



Vieira Lab Newsletter

Lab Meeting Schedule 403 Salk Hall

- **February 1st, 2008**
Immunomodulation of periodontal diseases: cytokines as targets to preventive and therapeutic strategies."

Presenter: Dr. Gustavo Garlet
- **February 15th, 2008**
"Children of the Americas"
2008 mission to Pueblo Nuevo Tiquisate, Guatemala

Presenter: Dr. Ariadne Letra
- **February 29th 2008**
AXIN2 is associated with oral clefts in families presenting high incidence of cancer

Presenter: Dr. Renato Menezes

Upcoming Events

Spring 2008 Journal Club supported by the SRG

The Journal Club will be conducted as an independent study under direct supervision and guidance of Dr. Modesto.

Meetings will be held in 363 Salk Hall (Pediatric Dental Conference) at 12:00pm

- February 11th
Digital Radiography

Presenters: Chris Dindal, Jon Misner, Zach Pitcher
- February 25th
The effectiveness of sealants in managing caries lesions

Presenter: Dr. Alex Vieira

Lab News

After establishing the Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR), Dr. Vieira has started the second phase of this ambitious project: preparing the SDM faculty to use the resources from the DRDR. When the idea was officially presented at the SDM Research Day, May 2nd 2006, Dr. Vieira highlighted that this project would require effort in two parallel fronts: the establishment of the DRDR per se, and the creation of mechanisms to allow the SDM faculty to take advantage of the newly created resource. To achieve the second goal, Dr. Vieira has created the SDM Research Scholar Program that aims to facilitate the participation of interested SDM clinical faculty in scholarly activities.

The program is designed to foster intellectual interactions among faculty and provide mentoring to develop clinical research projects. Six SDM faculty at Assistant Professor level are officially participating in the recently initiated program: Drs. Andrew Nigra, Marnie Oakley, Jean O'Donnell, Joanne Prasad, Maria Tassopoulou-Fishell, and Christine Wankiiri-Hale. The faculty participated in a daylong workshop held at the Learning Resources Center that had the goal to define research topics proposed by each faculty and to develop them into research protocols, under the guidance of Dr. Vieira, and with the support of Dr. Modesto. Currently, the program participants are working in developing the following research protocols:

- "Comparison of Assessment and Treatment Decisions of initial Carious Lesions Between 2nd and 4th Year Dental Students", Nigra, Principal Investigator;
- "Gender Influences on Caries Risk", Oakley and O'Donnell, Principal Investigators;
- "Possible Role of the RUNX2 Gene in the Etiology of Dental Impactions", Prasad, Principal Investigator;
- "Candidate Gene Studies of Mandibular Prognathism Using DNA Samples Acquired from patients' Saliva", Tassopoulou-Fishell, Principal Investigator,
- "Oral Diseases in African Americans", Wankiiri-Hale, Principal Investigator.

All 5 projects were devised to use the resources Dr. Vieira has created/reformulated at the SDM: The Dental Registry and DNA Repository, currently with 651 recruited subjects and a steady compliance rate of 89%, and the SDM Skull Collection, housed at the Learning Resources Center.

The SDM has provided full support for the establishment of the Dental Registry and DNA Repository, the reformulation of the Skull collection, and for the SDM Research Scholar Program.

