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## **Collaborative for Early Literacy and Brain Development in Primary Care**

Early this year, Reach Out and Read medical advisors determined to establish a research collaborative to:

- Coordinate research associated with incorporating early literacy guidance into pediatric care
- Identify research topics that would be suitable for conducting pediatric care practice-based research via a network.

Clinicians, researchers and Reach Out and Read coordinators were invited to join a research collaborative, named the Collaborative for Early Literacy and Brain Development in Primary Care to meet quarterly by phone to discuss Reach Out and Read research. It is anticipated that members of the collaborative will form special interest working groups as the discussions unfold.

The collaborative will be guided by a steering committee that meets monthly. The members of the steering committee include:

**Thomas G. DeWitt, MD, FAAP**

*Chair of the Reach Out and Read National Board  
Professor and Associate Chair for Education and Primary Care  
Department of Pediatrics, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center*

**Perri Klass MD, FAAP**

*Reach Out and Read National Medical Director  
Professor of Journalism and Pediatrics, New York University*

**Alan Mendelsohn, MD, FAAP**

*Reach Out and Read Medical Advisor  
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Population Health  
& Program Director Fellow Developmental Pediatrics, New York University*

**Robert Needlman, MD, FAAP**

*Founder, Reach Out and Read  
Professor of Pediatrics  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine*

**Iman Sharif, MD, MPH, MS**

*Pediatrician,  
Nemours Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children*

**Nikki Shearman PhD**

*Director of Communications and Research Strategy  
Reach Out and Read.*

## **Pediatric Care Practice-Based Research Via a Network**

- Initially, a pilot project will be carried out using the Continuity Research Network (CORNET) of the Academic Pediatric Association. It is anticipated that TechREAD, the new Reach Out and Read systems management database scheduled to go online in 2017, will serve for Reach Out and Read Network data collection for such studies.
- A RFP for research questions suitable for practice- based research via a network has been prepared by the steering committee. This has been disseminated to Reach Out and Read Providers and Coordinators, and to clinicians and researchers who have registered an interest in such research by attending the “Literacy Development Programs in Primary Care” Special Interest Group at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in the last three years.
- Work has begun identifying CORNET sites that are also Reach Out and Read sites.
- It is intended that proposals for research will be received and selected in Fall, 2016, and that research could start early in 2017.