



Vieira Lab Newsletter

Lab Meeting Schedule

- **When: Feb. 6, 2007, 12:30**

Where: 403 Salk

Topic: Cancer and clefts preliminary molecular studies

Presenter: Renato Silva

- **When: Feb. 20, 2007 12:30**

Where 403 Salk

Topic: Update on DRDR

Presenter: Jill Schaefer

Upcoming Events

- **When: March 1, 2007**

Where: Salk 458

Topic: "The Use of Quantitative Light Fluorescence (QLF) in the Diagnosis of Early Enamel Demineralization"

Presenter: Dr. Kevin Donly



Dr. Kevin Donly

Dr. Kevin Donly, Head of the Pediatric Department at UT San Antonio, will be the guest speaker during Grand Rounds. Dr. Donly is highly recognized for his work with operative dentistry. Please help us give Dr Donly a warm Pittsburgh welcome by making plans to attend this informative Grand Rounds session Thursday March 1st at 1:00.



Dr. Vieira along with a mother and daughter in Patagonia, Argentina

Lab News

For the last 2 years, both the Craniofacial Anomalies Research Center at University of Iowa directed by Dr. Jeffrey Murray and ECLAMC (Latin American Collaborative Study of Congenital Malformations) directed by Dr. Eduardo Castilla have been working together to identify cleft families in Patagonia Argentina. This region shows a higher prevalence of clefts and the hypothesis is that the population of this region, highly influenced by the presence of the Mapuches, could have a major gene factor playing a role in cleft susceptibility. The recent evidence generated by our laboratory that dental anomalies can be part of the cleft phenotype motivated them to invite Dr. Vieira to collect additional phenotypic dental features of these families. Dr. Vieira examined approximately 150 individuals in 6 sites in Patagonia for 5 days, covering more than 700 miles of ground. It was a very successful expedition and we hope this data can help identifying genes that contribute to oral clefts, a first step to alleviate the burden of this defect to babies and families around the world. Miss Carla Brandon from Dr. Marazita's lab and Dr. Peter Hammond from University College London were also present and collected additional craniofacial data.

Dental Registry and DNA Repository News

The Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) has collected a total of 210 participants in only five months. With this astounding rate of recruitment, and with the expansion of the project into additional clinics at the School of Dental Medicine, the DRDR has recently sought some ambitious young talent to help.

Adam Perl and Maria Ferraro, two undergraduate students at the University of Pittsburgh, have been lending their time and efforts to better the project by assisting in various tasks such as lab work, and in answering questions for potential participants in the study. Adam and Maria quickly became acclimated to the importance of research ethics relative to human subjects as well as to the importance of standardizing recruitment methods and procedures. Both Adam and Maria intend to apply to dental school in the near future.

Additional opportunities still exist for undergraduate students coming from a variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise. If you would like to become involved in the project, or if you would like to participate as a subject, please contact Jill Schaefer at 412.383.5944 or at jss73@dental.pitt.edu