Lab News

“There is no escape from the conclusion that nature prevails enormously over nurture... My fear is that my evidence proves too much, and may be thus discredited... (because) it seems contrary to all experience that nurture should (count) for so little.”

— Sir Francis Galton, Fellow of the Royal Society, 1876

The question of a possible true genetic predisposition toward dental caries has peaked the minds of dental investigators for decades. The reason for this may be that no previous research study has been able to definitively detect an environmental factor which could explain the differences in caries susceptibility between caries-free individuals and caries-prone individuals. In the latest issue of the Journal Caries Research, the Vieira Lab presents evidence that variation in a gene involved in enamel formation (amelogenin) may, in fact, contribute to higher caries susceptibility. To learn more, read the complete information in Deeley K, Letra A, Rose EK, Brandon CA, Resick JM, Marazita ML, Vieira AR. Possible association of amelogenin to high caries experience in a Guatemalan-Mayan population. Caries Res 2008; 42:8-13.

Please note also that the Vieira Lab has had additional recent publications: