



April 22, 2013

Dear colleagues,

I am the President and Director of Research at Haskins Laboratories a Yale University affiliated institution dedicated to investigation of the biological foundations of language and human communication. I also serve as Chair of the Graphoworld International Steering Committee.

I am writing to express my support, both as Graphoworld advisor, and as Director of Haskins Labs, for this proposal. The plan brings together leading experts in reading and brain scientists interested in supporting via their research the further development and implementations of content for the use of the Graphogame technology (developed by the Finnish applicants) and I commit Haskins to this important project. The overarching goal is to improve access to quality instruction in reading for populations of children both in Finland and worldwide who struggle with reading due to: 1) limited access to reading experience due to poverty or 2) intractable reading disabilities.

This important plan requires new neurobiological and cognitive studies aimed at better understanding optimal instruction in multiple linguistic and cultural environments. My team at Haskins has several ongoing National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded projects using multi-modal brain imaging to study how the brain learns to read and what goes wrong in struggling learners, and I fully commit existing Haskins scientific expertise and resources to this new proposal. Moreover, I would welcome the Dr. Jarmo Hämäläinen to join us at Haskins to work with us on this project, and fully support the plan for a key coordinator in Finland to oversee international data collection, logistics, and analysis.

In short, I give my highest level of support to this important proposal and look forward to maintaining already strong scientific ties between Graphoworld, Haskins Labs, and Yale University.

Sincerely,

President and Director of Research

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