Dr. Maria Tassopoulou-Fishell received a $15,000 award to develop the project entitled “Candidate Gene Studies of Mandibular Prognathism Using DNA Samples Acquired from Patient’s Saliva” from the American Association of Orthodontists. The 2008 Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award, of which Dr. Vieira is the mentor, aims to support the professional development of junior orthodontics faculty. Dr. Tassopoulou-Fishell is involved in the SDM Research Scholar Program, which is designed to foster intellectual interactions among faculty and provide mentoring to develop clinical research projects. In her project, she aims to better understand the reasons why some individuals grow to develop a Class III of Angle. Her plans involve the use of samples from the Dental Registry and DNA Repository.

With only 91 individuals declining to become research volunteers in the DRDR, the recruitment compliance rate remains very encouraging with an 89.5% acceptance rate. The DRDR recently featured a comprehensive poster presentation on the reasons behind these declines entitled, “Education as an Essential Means to Increase Awareness of the Importance of Genetic Research,” at the 14th annual Council of Graduate Students in Education Conference on March 5th.

If you would like to become involved with the DRDR either as a research participant or as a volunteer, please contact Jill Schaefer at (412) 383-5944 or at jss73@dental.pitt.edu

For newsletter questions, comments or suggestions please e-mail Melissa Carp at mgc4@dental.pitt.edu