Dental Registry and DNA Repository News

As the Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) has continued to vastly expand its recruitment boundaries within the School of Dental Medicine, it is also quickly approaching the inclusion of its 300th subject, who will donate a saliva sample in the name of facilitating dental research. Exciting things are, indeed, occurring with the DRDR.

On March 5th, the Pittsburgh Tribune Review featured a comprehensive article on the DRDR cleverly entitled, “The Spitting Image of Dental Health.” An intriguing video of an enthusiastic subject donating a saliva sample, which greatly complements the article, can be viewed at: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_496142.html

Additionally, a student reporter from Penn State University recorded an interview with the study’s honest broker, Jill Schaefer, to broadcast over the university’s local radio station.

The most significant news of all is the arrival of the first two official requests to use DNA samples and clinical chart information for specific research projects: “Genetic Analysis and Dental Implant Strategies for Dentinogenesis Imperfecta Patients,” by Dr. Steven Wendell and Dr. Aysegul Siranli and “PLUNC Proteins as Novel Biomarkers for Inflammatory Dental Diseases,” by Dr. Vieira and Dr. Peter Di from the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. As the second phase of the project, dental research, begins even earlier than anticipated, the DRDR is also very lucky to have 20 eager and talented undergraduate students assisting with the project as well as 4 new dental students. Welcome new students!

To become involved with the DRDR, please contact Jill Schaefer at 412.383.5944 or at jss73@dental.pitt.edu

Lab Meeting Schedule

- **When:** April 13th at 12:00
  - Where: 403 Salk
  - Topic: Real Time S. Mutans Assay
  - Presenter: Kathleen Deeley

- **When:** April 20th at 12:00
  - Topic: Thesis Defense Practice
  - Presenter: Ariadne Letra

Upcoming Events

- **When:** April 27, 3:30-5:00
  - Where: American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA), Broomfield, CO
  - Topic: Concurrent Session XI, Non-Syndromic Orofacial Clefts Panel
  - Panelists: Alexandre R. Vieira and others

Good Luck Asli!

On behalf of everyone in the Vieira Laboratory, we want to wish Dr. Asli Patir a safe journey back to Turkey. Asli completed two months of research in the Vieira laboratory as a visiting scholar from the University of Istanbul in Turkey. Her research in the Vieira laboratory included the investigation of the genetics of caries. We would like to wish Asli the best of luck in her future endeavors and remind her she always has a home in Pittsburgh.

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