



Vieira Lab Newsletter

Lab Meeting Schedule

- When: December 7**

Where: Salk 403

Topic: TGFA-IRF6
Interaction in the etiology of non-syndromic oral clefts: genetic and biological evidence

Presenter: Ariadne Letra
- When: January 4, 2008**

Topic: AXIN2 is Associated with Orofacial Cleft Birth Defects in Families with Positive Family History of Cancer

Presenter: Renato Silva
- When: January 18, 2008**

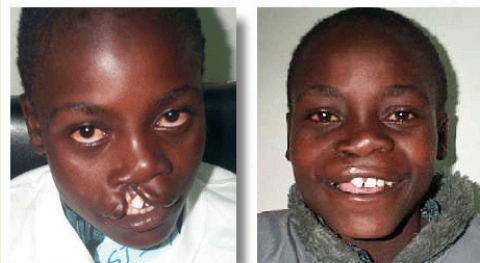
Topic: Studies with PDGFC and Clefts

Presenter: Sowmya Narayanan

Lab News

The recent Vieira Lab publication featured in the October Newsletter (Defining cleft subphenotypes based on dental development. Letra A, Menezes R, Granjeiro JM, Vieira AR. J Dent Res 2007; 86:986-991), appeared among the most read papers list on the Journal of Dental Research website.

Published by the International and American Associations for Dental Research, the Journal of Dental Research currently holds the top impact factor for all dental journals worldwide at 3.475. The Vieira Lab publication has also been highlighted in the "NIDCR News In Brief." In addition to the many important observations made, this paper has also called to the attention of the scientific community that the improper formation of the lateral incisor in the opposite side of the clefts may suggest incomplete forms of bilateral clefts of the lip.



Unilateral cleft lip with alteration of the upper lateral incisor of the opposite side could mean an incomplete bilateral clefts.

Upcoming Events

- January 3rd, 2007**

SDM Clinical Research Scholar Program Launch

Journal Club Schedule^o

- November 27th: Adrianna Mostowska, Renato Menezes**
- December 4th: Jeff Murray**
- December 11th: Fedik Rahimov, Ayman El-Sheikh**

Journal Club meetings are held on the 5th Floor Conference room of the Bridgepoint Building. Contact us for directions!

Dental Registry and DNA Repository News

The Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) has a new total of 626 participants and only 78 declines, yielding a very high success rate for recruitment efforts. This means that 87.5% of patients seeking treatment here at the School of Dental Medicine are willing to help by donating 10 minutes of their time and a small amount of saliva towards helping future dental research initiatives.

Currently there are several projects being conducted under the "blanket" IRB approval of the DRDR. One of these projects is a pilot study, which utilizes clinical lip print photographs taken with a specialized camera. The study of lip prints, known as cheiloscropy, is significant because each person's lip prints are unique in much the same way each person's finger prints are unique.

Dr. Katherine Neiswanger, a research assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh, is conducting the lip print project based on preliminary data pointing to evidence which suggests that a certain type of lip print coincides with the prevalence of cleft lip and palate. Dr. Neiswanger will test 20 lip print photos to see how they compare to actual lip prints in order to determine the reliability of such clinical photos. If the project is a success, a cost-effective and revolutionary means for scoring lip prints will be born.

The diverse nature of Dr. Neiswanger's project demonstrates that many types of initiatives can be studied by utilizing the vast resources of the DRDR. If you have an idea for a project or if you would like to become involved as a DRDR volunteer, please contact Jill Schaefer at (412) 383-5944 or at jss73@dental.pitt.edu

