

Lung Screening Study
Sample Introductory Letter

(Date)

(Participant Name)
(Participant Address)
(City, State, Zip Code)

Dear *(Participant Name)*:

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) and *(Screening Center)* are sponsoring a nationwide study of older Americans who have a history of long-time and/or heavy cigarette smoking. The study is called the Lung Screening Study and the cancer being studied is lung cancer. The purpose of the study is to determine the ability of screening spiral CT (low radiation-dose computed tomography) to detect lung cancer relative to screening chest X-ray in men and women ages 55-74.

We would like to ask for your participation in this important study. Enclosed is a fact sheet that provides further details about the study. Please look at the "Who Can Participate?" sheet in this package to determine whether you might be eligible.

Let us assure you that your participation is voluntary, and there are no penalties for not participating or for withdrawing from the study at any time. Participation will not influence your relationship with *(Screening Center)*, its staff, or with any federal program such as Social Security or Medicare. If you do participate, all of the information you provide will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone but the researchers conducting this study, except as otherwise required by law. No names or other identifying information will appear in any report of the study. The information will be combined for all study participants and reported as statistical summaries. Study records will be kept for approximately 7 years and then destroyed.

For your information, this study is authorized by the Public Health Service Act, Section 412 [42 USC 285 a-1], and your rights as a study participant are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

If you are interested in the study, please return the enclosed reply card or contact me or my colleague, *(Name of Screening Center Coordinator)* at *(telephone number)*. If you have questions, feel free to contact either of us.

We hope you will consider participating in this important study.

Sincerely,

(Name of Investigator)
Principal Investigator

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

You may be eligible to participate in the Lung Screening Study if:

- You are between the ages of 55 and 74 years.
- You are currently a smoker or have quit smoking within the last 10 years.
- You have a history of long-time and/or heavy cigarette smoking (30 pack-years), for example:
 - at least 1 pack a day for at least 30 years
 - at least 1 1/2 packs a day for at least 20 years
 - at least 2 packs a day for at least 15 years
 - at least 2 1/2 packs a day for at least 12 years
 - at least 3 packs a day for at least 10 years
- You have NOT been diagnosed with lung cancer.
- You are NOT currently undergoing treatment for any cancer other than non-melanoma skin cancer.
- You do NOT have a history of removal of any portion of your lung.
- You are NOT participating in another cancer screening trial, including PLCO.
- You are NOT participating in a cancer prevention trial, other than a trial to help you stop smoking.

If you think you may be eligible to participate in this study, please return the enclosed reply card or contact us at [SC telephone number].