

Vieira Lab Newsletter



Lab Meeting Schedule 403 Salk Hall

Vieira Lab meetings are held every other Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:30.

November 25, 2008

Genetics mapping of 1q25 in Brazilian families with aggressive periodontitis

Presenter: Flavia Martinez de Carvalho

December 9, 2008

ASHG Highlights

Presenters: Renato Silva and Ariadne Letra

Lab News

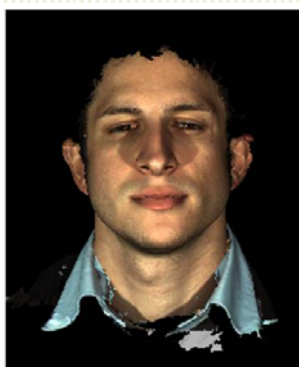
On October 30th, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) hosted its first annual Steel City Dental Expo at the Peterson Events Center. The expo attracted almost 40 vendors from various aspects of the dental industry. The SDM Clinical Research Center was also represented, with a booth primarily run by student researchers. The expo served as an opportunity for the Research Center to show the student body the various research projects in place. Research projects were represented with posters explaining the intent and methods of research, and specialized equipment owned by the research center was displayed. Students had a chance to take a three-dimensional picture of their faces or undergo a sonogram of their carotid arteries. Additionally, the expo served as an opportunity for students interested in becoming involved to learn more about what opportunities are available. Overall the expo was a huge success for the SDM Clinical Research Center, and it would not have been possible without all of the hard work of the student researchers and staff.



Dental student Lisa Babb performs neck ultrasounds on study participants with the aid of undergraduate student researchers Earl Santos and Carly Fitzgerald. With her research project, Lisa hopes to discover whether this procedure can be used in a dental setting as a way to identify individuals at a risk of stroke.



Dental student Ida Anjomshoaa explains the various research projects being conducted in the Clinical Research Center to interested students. Ida is a CTSI Scholarship winner, and has been working on her own research project for over a year.



Adam Perl was one of many students who had a 3D image taken at the expo.

Recent Publications

Vieira AR, McHenry TG, Daack-Hirsh S, Murray JC, Marazita ML. Candidate gene/loci studies in cleft lip/palate and dental anomalies finds novel susceptibility genes for clefts. *Genet Med.* 2008 Sep; 10(9):668-74.

Vieira AR, Howe A, Murray JC. Studies of gamma-aminobutyric acid type A receptor beta3 (GABRB3) and glutamic acid decarboxylase 67 (GAD67) with oral clefts. *Am J Med Genet A.* 2008 Nov 1; 146A(21):2828-30.

DRDR Update

Recruitment Location

Module 1	175	Emergency Care	61	UDHS	4
Module 2	455	Oral Surgery	14	Orthodontics	35
Module 3	82	Pediatric Dentistry	24	Other	39
Module 4	59	Implant Center	14	AEGD	14
Dental Hygiene	67	Prosthodontics	4	Perio	1

Recruitment Summary

Subjects Recruited	1048
Subjects Declined	107
Compliance Rate	90.7%

1,000

Last September 30th, the Dental

Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) recruited its 1,000th subject. This is not only a remarkable achievement by itself, but the proof that after a little more than two years after the recruitment for the project started, the DRDR has demonstrated sustainability. The success has a lot to do with the support from the SDM faculty, staff, and students. Many students, faculty, and staff are subjects of the registry themselves, and potential subjects have been identified by both dental and hygiene students, residents, and by a number of undergraduate students wishing to enter the dental profession. Two of these students, Maria Ferraro (dental student class of 2012) and Adam Perl (dental hygiene student class of 2010) have worked with the DRDR for most of these two years, since they were undergraduates at Pitt.

The DRDR has also attracted interest from other universities. Faculty from the University of Minnesota, University of Kentucky, University of Iowa, and Harvard University have contacted Dr. Vieira requesting information regarding how the DRD project was designed. Much interest in the University of Pittsburgh is also apparent, and the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI), whose principal investigator is from the Medical School, has provided additional support to the DRDR and the SDM Clinical Research Center in the form of supplies, equipment, and services. Finally, investigators at the SDM have already started to request information from the registry. Two papers with data extracted from the DRDR have been written and submitted for publication, a clear demonstration that the registry will be a valuable resource for investigators at the SDM.

\$3,000,000

Dr. Mary Marazita received an

additional 5 years of funding from NIH, a total of US\$3,183,261, for her project "Extending the Phenotypes of Nonsyndromic Orofacial Clefts." Dr. Vieira is co-investigator and responsible for conducting the molecular studies aiming to identify genetic variants that may explain some of the specific clinical presentations of clefts.