



Ms. Marie Brighton
Global Opinion Panel
Synovate, Inc.
P.O. Box 5030
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Dear Ms. Brighton:

I am writing to express my personal appreciation for your efforts in support of Project FIRST (Feeding Infants Research Study), which we at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are managing. Your Project FIRST Panel Members are giving us valuable information about feeding patterns at a level of detail and accuracy matched by no other existing study.

The FDA and other agencies involved with this study, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), have important responsibilities for the nutritional health and safety of America's babies. To do the best job possible of promoting better infant nutrition and safeguarding the foods that babies eat, our health professionals need a clearer picture of feeding practices for the first full year of an infant's life. Information on exactly what infants are fed, why they are fed in a particular way, and the situations parents face when making feeding choices is currently not well understood. By completing the monthly feeding surveys, your Project FIRST Panel Members are providing the kind of information that will improve our knowledge and our decision-making ability regarding infant foods and nutrition.

I hope that you will extend my personal thanks to the mothers on your Project FIRST Panel for taking time out from their many tasks to complete the series of questionnaires needed for this research. It is their continued participation that will make our efforts a success. We at FDA recognize the value of their time and effort and want them to know that they have personally contributed to making the world a safer and healthier place for their children and future generations of children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Brackett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "B".

Robert E. Brackett, Ph.D.
Director
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition