



# Vieira Lab Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

**When: October 4th at 6:00 p.m.**

Event: Pittsburgh Academy of Periodontology

Where: River Club Oxford Center in Downtown

Topic: From the Clinic to the Bench and Back: Genetics of Periodontal Disease

Presenter: Alex Vieira

**When: October 5-6th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm**

Event: Feel the Power

Where: 3rd Floor Peterson Events Center

Presenter: DRDR

**When: October 9-13th**

Event: ASHG Conference

Where: New Orleans, LA

**When: October 17th 3-6:00 p.m.**

Event: Celebrating Research on Aging

Where: William Pitt Union

Presenter: DRDR

**When: October 26th at 1:00 p.m.**

Event: SGR Grand Rounds

Where: Salk 458

Topic: New Insight on the Most Prevalent Infectious Disease in the United States

Presenter: Alex Vieira

## Lab Meeting Schedule

**When: October 3 at 12:30**

Where: 403 Salk

Topic: Cleft Families Have a Higher Risk of Developing Several Types of Cancer

Presenter: Renato Menezes

**When: October 17 12:30**

Where 403 Salk

Topic: ASHG Highlights

## Journal Club Schedule

**When: October 4 at 12:00**

Presenter: Manika Govil



Erin Rose and the skull collection

## Lab News

Curiosity struck Dr. Vieira upon learning that all records for the extensive skull collection located on the sixth floor of the School of Dental Medicine were lost. Dr. Vieira developed an interest in the skull after seeing his son's own interest in dinosaur bones. He knew that having a link to the skulls' past could prove useful in studying caries. Fortunately Dr. Vieira's curiosity was put to an end when Erin Rose, a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate, approached him about doing dental related research for the summer. Erin had no former dental background, but with assistance from Dr. Vieira and self-study of dental anatomy, tooth development, forensics, cariology, periodontics, pathology, and statistics each skull now has a record.

Erin concluded that the caries status is no different in today's population than a group of individuals who lived more than 100 years ago in this country, based on looking at the disease pattern in the skulls. Erin also realized the dental field extends beyond clinical procedures and the study of the dental diseases is just as vital and necessary for the clinical treatment. Dr. Vieira hopes many will stop by to view the newly organized collection on the sixth floor. Dr. Vieira ultimately hopes this project will be enjoyed for many years to come and will spark more interest in research for future dental school students.

## Dental Registry and DNA Repository News

The Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) saw an extremely successful first week with many patients in the Module 2 Clinic agreeing to partake in the study. In all, 45 saliva samples were collected in the first five days of the project. Only 3 patients declined to participate, which indicates that the project has extreme potential for rapid growth.

The DRDR began piloting Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, under the direction of the faculty in the Module 2 Clinic. Students also seemed to gather an interest in the project, as several of them even became willing subjects in the study.

As an unprecedented project keeping a comprehensive set of dental phenotypes linked to DNA samples, the ultimate goal of the DRDR is to serve as a one-source provider of clinical data linked to DNA samples for educational and research purposes. Specific projects that may be initiated under the blanket IRB approval of the DRDR may include researching the following phenotypes: caries, periodontal diseases, malocclusion, congenital dental abnormalities, temporomandibular joint dysfunction, and craniofacial anomalies.

If you would like to be involved in the Dental Registry and DNA Repository, or if you have any questions regarding the nature of this study, please contact Jill Schaefer at 412-383-5944 or [jss73@dental.pitt.edu](mailto:jss73@dental.pitt.edu)

We would like to thank the Module 2 Clinic for their assistance in implementing this project!