Haskins Labs Appoints Ken Pugh as President and Director of Research

NEW HAVEN — Joanne L. Miller, Ph.D., chair of the board of directors of Haskins Laboratories, announced that Kenneth R. Pugh, Ph.D., has been appointed president and director of research of Haskins Laboratories, effective immediately. Dr. Pugh becomes the sixth president and director of research since the founding of the Laboratories in 1935.

“Ken Pugh brings to Haskins a combination of scientific excellence and intellectual leadership, as seen in his pioneering work on the neurobiology of language and reading, and his ability to foster collaborations across multiple disciplines related to our mission,” said Dr. Miller.

Dr. Pugh, a resident of Madison, CT, succeeds Carol A. Fowler, Ph.D., who has been president and director of research at Haskins Laboratories since 1992. Dr. Fowler will remain at the Laboratories as a senior scientist, senior advisor, and board member, and will continue as a professor of psychology at the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Pugh has been affiliated with Haskins Laboratories since 1990. He is also currently an associate professor in the department of pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine and the director of the Yale Reading Center. He will remain at the Yale School of Medicine, but will reduce his effort there to allow time for his leadership responsibilities at Haskins. Ken received his undergraduate degree in psychology from the New York Institute of Technology, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in experimental psychology from The Ohio State University. He has been a visiting professor at College of the Holy Cross, University of Connecticut, and Dartmouth College. Among many other activities, he is a Corresponding Member of the Rodin Remediation Academy and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the International Dyslexia Association. He has published extensively in the domains of cognitive neuroscience, functional organization of the brain as it pertains to reading and language, dyslexia, and related areas. He plays a key role in several research programs supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and other funding sources.

Ken will be working closely with the board of directors of Haskins Laboratories and its executive management team, which includes Philip Rubin, Ph.D., chief executive officer and vice president, Douglas Whalen, Ph.D., vice president of research, and Joseph Cardone, chief financial officer, as well as with scientists, educators and other members of the Haskins community. A major initiative will be to explore new partnerships and funding opportunities that will help the Laboratories build on its pioneering research and discoveries spanning more than seventy years and remain on the cutting edge of the science of the spoken and written word.

Commenting on his new role, Ken Pugh said, “The community of scholars and scientists at Haskins Laboratories makes this a unique and important institution, and I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve this community as incoming president and director of research. I look forward to working with our next generation of researchers.”

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.