

NewsRelease

Contact: Tammy Ursini, Office Manager
(203) 865-6163, ext. 200; ursini@haskins.yale.edu

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Pugh appointed to NAS/NRC reading committee

NEW HAVEN —Kenneth R. Pugh, Ph.D., President and Director of Research at Haskins Laboratories and Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine, has been named to serve as a member of the National Academies / National Research Council *Committee on Learning Sciences: Foundations and Applications to Adolescent and Adult Literacy*. Pugh was appointed by Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone, Chairman of the National Academies and the National Research Council (NRC), and Dr. Richard C. Atkinson, Chair of their Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Pugh's appointment will begin immediately and will run through the end of June 2011.

This study was commissioned by the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL), the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) of the U.S. Department of Education. According to the Department of Education, over the next three years the committee will conduct a study of the scientific foundations of adolescent and adult literacy:

“This research will reveal important findings with implications for policy and practice. Historically, the foundational work of the NRC produced the report: *Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children* (1998). This NRC report is a consensus document based on the best judgments of a diverse group of experts in reading research and reading instruction. Likewise, this newly formed NRC committee will bring together a diverse group of experts who will:

- * Synthesize the behavioral and cognitive sciences, education, and neuroscience research on literacy to understand its applicability to adolescent and adult populations
- * Analyze the implications of this research for the instructional practices used to teach reading in adolescent and adult literacy programs
- * Establish a set of recommendations or roadmap for a more systemic approach to subsequent research, practice and policy.”

“Importantly, this study will provide a broad understanding of the factors that affect typical and atypical literacy learning in adolescence and adulthood generally and with respect to the specific populations served by adult education. The study will also cover related issues such as motivation, retention, and prevention.”

Haskins Laboratories was founded in 1935 by the late Dr. Caryl P. Haskins. This independent research institute has been in New Haven, Connecticut since 1970 when it formalized affiliations with Yale University and the University of Connecticut. The Laboratories' primary research focus is on the science of the spoken and written word.

Haskins Laboratories
THE SCIENCE OF THE SPOKEN AND WRITTEN WORD

300 George Street, New Haven, CT 06511-6695
Voice: 203.865.6163 - Fax: 203.865.8963 - www.haskins.yale.edu