

Influences on the Career Transitions of Female Postdoctoral Scholars

INFORMED CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY

Please note that this informed consent form applies to both this screening survey and to the later focus groups.

The National Postdoctoral Association is conducting a study of the career transitions of female postdoctoral scholars (postdocs). Our goal is to learn about the factors that influenced female postdocs' career decisions during and following their postdoctoral appointment, especially those factors relating to their decision to remain (or not to remain) in academia. These findings will help us refine a series of recommended practices we are promoting to aid postdoc women to make the transition to an academic faculty position. Approximately 15 individuals have been invited to take this initial screening survey.

This initial screening survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete. The purpose of this online survey is to determine your eligibility for participating in one of two focus groups: one to be held with current postdocs and one to be held with former postdocs. You will be eligible for the focus groups if you are or have been a female postdoctoral scholar in the United States at some point during your career. If you are eligible for the focus groups, the survey will ask you a few additional questions about your career path. Answering any or all of the survey questions is voluntary. You may refuse to answer any of the questions if you like, and you may stop the survey at any time.

If you are eligible and selected for one of the focus groups, you will be contacted again following this screening survey with instructions for participating in the focus group. The focus groups will be conducted in person in Washington, DC, either the evening of Thursday, October 28, 2010, or the morning of Friday, October 29, 2010. They will each last approximately one hour and 15 minutes. Participation in these focus groups is also voluntary, and you may refuse to answer any of the focus group questions during the discussions as well.

To protect your privacy, the screening survey data and focus group data will be stored confidentially. The focus groups will be recorded (audio only) and transcribed by project staff. Only the study coordinator will have access to the raw survey dataset, and she will remove and store the names and identifying information separately from the other survey responses. The screening survey responses will not be linked to the focus group responses in any way. In any event, no information that might identify you will appear when we present this study or publish its results. For additional information on the privacy and security of your responses, see the survey privacy policy at <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/advance-focus-groups/448-advance-focus-group-privacy>.

There are no known risks to participating in this study. You will get no direct benefit from being a part of this study. Your participation will help us better understand ways to

improve the postdoctoral training experience and to help postdoc women advance their careers.

If you have any questions about how the study works, you can contact Dr. Kathleen Flint, the National Postdoctoral Association Project Manager for the NPA ADVANCE project at 202-326-6494 or at kflint@nationalpostdoc.org. If you have questions about your rights in this study, you can contact the Office of Regulatory Affairs at the Western Institutional Review Board by calling 800-562-4789, or e-mail RegulatoryAffairs@wirb.com.

Please indicate below whether or not you consent to participate in both the screening survey and, if selected, one of the focus groups. If you indicate that you consent, the survey will be launched.

I consent to participate in both the screening survey and, if selected, a focus group

I do not consent to participate in both the screening survey and, if selected, a focus group