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**NHLBI GHI COE Outcome Evaluation
DRAFT Trainee Key Informant Interview Protocol**

Thank you for agreeing to do this interview. My name is _____ and I am part of an evaluation team that has been contracted to assess the NHLBI and UnitedHealth Global Health Initiative, which I'll refer to as the COE Program. The team includes evaluation staff at Westat and NHLBI. Although Westat served as the Academic Coordinating Center (ACC) for the COE Program, the evaluation team does not have any involvement with the ACC.

I'd like to speak with you today regarding your involvement in the [center name] and the COE Program to better understand your role and contributions, areas for improvement, and lessons learned. We'll discuss the center's training program and your perspective of the COE Program.

Our goal is to understand how the COE Program was implemented, progressed, and the extent that it has been continued after funding for the Program ended. I [interviewer] was not involved in developing or implementing the program, so I encourage you to tell me about your experiences as frankly as you wish. Many times learning what works is just as important as learning about what does not work. Findings may be used to inform NIH and NHLBI about operational issues relevant to planning both global and domestic biomedical research and training programs.

Your decision to participate will not impact your involvement with NHLBI or future funding with NHLBI. While themes will be extracted from the interviews for analysis, the interviews will be held in confidence. Statements may be used for illustrative purposes, but would not be attributed to individuals. The interview will be audio-recorded to supplement our notes, but your name will not be associated with any of your comments, and the recordings will be destroyed once analysis is complete. The interview should take about 60 minutes of your time.

Do you have any questions? Do I have your consent to participate in this interview? Do I have consent to audio-record this interview?

A. Background & Role

I'd like to start off by asking you to introduce yourself and to describe your educational background and research interests.

1. Are you currently involved in the training program? If not, why?
2. How did you find out about the center's training program? How were you recruited?
3. Why did you participate in the training program? What did you hope to gain?
Probe: mentorship, access to research facility, career advancement, skill building, increased visibility?
4. How long did you participate in the training program?
5. What is your area of specialty?
6. What is your current position? If left the center, probe for reasons why

B. Training/Mentoring Program

Next, I have a few questions about the training/mentoring program and your thoughts about how this program has impacted your career.

1. Please describe the training you received through the center.
Probe: DCPs, within COEs, external to COEs
2. Please describe the mentoring you received. How often did you receive mentoring services? How effective was the mentoring you received? What could have been improved about the mentoring services provided?
Probe: DCPs, within COEs, external to COEs
3. Describe any collaborations you had with other trainees within the center and across centers, and what you gained from these collaborations. Have you maintained these peer networks?

Impact of Training Program on Career

1. Do you think that this training program provided experiences that would not have been available otherwise? If so, describe the unique experiences.
Probe: CVPD research, networking locally and internationally, NIH workshops
2. Can you describe what aspects of the training program were most useful to your career development? What areas fell short of your expectations and why? How did the program influence your scientific interests?
3. What has the impact of the training program been on your scientific activities and achievements thus far, in comparison to the start of the program?
Probe: career milestones, publications, presentations during the award period and after

4. What do you think the impact of the training program will be on your career in the next 5 years?
5. If given the chance to advise on the design of a training/mentoring program, what would you recommend?

Thank you for your time. The information you have provided will be very valuable to NHLBI. Together with other information being collected, it will help NHLBI to better plan global and domestic biomedical research and training program. Should you have questions or input regarding the evaluation, feel free to contact Jennifer Huang, the Project Director of the evaluation, at JenniferHuang@Westat.com.