Perri E. Klass, MD, FAAP
Professor of Journalism and Pediatrics, New York University

Perri Klass, MD, is Professor of Journalism and Pediatrics at New York University. She attended Harvard Medical School and completed her residency in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital, Boston. She has received numerous awards for her work as a pediatrician and educator; including the 2016 Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award, the 2007 American Academy of Pediatrics Education Award, which recognized her educational contributions which have had a broad and positive impact on the health and well-being of children, and the 2011 Alvarez Award from the American Medical Writers Association.

Dr. Klass has written extensively about medicine, children, literacy, and knitting. Her nonfiction includes Every Mother is a Daughter: the Neverending Quest for Success, Inner Peace, and a Really Clean Kitchen, which she coauthored with her mother, and Quirky Kids: Understanding and Helping Your Child Who Doesn’t Fit In, which she coauthored with Eileen Costello, MD. She is also the author of two books about medical training, A Not Entirely Benign Procedure: Four Years as a Medical Student and Baby Doctor: A Pediatrician’s Training, which were reissued in updated editions in 2010. Her most recent books are Treatment Kind and Fair: Letters to a Young Doctor and The Mercy Rule, a novel, which appeared in 2008. She writes the weekly column, “The Checkup,” for the New York Times science section.

Dr. Klass is the National Medical Director of Reach Out and Read. She ran the National Center from its inception through 2006, during which time the program grew from a single site to a national program with thousands of sites serving millions of children. Through her work at the ROR National Center she has trained thousands of medical providers in the ROR strategies of early literacy promotion. She has spoken extensively on behalf of ROR, including participating in panels at the White House Conference on Global Literacy in September 2006, and at the UNESCO Literacy Conferences in Qatar and Mali in 2007, in addition to presentations at many hospitals and academic medical centers across the United States.