



Vieira Lab Newsletter

Lab Meeting Schedule

- **When: June 8th at 12:00**
Where: 403 Salk
Topic: MUC-5B Project
Presenter: Renato Silva
- **When: June 22nd at 12:00**
Where: 403 Salk
Topic: Recruitment to the Dental DNA Bank
Presenter: Adam Perl



From left to right: Jose Granjeiro, Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Fluminense Federal University; Raquel Gerlach, Associate Professor of Periodontics, Ribeirao Preto State University; Ariadne Letra; Ana Paula Pardo, Visiting Professor of Dental Morphology, Piracicaba State University; Sergio Line, Professor of Dental Morphology, Piracicaba State University, Alexandre R. Vieira, Assistant Professor Department of Oral Biology, University of Pittsburgh.

Upcoming Events

- **When: June 17th –21st**
3rd International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World
Where: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Course: Subphenotyping in Clefting
Presenter: Alex Vieira
- **When: June 22nd**
Advancing Human Subject Protection Here and Now
Where: Sheraton Station Square Hotel Pittsburgh, PA

More Lab News

Congratulations

Nicholas Callahan!

On behalf of the Vieira lab we would like to congratulate Nick Callahan for being selected to participate in CTSI START UP program. The start up program is a short term student research opportunity that will begin this summer. Nick will perform a research project and participate in group experiences with other Start up students in other University of Pittsburgh Schools of Health Sciences. Nick was the only one from last year's Dean's summer scholarship to be selected in this program and will complete 12 weeks of research with Dr. Vieira and Dr. Weyant as mentors.

Lab News

Congratulations Dr. Ariadne Letra!

On behalf of the Vieira lab we would like to congratulate Ariadne Letra for successfully defending her thesis titled "Dental Anomalies as a Phenotypic Extension of Oral Clefts: Molecular Studies of Candidate Genes and Chromosomal Regions" on May 4th in São Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Letra came to the Vieira Lab a year ago to complete her research for her thesis and worked closely with Dr. Vieira, who was part of the thesis committee. Dr. Letra studied molecular assays using modern genotyping techniques including Taqman chemistry.

Dr. Letra received her PhD from the prestigious University of São Paulo in Brazil. The dental school at the University of São Paulo is widely recognized for its extensive dental program and is a highly esteemed dental school in Brazil. Dr. Letra will continue her research as a post-doc in the Vieira Lab and will continue to look at genetic studies of oral-facial clefts and dental anomalies.

Ariadne has been a welcomed asset to the Vieira lab not only as a research associate, but as a coworker and friend. We are all proud of Ariadne and applaud her for her dedication and hard work!

Dental Registry and DNA Repository News

"The Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) has really improved the awareness of clinical research to students, faculty and staff within the School of Dental Medicine." These words from Dr. Wankiiri-Hale, the Module 2 faculty team leader, confirm the positive effect that the project has had on the school. Dr. Wankiiri-Hale further elaborated stating that, "It (the project) bridges a gap between researchers and clinicians. It allows an appreciation of research. The project has been very well received in Module 2, as the pilot module." Colleen Limbacher, a staff member who also works in Module 2, had this to say, "The (great) number of samples obtained clearly indicates that the project is being well-received."

With 363 samples currently obtained and only 59 individuals declining to participate, an 84% compliance rate remains a very positive indicator that the project is, in fact, being well received. Although it may be some time before the entire school recruits DRDR subjects like clock-work, progress is most certainly being made every day.

As always, if you would like to become involved in any aspect of this project including translating consent forms into a language not mentioned above, please contact Jill Schaefer at (412) 383-5944 or at jss73@dental.pitt.edu