for yourself and the research community in general.

The purpose of the survey is to help the NSF answer important questions for which there is no current data source. Questions are asked on topics such as your educational background, the professional activities you are involved in, your work-personal life balance, and your career plans over the next 10 years. This information will help NSF and other funding agencies make decisions about how to best support the work and development of early career doctorates.

To participate, please go to the survey website – www.earlycareerdoctoratessurvey.org/login.aspx – and log in using the username and password provided below. You are the only person who has access to these login credentials. Please keep this letter in a secure place to ensure your privacy.

Username: <<username>>

Password: <<password>>

If you have any questions about participation, please contact us. You can call toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

In closing, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your willingness to consider this request. This effort to better understand the opportunities and experiences of early career doctorates is part of an ongoing effort at the NSF and will help in providing critical data to policymakers. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

<Signature>

John R. Gawalt
Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.8 – ECD Contact
Computer-assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) call to ECDs – All ECDs**

WEBSTATUS**PROGRAMMER:**

IF WEB SURVEY HAS BEEN ACCESSED THEN WEBSTATUS=1;
IF WEB SURVEY HAS NEVER BEEN ACCESS THEN WEBSTATUS=0;

VOICEMAIL MESSAGE

Hi, this is [name] calling from RTI International on behalf of the National Science Foundation. About two months ago we sent you an invitation e-mail to complete the Early Career Doctorates Survey. Our records indicate that you have not completed the survey. The survey is coming into the last phase of data collection and we really need your help.

For this survey we are gathering data, for the first time, about individuals who completed their doctorate in the last 10 years. Too little is known about people like you and these data are needed to inform key decisions about how to better support individuals who contribute to the U.S. research enterprise.

To arrange a time to complete the interview please call us at toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org. Please mention case number <<FILL CASE NUMBER>> when you call.

Thank you, goodbye.

1. CONTINUE (END CALL; CODE AS VOICEMAIL MESSAGE LEFT; AUTOMATICALLY SCHEDULE CALL BACK FOR 3 DAYS (NOTE: A MESSAGE WILL ONLY BE LEFT ONE TIME PER WEEK))

CATIINTRO

Hi, this is [name] calling/calling back from RTI International on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the NSF.

(READ IF NECESSARY: Have I reached <sample member's name>?)

IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE HAS QUESTIONS USE POINTS BELOW AS NECESSARY:

- We are a not-for-profit research institute calling on behalf of the NSF to conduct a survey
- The survey is called the Early Career Doctorates Survey
- We got contact information from an institutional point of contact approved by <HA name>
- <fill HA name if available> has supported this survey on behalf of <institution name>

1. CONTINUE → **GO TO CATIINTRO2A**
2. REACHED GATEKEEPER (ONLY IF CAN'T GET TO R OR Rs VOICEMAIL) → **GO TO CATIGATE**
3. NOT RESPONDENT NOR GATEKEEPER → **GO TO CATIVERIFY**
4. IF CALLING BACK FOR APPOINTMENT → **GO TO APPTBEGIN**

VERIFYPHONE

Let me verify that I have dialed the correct number, that is <FILL RL PHONE NUMBER>?

3. CORRECT NUMBER →ASSIGN 120 – NEED DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE
4. NUMBER NOT DIALED CORRECTLY/NOTVERIFIED →GO TO DIAL2A

DIAL2A

TI: PLEASE RE-DIAL THE NUMBER <ROSTER NUMBER>

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE CALL?

- 2 A PERSON ANSWERED THE PHONE (NOT OPERATOR)
- 11 RING NO ANSWER
- 12 BUSY SIGNAL/ALL CIRCUITS BUSY
- 13 ANSWERING MACHINE
- 19 MOBILE CELLULAR PHONE
- 20 COMPUTER MODEM/FAX MACHINE
- 21 LINE TROUBLE
- 23 BEEPER/PAGER
- 24 BLOCKED LINE/# DOES NOT ACCEPT INCOMING CALLS
- 25 PRIVACY MANAGER
- 27 PHONE COMPANY RECORDING GIVES A NEW NUMBER
- 44 TDD (TELEPHONE DEVICE FOR THE DEAF) OR TYY (SOUND LIKE LITTLE BELLS)
- 99 DISCONNECTED NUMBER / CANNOT COMPLETE AS DIALED

CATIGATE

I was trying to reach <<ECD TITLE, FIRST & LAST NAME>> to talk about a survey being conducted for the National Science Foundation. Could you take a message?

COVER THESE POINTS:

- About two months ago we sent << ECD TITLE & LAST NAME>> an invitation e-mail to complete the Early Career Doctorates Survey.
- Our records indicate [he/she] has **not** yet completed it.
- We were calling to schedule an interview with << ECD TITLE & LAST NAME>>
- The survey is very important as it will help in policy-makers and others decide how to support the research enterprise in the U.S. Currently, no comparable data exist to guide these decisions.
- Please have <<ECD TITLE & LAST NAME>> call us toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org to arrange an interview.

Thank you, goodbye.

1. CONTINUE (CODE AS MESSAGE LEFT WITH GATEKEEPER; AUTOMATICALLY CALLBACK AFTER 3 DAYS (NOTE: A MESSAGE WILL ONLY BE LEFT ONE TIME PER WEEK))

CATIINTRO2A

About two months ago we sent you an invitation to participate in a survey that the NSF is conducting called the Early Career Doctorates Survey. This survey will provide policy-makers, researchers, and the NSF and other U.S. agencies with information about individuals, such as you, who have completed their doctorate in the last 10 years. It will help answer questions about the experiences of, opportunities for, and challenges faced by researcher. No data source currently exists to answer these questions and the information will be critical for informing decisions about how best to support the U.S. research enterprise in the future. The survey is coming into the last phase of data collection and we really need your help.

[IF WEBSTATUS=0] I'm calling today to see if we can conduct the interview now over the phone or schedule a time that works for you.

[IF WEBSTATUS=1] I'm calling today to see if we can complete the interview now over the phone or schedule a time that works for you. We can continue from where you left off the last time you logged in.

[INTERVIEWER: ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS RESPONDENT HAS BEFORE PROCEEDING]

1. BEGIN INTERVIEW → **GO TO BEGIN**
2. SCHEDULE INTERVIEW → **SCHEDULE APPT (GO TO CATIINTRO)**
3. RESPONDENT SAID MAY COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO TO THANKYOU2**
4. RESPONDENT SAID WILL COMPLETE BY WEB (HAS LINK) → **GO TO THANKYOU3**
5. RESPONDENT SAID WILL COMPLETE BY WEB (NEEDS LINK) → **GO TO OFFERSEND**
6. RESPONDENT SAID WILL COMPLETE BY WEB (NEVER GOT OTHER E-MAILS) → **GO TO OFFERSEND2**
7. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WILL NOT COMPLETE → **GO TO CODE AS REFUSAL; GO TO REASONS**
8. R INDICATED THERE WAS A PROBLEM WHEN ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE → **GO TO PROBLEMS**

PROBLEMS

I'm sorry to hear that you experienced a problem. Could you tell me a little bit about the problem? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

[INTERVIEWER: AFTER

1. SURVEY/SCREEN FROZE
2. TOOK TOO LONG BETWEEN SCREENS
3. QUESTIONS DIDN'T APPLY TO ME – GENERAL
4. QUESTIONS DIDN'T APPLY TO ME – WRONG PATH AFTER ANSWERING Q INCORRECTLY
5. QUESTIONS DIDN'T APPLY TO ME – FINISHED DOCTORATE MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO
6. ANSWERED A QUESTION INCORRECTLY AND COULDN'T FIX IT
7. OTHER

GO TO PROBLEMTXT

PROBLEMTXT

[INTERVIEWER: RECORD ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP SURVEY TEAM FIX PROBLEM.]

I will have someone review your case to see if we can address the problem. After your case has been reviewed we could either call you back or send you another e-mail with a link to complete the survey. Would that be alright with you?

1. YES, CALL BACK TO COMPLETE CATI INTERVIEW WHEN RESOLVED → **GO TO THANKYOU4**
2. YES, SEND INVITE AFTER ISSUE RESOLVED → **GO TO THANKYOU4**
3. NO, DO NOT CONTACT ME FURTHER → **CODE HARD REFUSAL**

OFFERSEND

I would be happy to have the invitation sent to you again. I would like to confirm the e-mail address to which we should send it. I have your e-mail address as <<ECD E-MAIL ADDRESS>>. Is that correct?

1. YES → **GO TO RESEND**
2. NO → **GO TO NEWE-MAIL**

OFFERSEND2

I'm sorry you did not receive our invitation. We sent the e-mail invitation to <<FILL ECD E-MAIL>>. Is that the correct e-mail address?

INTERVIEWER: IF R SAYS THERE IS A BETTER E-MAIL ADDRESS SELECT 'NO'

1. YES → **GO TO RESEND**
2. NO → **GO TO NEWE-MAIL**

RESEND

Thank you, I will have the invitation resent to you. It should be sent in the next <<INSERT TIME PERIOD>>. If you do not receive it in your e-mail inbox please check any spam folder you have. If you do not receive the e-mail please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to resend it.

1. CONTINUE → **GO TO THANKYOU3**

RESEND2

Thank you, I will have the invitation resent to you as soon as the issue is resolved. If you have any questions when you receive the e-mail, please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to discuss them.

1. CONTINUE → **GO TO THANKYOU3**

NEWE-MAIL

I can have the invitation sent to a different e-mail address. Could you tell me the other e-mail address to which we should send the invitation?

INTERVIEWER: REPEAT E-MAIL ADDRESS TO R TO ENSURE CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS ENTERED

[AFTER TAKING E-MAIL ADDRESS] It should be sent in the next <<INSERT TIME PERIOD>>. If you do not receive it in your e-mail inbox please check any spam folder you have. If you do not receive the e-mail please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to resend it.

_____ (PROGRAMMER ALLOW UP TO 50 CHARACTERS)

2. CONTINUE → **GO TO THANKYOU**

NEWE-MAIL2

I can have the invitation sent to a different e-mail address. Could you tell me the other e-mail address to which we should send the invitation?

INTERVIEWER: REPEAT E-MAIL ADDRESS TO R TO ENSURE CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS ENTERED

[AFTER TAKING E-MAIL ADDRESS] Thank you, I will have the invitation resent to you as soon as the issue is resolved. If you have any questions when you receive the e-mail, please give us a call at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org and we will be happy to discuss them.

_____ (PROGRAMMER ALLOW UP TO 50 CHARACTERS)

APPTBEGIN

We spoke on <<INSERT DATE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED>> and arranged this time to complete an interview for the Early Career Doctorates Survey, which is being conducted for the National Science Foundation. May we begin?

1. BEGIN INTERVIEW → **GO TO BEGIN**
2. RESCHEDULE INTERVIEW → **SCHEDULE APPT (GO TO CATIINTRO)**
3. R INDICATED WILL COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO CATICALL2**

CATICALL2

Hi, this is [name] calling back from RTI International on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the NSF. We recently spoke with you about completing the Early Career Doctorates Survey. I see you haven't yet had a chance to complete the web survey. We could [IF WEBSTATUS=0 THEN SHOW "begin the survey now"; IF WEBSTATUS=1 THEN SHOW "complete the survey now starting from where you left off"] or we could schedule an appointment if now is not a good time.

1. BEGIN INTERVIEW → **GO TO BEGIN**

2. SCHEDULE INTERVIEW → **SCHEDULE APPT (GO TO CATIINTRO)**
3. RESPONDENT SAID THEY MAY COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO TO THANKYOU2**
4. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WILL NOT COMPLETE → **GO TO CODE AS REFUSAL; GO TO REASONS**
5. R INDICATED WILL COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO CATICALL2 (AUTOMATICALLY SCHEDULE CALLBACK FOR 7 DAYS)**
6. R INDICATED THERE WAS A PROBLEM WHEN ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE → **GO TO PROBLEMS**

CATICALL3

Hi, this is [name] calling back from RTI International on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the NSF. We recently spoke with you about completing the Early Career Doctorates Survey. I see that you requested that we call after we resolved the issue. The issue has been resolved. We could [IF WEBSTATUS=0 THEN SHOW “begin the survey now”; IF WEBSTATUS=1 THEN SHOW “complete the survey now starting from where you left off”] or we could schedule an appointment if now is not a good time.

1. BEGIN INTERVIEW → **GO TO BEGIN**
2. SCHEDULE INTERVIEW → **SCHEDULE APPT (GO TO CATIINTRO)**
3. RESPONDENT SAID THEY MAY COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO TO THANKYOU2**
4. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WILL NOT COMPLETE → **GO TO CODE AS REFUSAL; GO TO REASONS**
5. R INDICATED WILL COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO CATICALL2 (AUTOMATICALLY SCHEDULE CALLBACK FOR 7 DAYS)**
6. R INDICATED THERE WAS A PROBLEM WHEN ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE → **GO TO PROBLEMS**

CATICALL4

Hi, this is [name] calling back from RTI International on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the NSF. We recently spoke with you about completing the Early Career Doctorates Survey. I see that you requested that we send you an e-mail after we resolved the issue. We sent the e-mail about 1 week ago. I was calling to confirm you received the e-mail, to see if you have any questions, have experienced any further issues, or if you would like to complete the interview over the phone.

1. BEGIN INTERVIEW → **GO TO BEGIN**
2. SCHEDULE INTERVIEW → **SCHEDULE APPT (GO TO CATIINTRO)**
3. RESPONDENT RECEIVED E-MAIL WILL COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO TO THANKYOU3**
4. RESPONDENT SAID THEY WILL NOT COMPLETE → **GO TO CODE AS REFUSAL; GO TO REASONS**
5. R INDICATED WILL COMPLETE BY WEB → **GO CATICALL2 (AUTOMATICALLY SCHEDULE CALLBACK FOR 7 DAYS)**
6. R INDICATED THERE WAS A PROBLEM WHEN ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE → **GO TO PROBLEMS**

THANKYOU2

Thank you for your time today. We hope you will consider completing the survey. Your participation is critical to the success of this survey. If there are any questions that I have not been able to answer for you today that would help in your decision of whether or not to participate, please contact our data collection team at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

[INTERVIEWER: END CALL]

2. CONTINUE → **GO TO REASONS**

THANKYOU3

Thank you for your time today. Again, I would like to let you know your participation is critical. Do you have any questions I can answer before we end our call?

[INTERVIEWER: ANSWER QUESTIONS].

If there are any/any other questions at any point we can answer please contact our data collection team at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

Thank you, goodbye.

1. CONTINUE → **CODE TO BEGIN NEXT CALL AT CATICALL2**

THANKYOU4

Thank you. I will have your case reviewed and we will [IF PROBLEMTTEXT=1 THEN “call you”; IF PROBLEMTTEXT=2 THEN “e-mail you”] when the issue is resolved.

Do you have any other questions before we end the call?

[INTERVIEWER: ANSWER QUESTIONS].

Thank you, goodbye.

1. REQUESTED CALL AFTER PROBLEM RESOLVED → **GO TO CATICALL3**
2. REQUESTED E-MAIL AFTER PROBLEM RESOLVED → **GO TO CATICALL4**

REASONS

INTERVIEWER: THIS SCREEN TO BE COMPLETE AFTER ENDING CALL WITH R

INTERVIEWER: WHAT WERE THE REASONS THE R DID NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE OR WAS RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

1. TOO BUSY
2. DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH
3. CONCERNED ABOUT PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY

4. CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WITH DATA
5. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS ABOUT RTI INTERNATIONAL
6. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS ABOUT NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
7. QUESTIONS IMPORTANCE OF SURVEY
8. OTHER _____(50 CHARACTERS)

BEGIN

[IF WEBSTATUS=0 GO TO FIRST SURVEY SCREEN]

[IF WEBSTATUS=1 GO TO LAST QUESTION ANSWERED]

Attachment C.9 – ECD Contact
Final e-mail reminder to ECDs – All ECDs

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. < kphou@nsf.gov >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

During the last <<insert time period>>, we have been trying to reach you about the Early Career Doctorates Survey (ECD Survey), which is being conducted by RTI International for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Our records indicate you have not yet completed the survey. This will be our final contact with you. Please take time now to complete the survey.

The purpose of this survey is to gather information about individuals who earned a doctorate degree, from either a U.S. or non-U.S. institution, in the past 10 years. Data gathered through the ECD Survey will be critical to informing decisions at the NSF and other agencies about how to best support the U.S. research community, especially its newest members. Examples of the topics included in the survey are educational background, involvement in professional activities, work-life balance, and future career plans. There is currently no other source for this information.

You are one of a small number of people who were randomly selected to participate in the survey. You cannot be replaced. Though voluntary, for the survey results to be representative it is imperative that you participate. While there is no direct benefit to you, your participation will help further our understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the research community. Information such as that gathered in ECD Survey will be critical for policy-makers who will be making decisions affecting the U.S. scientific endeavor.

To go to the survey, please click the hyperlink below. This link contains your secure login credentials. For confidentiality purposes, you are the only person who has access to this link.

[Secure Link to ECD Survey](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us. You can call toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

Finally, from the NSF and the entire data collection team let me express our sincere appreciation for your time and consideration. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

**Attachment C.10 – ECD Contact
Thank you letter – All ECDs**

TO: <<ECD e-mail address>>
FROM: <<Phou, Kelly S. <kphou@nsf.gov> >>
SUBJECT: <<NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey >>

Dear Dr. <<ECD respondent>>,

On behalf of myself, John G. Gawalt, Director of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics at the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the rest of the data collection team, thank you for your participation in the Early Career Doctorates Survey.

Your participation will help us provide critical information about the experiences of early career doctorates to researchers, other agencies, and policymakers. This information will be used to make decisions about how to best support the work and development of early career doctorates and the U.S. research enterprise more generally.

If you have any final questions or thoughts about the survey, please contact us. You can call toll-free at 1-800-848-4075 or e-mail us at ECDS@rti.org.

Thank you again for your help.

<Signature>

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation