Lab Meeting Schedule

- **When: October 19, 2007**
  
  Where: Salk 403
  
  Topic: DRDR Student population
  
  Presenter: Greg Fitzgerald

- **When: November 2, 2007**
  
  Topic: Short Term clinical and immunological evaluation of peri-implant diseases before and after mechanical anti-infective therapies
  
  Presenter: Adriana Mendonça

- **When: November 16, 2007**
  
  Topic: Establishing the DRDR Database
  
  Presenter: Célia Ferro

Lab News

A recent publication from the Vieira Lab suggests that the genes that contribute to laterality of the cleft may be different. This suggestion is based on the evaluation of patterns of dentition of the cleft cases in a study that was supported by both the NIH/NIDCR and the Brazilian agency CAPES. Unilateral cleft of the lip is more common in the left side and there is no good explanation for this preference. This is the first study to suggest that this difference may be in the genes. The leading author, Dr. Ariadne Letra, is a post-doctoral associate in the Vieira Lab and has examined all subjects studied, a total of 1000 individuals. The paper was published in the October issue of the Journal of Dental Research (Letra A., Menezes R., Granjeiro JM, Vieira A.R. Defining cleft subphenotypes based on dental development. J Dent Res 2007; 86:986-991).


Dental Registry and DNA Repository News

The Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) is quickly approaching the inclusion of its 600th participant. With a new total of 591 participants and 74 declines, the participation compliance rate remains at a steady and very encouraging 89%.

The DRDR also featured a poster presentation during the University of Pittsburgh’s Science 2007: Collaborate, Innovate, Transform, the school’s 7th annual broad-based celebration of local science. The Vieira Lab featured four posters, which were accepted and presented, making the single largest contribution of any lab to the event. Dr. Letra, Dr. Menezes, Steve Tropp, the authors of three posters, presented on the genetic contributions to cleft lip and palate.

The DRDR poster entitled, “The DRDR: Impact, Updates, Perceptions,” by Dr. Vieira, Jill Schaefer and Greg Fitzgerald, focused on presenting a comprehensive update on the project and its overall progress within the last year. A complete breakdown of the subject demographic information, the clinics where recruitment occurs and past publications on the DRDR were described. The poster analyzed the DRDR student volunteer population as well as some preliminary data on the psychology behind those individuals who decline to partake in research studies. Future directions may include a collaboration using this pilot data on individuals who choose not to become a research participant. This Friday DRDR student, Greg Fitzgerald, will present a further analysis on student volunteers during the Vieira Lab meeting.

Please remember that opportunities still exist to become involved as a volunteer with the world’s first dental DNA bank. Email Jill Schaefer at jss73@dental.pitt.edu or call (412) 383-5944 to find out how you can become a part of the Vieira Lab team and its research endeavors.