Dear (Title/Name),

As a participant in the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study, you have provided extremely valuable information for understanding the causes of a wide range of chronic diseases in older Americans. Thank you!

We are beginning a new research project with investigators from another branch of NIH, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)\(^1\). This study is called The PAGE Study: Parkinson’s, Genes and Environment Study. Parkinson’s disease affects more than 1% of elderly Americans and its causes are largely unknown. The purpose of this new study is to determine the effects of genetic and environmental factors on the risk of Parkinson’s disease.

Our records indicate that you reported a Parkinson’s diagnosis in our last survey. We are inviting you to be a part of this new study. Your participation is extremely valuable to better understand the causes of Parkinson’s disease. However, participation is voluntary and you may refuse at any time.

If you agree to participate, we will first need to obtain more information about the diagnosis from your doctor. For study purposes only, we will need you to sign and return to us the enclosed forms giving us permission to contact your doctor and complete and return the saliva collection kit for genetic analysis. Please return these materials using the prepaid envelope to Social & Scientific Systems, the company that provides research support for this study. Please keep the yellow copies of the forms for your records. Later we may ask you to complete a telephone interview. Information will be kept confidential and will be used exclusively for medical statistical purposes.

While this project will not benefit you directly, scientific knowledge gleaned from this study may help prevent or treat Parkinson’s disease in the future. Enclosed are a study logo pen and $1 as a token of our appreciation.
If you choose not to participate, would you still kindly check the appropriate boxes on the release form indicating your wishes and return the form to us in the prepaid envelope? Please keep the enclosed brochure which provides more information about the study and telephone numbers to contact if you have questions. We very much appreciate your willingness to consider participating in this important study!

Sincerely,

Arthur Schatzkin, MD, Ph.D.,
National Cancer Institute

Honglei Chen, MD, Ph.D.,
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Enclosures: Medical Release Form, Study Consent Form, Brochure, Case Confirmation Form, Study Logo Pen, $1, Prepaid Envelope, Parkinson’s Fact Sheet, Saliva kits

«StudyID»