## Chapter 1

## **Introduction and Visits**

#### **OVERVIEW**

This is a manual of operations for the conduct Visit 2 of the Long Life Family Study (LLFS) which is a multi-center, research study sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health. The goal of this study is to identify longitudinal Healthy Aging Phenotypes and to determine the extent to which genetic factors play a role in exceptional survival.

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance to insure the standardized collection of all data. While all encounters in clinical practice cannot be anticipated, we have attempted to provide a description of procedures for the most common situations, as well as for less frequent ones. Please feel free to contact study staff (see email list at the end of this chapter) for additional information.

From time to time, the study may change procedures. The Data Management and Coordinating Center (DMCC) will prepare additions and amendments to this protocol. Please store these documents with the protocol and list them in the appropriate sections as designated on the table of contents.

A detailed description of each panel/survey is included. This manual is organized according to the order you will encounter the panels/surveys. We provide an introduction and overview to each form, summarizing its purpose, the procedure for calculating longitudinal changes, and how we anticipate harmonizing our phenotypes with Framingham Heart Study (FHS) along with any special instructions about who may complete the panel/survey. We will review administration and scoring procedures especially in regard to the carotid ultrasound, spirometry, physical performance measures and neuropsychological assessments as well as the blood collection component of the study.

There are many details to conducting any study and we hope that this manual will provide a comprehensive source for such information.

#### **PROTOCOL SYNOPSIS**

#### Study Title: Long Life Family Study (LLFS)

**Objective:** To determine the familial aggregation and modes of transmission of Exceptional Survival (ES) and Healthy Aging Phenotypes (HAPs) within families, and to identify a large number of families across four Field Centers (Columbia University, Boston University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Southern Denmark) that best characterizes the phenotypes associated with ES for eventual genetic linkage analysis.

#### Aims:

**1.** Exceptional Longevity (EL) and associated Healthy Aging Phenotypes (HAPs) are likely to be result of an interaction between genetic and environmental factors, with genetic influences likely to play an important role. Given the likely familiality of EL and HAPs phenotypes, we hypothesize that there exist discernable familial patterns of transmission and aggregation of the EL and HAPs.

**2.** We also hypothesize that coping with age-related diseases in a manner that compresses disability towards the end of life is characteristic of EL. Visit 2 will be conducted to assess healthy aging longitudinally based upon the hypothesis that specific pathways likely determine healthy aging and ultimately, exceptional longevity (EL). If true, then families achieving EL may differ in the relative degrees of influences of these

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pathways. If strongly heritable, these specific HAPs will be promising candidates for targeted association. We will Identify Visit 1 HAPs predictive of subsequent survival and health span. We hypothesize that disease onset and mortality will be delayed in specific LLFS families, and that some HAPs measured at visit 1 may be predictive of these. Telephone follow-up will continue to assess rates of disease in both generations, but because of the relatively younger ages in the offspring (mean 61.2 yrs. at enrollment) incident rates will be low for some events such as dementia.

**3.** We will also extend characterization of cross-sectional HAPs. We hypothesize that novel cross-sectional phenotypes will show patterns of heritability and identify useful GWAS and/or linkage signals. We will also look at the cross-sectional relationships of carotid ultrasound measures, to be introduced into LLFS on visit 2, with other measures and phenotypes.

**4.** We will extend our identification of composite phenotypes that may be powerful predictors of healthy survival. We have constructed two indices of healthy aging based on a priori knowledge of key factors that predict mortality. The first is the Healthy Aging Index, which uses tertile scores in five organ systems and identified individuals at very low mortality risk in the Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS) study (Sanders et al., 2013). Another is the Scale of Aging Vigor (SAVE) (Newman et al., 2012) that expands the scoring of the CHS frailty scale to identify the most vigorous participants. We have also conducted factor analyses (Matteini et al., 2010) to define composite traits and have found that pulmonary and physical function are linked, while other systems tend to fall within organ systems groupings. We will examine the extent to which these track over time, and explore the possibility of additional clusters, including multiple "longitudinal" HAPs. We have also extended the Survival Exceptionality Score concept (defined in Sebastiani et al., 2009) to other disease-free survival and quantitative HAPs, as Trait Exceptionality Scores (TEs). This approach puts all phenotypes on a log-probability scale using Framingham Heart Study (FHS) as the reference population to define percentiles. Principal components of these TEs have defined clusters of phenotypes showing co-variation, and demonstrate strong linkages, suggesting there may be pleiotropic variants to be discovered through sequencing.

**5.** Identify subgroups of LLFS families with exceptional HAPs. We demonstrated familial clustering of many exceptional cross-sectional HAPs (Matteini et al., 2010), and will extend this approach to identify subgroups of families with exceptional "longitudinal HAPs" (above). Subgroups of families with exceptional ross-sectional/longitudinal HAPs will be selected for linkage and sequencing studies.

**6.** Conduct Joint LLFS vs. FHS Analyses. FHS families were not selected for longevity and have been followed for far longer than the (proposed) LLFS seven-year follow-up. These features provide an opportunity for our planned collaborative studies to clarify several issues by jointly analyzing both.

7. Assess degree of exceptionality of differing HAPs in LLFS families. By comparing differing LLFS family and individual change trajectories with those in the FHS community-based population, we will gain a clearer idea of the degree of exceptionality of the LLFS population with regard to these longitudinal HAPs than we would from the visit 1 cross sectional data alone. For instance, which subjects and families remain exceptional in visit 2, and which "regress toward the mean?" Do some show even greater exceptionality longitudinally than they did from visit 1 information? Because all LLFS families are exceptional, we have a greater gradient of comparison if we use FHS (or other study) referent controls to contrast, rather than just the internal LLFS spouse controls.

**8.** Estimate long-term predictive relationships of differing HAPs to longevity and other outcomes, and possible cohort or secular factors influencing these relationships. Because many phenotypes measured by LLFS were assessed in FHS many years ago in persons who were of similar ages to the LLFS' G2 generation, and who have been followed since then, we can assess long-term predictive relationships of HAPs developed in LLFS to longevity and other outcomes in FHS and eventually in LLFS. For example, we already have begun to evaluate the Healthy Aging Index (Sanders et al., 2013) for prediction of Chpt1: Intro 01162016 v9

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mortality and heritability in LLFS. Utilizing FHS' three-generation structure and long follow-up, we will also explore the effects of birth cohort and secular factors on these relationships. Multivariate survival analyses will be used to capture dependence among HAPs including correlated gamma-frailty models (Yashin, et al, 1999) and a stochastic process model for evaluating dynamic regularities of aging related changes in biomarkers and their effects on HAPs and longevity (Yashin et al., 2012a). Detecting influential factors of HAPs on longevity may improve predictive value.

**9.** Leveraging Demography. The LLFS participants were selected from families in which members of the proband generation survived demographic processes of intense mortality selection. Such a selection can induce a population structure that may impact on longevity-related traits and confound their association with genetic and non-genetic factors (Vaupel et al., 1979; Vaupel and Yashin, 1985; Yashin et al., 2013b). LLFS investigators have shown that the information about these demographic processes can be used to better model the marginal survival distribution (Yashin et al., 1999c; 2000; 2007c; 2013b; Arbeev et al., 2011b) and such approaches will be tested in LLFS data.

**Study Design:** The three U.S. Field Centers recruited the majority of the proband sample from the Medicare 2004 Denominator file from The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Additional study participants were recruited from other research studies and from the general public through advertisements and mailers (i.e. brochures, newspaper and web-based ads, community presentations and radio announcements).

**Data Collection for Visit 2 (Aim 1)** – **Overview of protocol.** We propose a second in-person visit in the surviving LLFS cohort. Longitudinal assessment will be used to characterize trajectories (patterns of change with age) in a variety of phenotypes, to define individuals and families with exceptional survival and its subphenotypes. We will change the order of exams to begin with families that harbor the oldest individuals. Annual follow-up will continue during and after Visit 2 based on the anniversary of the first visit. During the three years of Visit 2, if a participant has their in person visit within  $\pm$  3 months of their visit 1 anniversary date then Visit 2 data will also replace the participant's annual follow-up visit for that year. If the in person visit is not in the  $\pm$  3 month window of their visit 1 anniversary date then the participant will have both an in person visit 2 and an annual follow-up for that year. We will attempt to see all surviving members of the cohort, including spouses who may be widowed, separated or divorced. Should a family member who did not enroll at baseline wish to join the study, procedures will allow for capturing both baseline and follow-up exam data. The family pedigree will not be reassessed, though any new recruits will be included in the existing pedigree file. (See chapters 2 and 23) We will also continue annual follow-up telephone interviews to assess new heath events and change in functional status.

**Phenotypes, clinical panels, forms and manuals of procedures.** Visit 2 is planned to begin mid-September, 2014. We have laid the groundwork with retention activities such as newsletters, holiday cards and discussion of long term follow-up on the phone interview. We will obtain data and blood samples on all participants, repeating key aspects of the baseline in-person visit protocol (detailed below).

**Long distance examinations** Approximately 20% of LLFS participants enrolled at baseline required staff to travel overnight by car or air. The staff examined ~15-30 individuals on a single trip lasting several days to a week. Procedures have been established for travel planning, obtaining consent by an alternate Field Center team and travel reimbursement. We will conduct repeat exams at distant locations as needed in the next phase, but will also be able to cluster these examinations more efficiently than was possible during recruitment.

**Participant/proxy consent.** At baseline, all participants were able to give informed consent. At visit 2, family members with questionable capacity to provide informed consent may be enrolled via proxy consent, provided that the participant is determined to be unable to give consent but is able to express assent to be examined at the time of the examination. Additionally, proxy interviews will be obtained when there is concern about the participant's cognitive functioning, and therefore the accuracy of his or her self-report. All participants will be re-consented with new consent forms.

LLFS spouse controls and control families from the Framingham Heart Study (FHS). Marriedin spouse controls will be included in the in-person examination as they were before. Additionally, the Framingham Heart Study will provide a large set of population control families, which should give us a wider gradient of odds ratios and effect sizes for analyses. There will be no additional examination of Framingham families, rather, we have added selected items to the LLFS examination to improve harmonization with the FHS exam and interview.

**Forms and procedures.** We will use the existing forms from the baseline examination for those measures to be repeated. Questions will not be repeated where the answers would not change (e.g. birth date, years of education, etc.). Manuals of procedures (MOP) have been edited to reflect changes. Centralized training (built into the budget) will be organized and led by the project coordinators who conducted the baseline in-person and long distance visits, and will include interviews, cognitive testing, all physical measures including spirometry and processing and shipping of blood specimens. Research assistants will be re-certified on all measures, with a separate training session at the University of Pittsburgh for Carotid Ultrasound.

**Examination/phenotypes and exposures.** The protocol for the examination of LLFS participants was designed to be entirely portable to maximize complete data collection. All family members regardless of age will undergo as much of the same assessment as possible. We have developed proxy interview formats for individuals who may have become too ill to participate in part or all of the in-person examination. We are enhancing this examination by adding portable carotid ultrasound to better define vascular health (see below). Selected measures, summarized in Table 1, were designed to assess aspects of exceptional survival that 1) have significant heritability, 2) are related to longevity and active life expectancy, and 3) can be assessed in the home setting. For the Visit 2 examination, we will: repeat measures that are expected to change over time due to aging or to illness, update medical history and medications and repeat a blood draw. All interviews and examinations will be conducted via a standardized protocol by centrally trained and certified examiners, including the examiners from Denmark. The LLFS exceptional survival phenotypes were organized into 3 major areas: 1) longevity, 2) physical and cognitive disability-free survival, and 3) disease-free survival. Within these major areas are several sub-phenotypes that were ascertained via multiple measures and either combined into clinically meaningful definitions of clinical and subclinical disease or examined as continuous traits.

LLFS Core Phenotypes	Interview; Physical Exam; Biospecimen repository performed in visit 1.	Annual Phone Follow- up. "Expanded" f/up performed each year	Visit 2 Proposal	Measured in Framingham Heart Study
Age	Validated age or age at death, Family history of Longevity	Update vital status (Annual & Expanded)	Update vital	age of death
<b>Disability-free S</b>	Survival			
Cognitive function	Medical History; Clinical Dementia Rating Scale, MMSE, Logical Memory – Immediate, Digit Span Forward, Digit Span Backward, Category Fluency, Digit Symbol Substitution Test, Logical Memory – Delayed	Telephone Interview for Cognitive Status (TICS) and Dementia Questionnaire (DQ) (Expanded)	Same as visit 1	MMSE
Physical function	ADL's; Grip strength, gait speed, balance, chair stands, heart rate	ADLs (Annual & Expanded)	Same as visit 1	Grip, Gait speed
Disease-free Su	irvival			
CVD	Medical history; Blood pressure (BP), ankle- brachial index (ABI) (ABI will not be performed in exam 2), see labs below	Medical History Update (Expanded)	visit 1 + carotid ultra sound	Medical history, BP, ABI, carotid

# Table 1. LLFS exceptional survival phenotypes and environmental exposure measures in Visit 1, the annual follow-up and the proposed Visit 2.

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Cancer	Medical history	Update (Expanded)	Update	similar
Lung	Medical History; FEV <sub>1</sub> , FEV6 with portable	Medical History	Update	Medical
Disease	spirometer	Update		history,
Diabetes	Medical history, medication use; fasting glucose	Medical history,	Update	Medical
	and insulin, weight, waist circumference, height,	medication use		history,
	knee height	Update (Expanded)		Weight,
Renal	Medical history; see labs below	Update (Expanded)	Update	Medical
disease				history,
Dementia	Same as for cognitive function (above)	TICS and DQ	Update	Medical
		(Expanded)		history,
Depression/	CES-D, Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness	Full 5-Factor NEO	CES-D	
personality	(NEO) 2 factors only.	(Expanded once)		
Environmental/	Behavioral Exposures			
Social	Place of birth, education	Not needed	no	similar
Habits	Smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity	Physical activity and	Update	similar
	(current and historical)	Sleep habits (One		
		follow-up)time		
Health care	Utilization, classes of medications	Update (Annual and	Update	similar
		Expanded)		
Nutrition	Weight history	Not collected	Update	similar
Reproduction	Parity, age of last pregnancy, age at	Medication Update	Update if	Age at
	menopause,	(Expanded)	age	menopause
	hormone replacement therapy		<65	
Laboratory St	udies			
Genetics	Leukocytes or buccal cells for DNA, future	None	Repeated	Genome-wide
	lymphoblastoid cell lines. Telomere studies.			genotype
Other	Fasting glucose, insulin, HbA1C, creatinine,	None	See below*	Fasting
	cystatin C, total/HDL/LDL cholesterol,		(next page)	glucose,
	hemoglobin, leukocyte and platelet counts. Iron,		-	insulin, lipids
	TIBC, ferritin, IL6, heat shock protein 60 and 70.			
	10 aliquots serum + plasma for future analysis.			
	limitations, we are limiting the number of currently pla			
	ns on which additional analytes to measure, pending c			
	ids in the future. Analyses currently planned to be pe	rformed for this second ex	am are fasting gl	ucose, hemoglobin
HUL/LDL/Total (	Cholesterol, and telomere length.			

**Sample Size:** Each Study Center will invite their Visit 1 participants who are still alive and have not withdrawn to participate in a second in home or clinic visit during a telephone call. As of April 4, 2014, this is a sample size of 3,847 overall, 990 in Boston, 1,040 in Denmark, 820 in New York, and 997 in Pittsburgh. Additionally, to promote good family relations, any relative who did not participate in Visit 1 but is interested in participating in Visit 2 will be accepted.

**Participant Selection Criteria:** All Visit 2 participants have to satisfy one of two conditions: 1) participated in Visit 1 or 2) a family member of a Visit 1 participant who is interested in participating in LLFS.

## CONTENT OF VISITS

Although content and order of visits will vary from participant to participant, overall there will be 5 types of visits, listed in order of preferred offering to participant:

- 1. In-person (either home or clinic, and may include participant alone or participant with another person to assist in interviews); including a split visit
- 2. Telephone with participant (followed by biological specimen collection, either remote blood draw or mouthwash (Oragene Collection Cup), if the participant agrees)
- 3. Telephone interview with no biological specimen
- 4. Starred questions on annual follow-up form during recruitment call
- 5. Refuse visit 2 (in person, telephone, or proxy) but continue with annual follow-up.

Regardless of the visit type, a set of self-administered questionnaires can be mailed to participants (or their proxies) in advance of the in person visit. The optimal examination includes the forms, questionnaires and instruments described below.

## 1. FORMS THAT CAN BE MAILED PRIOR TO IN-PERSON (OR TELEPHONE) VISIT

Certain forms can be completed by the participant (or a proxy) prior to the in-person assessment. Guidelines for determining whether forms should be completed by the participant or the proxy are outlined in Chapter 4 in the section titled, "Procedures for Proxy Interviews".

The following forms can be sent from the field center, along with the appropriate cover letter (Chapter 5, Appendix 1), 2 weeks prior to the scheduled visit, with an expected arrival at the participants home 1 week prior to the visit. The cover letter will emphasize that participants (or their proxies) should complete these forms on their own, without help from anyone else.

- Socio-demographics
- Medical History
- Physical Function and Activity
- Personal History

If the visit is telephone plus biologic specimen collection, or telephone only, the above forms will be administered to the participant over the telephone.

## 2. ORDER OF THE IN-PERSON EXAMINATION

The sequence of procedures at an in person visit is not mandated and may be administered at the discretion of the individual Field Centers in an order which would best build rapport with the participant.

## Physical/Cognitive Measures

- BP/HR
- Phlebotomy (or on a separate visit)
- Performance Measures
- Cognitive Tests (with exception of long-term recall)
- WT/HT & Waist Circumference (please do as many of these measures as possible during the 40 minute wait for long term recall)
- Long-term recall
- Carotid ultrasound
- Finish any WT/HT and Waist Circumference Measures not completed during 40 minute break

- Spirometry
- CES-D

Questionnaires/Other Instruments

- Socio-demographics
- Medical History
- Medications
- Physical Function and Activity
- Personal History

The above list was ranked keeping in mind that some questionnaires can be administered over the telephone with the participant or left with the participant to complete and return mail to the Field Center. In some situations, the participant may be unable to complete some or all of the examinations due to either physical or mental impairment. In these cases, some of the forms may be administered to a proxy. If the in person visit is a split visit, the order outlined above should also be followed.

Because the blood sample must be fasting, it may be preferable to schedule the phlebotomy as a separate visit. **If so, the blood sample should be collected within four weeks AFTER the exam.** Do not arrange for the blood sample collection before the exam is completed because informed consent is part of the exam.

- **3. TELEPHONE VISIT** For family members who cannot participate in an in-person visit, the following components can be administered over the telephone by the examiner in this suggested order:
  - Script for Waiver of Written Informed Consent of a Participant\*
  - Choose one panel as an ice-breakers (Personal History suggested)
  - Cognitive Battery: TICS, HVLT Immediate, Logical Memory 1A, Number Span Test,

Category Fluency – Animals, Letter Fluency\*\*

• Remainder of Panels (i.e. Socio-

Demographics, Medical History, Physical Function,

Medication Inventory, IADL formnot completed

before the administration of the TICS.

- HVLT Delay\*\*, Logical Memory IIA\*\*\*
- CES-D
- CDR
- DQ (if needed)

\*Please note, if the study participant on whom you plan to complete a telephone visit agrees to a remote blood draw, a waiver of informed consent will not suffice for the blood draw. A consent form must be sent to any participant agreeing to a remote blood draw and, before the specimen collection is arranged, the FC must first receive the signed consent form in the mail indicating the s/he has fully provided his/her consent to the blood sample collection. In lieu of a blood draw, we can also use a mouthwash (Oragene Collection Cup) to obtain DNA if the telephone visit participant consents.

\*\*Do not administer unless at least 20 minutes has passed since the completion of the immediate condition of the test. If necessary, administer non-cognitive measures to fill the time and return to the delay condition after you have completed intervening measure(s) and 20 minutes has passed.

\*\*\* Do not administer unless at least 30 minutes have passed since the completion of the immediate condition of the test. If necessary, administer following tests to fill the time interval and return to the delay condition after you have completed intervening task(s) and 30 minutes have passed.

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**IMPORTANT:** If either of these alternatives is chosen to an in-person examination, please refer to the Remote Blood Collection Protocol outlined in Chapter 7. Regardless of the type of visit, examiners are strongly encouraged to make arrangements with the participant for remote collection of a blood sample. As stated on the previous page, the study participant must sign and mail back the consent form, indicating s/he has consented to the remote blood draw BEFORE any remote blood draw collection arrangements are made. Blood CANNOT be drawn without the signed consent form. If a blood draw is unsuccessful, DNA can still be obtained using the Oragene Collection cup method.

#### Starred Annual Follow-Up Questions During Recruitment Telephone Call 4.

If during the visit 2 recruitment call, a participant is hesitant to the in person or telephone interview, but the recruiter feels that they could obtain pertinent information from the participant during the recruitment call, then the staff should administer the starred questions on the annual follow-up questionnaire (yet to be determined). The staff should then thank the participant and re-contact the participant during their usual annual follow-up to see if they can collect more information.

#### 5. Refuse Visit 2 (in person, telephone, or proxy) but allow to continue with Annual Follow-Up

It is possible that participants may refuse the in person visit but are willing to continue with the annual followup. In this case, the usual annual follow-up forms will be administered at a time determined based on the visit 1 anniversary date.

### **EQUIPMENT**

- 1. Copies of Informed Consent and HIPAA Medical Release
- 2. Pens
- Printed data collection forms 3.
- Laminated response forms 4.
- 5. Automated blood pressure monitor and BP cuffs in 4 sizes
- 6. SECA 840 or 841 or 803 digital scale
- 7. Tape measure
- 8. Handi-stat measuring triangle
- 9. Steel/fiberglass tape calibrated in centimeters
- 10. Wooden pencils with eraser
- 11. Wrist watch
- 12. Several pieces of blank paper
- 13. Stopwatch or time piece with a second hand
- 14. Sliding scale caliper SECA 207
- 15. Jamar Dynamometer
- 16. Clipboard
- 17. Painter's tape
- EasyOne<sup>TM</sup> spirometer
  Spirettes<sup>TM</sup> disposable mouthpieces
- 20. Disposable gloves
- 21. Straight-back folding chair
- 22. 15 foot chain
- 23. Portable ultrasound machine (GE Logiq e)
- 24. Electonic Pen and accompanying paper

#### **Phlebotomy Supplies:**

- 1. BD Safety-Lok Collection Set or equivalent (required for collection of PAXgene tube) <u>http://bd.com/vacutainer/products/venous/</u>
- 2. Vacutainer Tube Holders
- 3. Alcohol swab
- 4. Tourniquet
- 5. Bandage or gauze and tape
- 6. Gloves
- 7. Biohazard containment system
- 8. Mailing/shipping supplies (including strapping tape to seal shipping box)
- 9. Smelling salts, ice packs, and washcloths should be readily available for patients who become faint during the blood draw
- 10. Centrifuge
- 11. Power Pack
- 12. Collection kit supplied by the Central Laboratory

#### LLFS Field Staff Email List

## LLFS Field Staff Email List

#### **Boston University**

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## Chapter 1: Appendix 1a



#### A Collaborative Study, Including:

Boston University Medical Center Columbia University University of Pittsburgh University of Southern Denmark Washington University School of Medicine

Sponsored by:

National Institute on Aging

## **Self-Administered Questionnaires**

#### **QUESTIONAIRE INSTRUCTIONS**

Date:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Long Life Family Study (LLFS). In preparation for your in home visit, please complete the enclosed questionnaires by yourself, without the help of other family members. LLFS staff will review these questionnaires for completeness during your in home visit.

If you have any questions, please call \_\_\_\_\_at \_\_\_\_. Thank you again for your assistance in this important research project. We look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,



#### A Collaborative Study, Including:

Boston University Medical Center Columbia University University of Pittsburgh University of Southern Denmark Washington University School of Medicine

Sponsored by:

National Institute on Aging

#### **Proxy Questionnaires**

#### **QUESTIONAIRE INSTRUCTIONS**

Date:

Thank you for agreeing to be a proxy in the Long Life Family Study (LLFS). In preparation for the in home visit, please complete the enclosed questionnaires without the help of other family members. LLFS staff will review these questionnaires for completeness during your in home visit.

If you have any questions, please call \_\_\_\_\_at \_\_\_\_. Thank you again for your assistance in this important research project. We look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,