

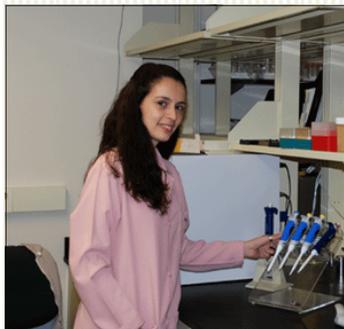
Vieira Lab Newsletter

Lab Meeting Schedule

- **When: July 20th**
Where: 403 Salk
Topic: Candidate Gene Studies on Clefting
Presenter: Renata Fragelli
- **When: August 3rd at 12:00**
Topic: 16q region may contribute to oral clefts
Presenter: Stephen Tropp

Upcoming Events

- **When: October 11th and 12**
Science 2007: Collaborate Innovate Transform
Where: Alumni Hall
The University of Pittsburgh's 7th Annual showcase of science and technology.



The Vieira Lab is proud to welcome Renata Fragelli to the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine. Renata earned both her undergraduate and masters degree in biology while attending the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

+Where are you from originally?
Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

+What will you be working on while here?
I will be working on my PhD, which I am in the process of beginning. I decided to come here because my mentor in Brasil has a collaboration with Dr. Vieira. I also have experience with oral cleft genotyping, which will be the focus of my PhD work.

+What do you hope to accomplish most while here?
I want to obtain good results for my thesis.

+What are a few things you'd like to do before leaving Pittsburgh?
I would like to go to museums, eat at restaurants, go shopping and take a walk through the city



Dr. Vieira takes a break from his busy schedule to teach his son's preschool classroom about DNA back in May 2005 in Iowa City, illustrating that it is never too early to teach children about the importance of genetics. The children could actually "see" and "touch" pieces of human DNA.

Lab News

Early in 2006, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded funding for a new and exciting project entitled, the "Geneticist-Educator Network Alliances" (GENA), which actively aims to promote a stronger genetics component among the high school curriculum across public schools within the United States.

Dr. Vieira has recently been chosen to be among the few talented participants to partake in this revolutionary new project, which will take place over a three year period with a network of 92 master Geneticist-Educator Alliances. The GENA Project will involve the meeting of geneticists and teachers to develop and improve the teaching methods of genetics within high schools to develop and implement innovative, new teaching programs in genetics education.

The geneticists and teachers will interact with one another throughout the span of one year, and will also attend an intense preparatory two and a half day workshop. The workshop will run from July 31st to August 2nd, 2007, and most GENA participants will be arriving in Bethesda, Maryland on the afternoon of July 30th. Congratulations, Dr. Vieira!

Dental Registry and DNA Repository News

The Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) recently reached a pivotal point: the inclusion of its 500th volunteer subject in the registry! With recruitment now occurring in the Implant Center, the Oral Hygiene Clinic, the Emergency Care Clinic, all Module Clinics and Dr. William L. Chung's office in the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (located at Montefiore Hospital), the DRDR continues to expand with an 85% volunteer acceptance rate—a rate which was initially anticipated to be only around 30%.

Dr. Célia Sasaki-Ferro, one of the Vieira Lab's summer visitors, continues to work very diligently on the project's database. Her goal is to include these first 500 subjects in the database before she departs for Brazil in the fall. Additionally, some very dedicated DRDR summer students are working hard assisting with recruitment efforts as well as becoming acclimated to performing DNA extractions. These students recently attended the DRDR's "Data and Safety Monitoring Plan," a mandatory meeting where an ongoing plan was set forth to maintain continued quality assurance of the project.

Opportunities still exist to become involved with the DRDR, both as a volunteer subject and as a volunteer to perform DNA extractions in the Vieira Lab. Please contact Jill Schaefer, the project manager, with questions at (412) 383-5944, or via email at jss73@dental.pitt.edu



Above: The very dedicated DRDR summer students pose for a photo with Dr. Vieira and Jill Schaefer during the Data and Safety Monitoring Plan Meeting.