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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear Ostrow Community:

Last week, the faculty, staff and I were so very excited to celebrate our graduating **Class of 2020**, with a virtual day of festivities, beginning with USC President Carol Folt conferring degrees, university-wide, and ending with a special Ostrow faculty, staff and student send-off to our graduating dental professionals.

Nearly 1,000 people participated in the live Ostrow video streaming Commencement Celebration. These virtual ceremonies were not what any of us might've imagined May graduation ceremonies would look like, but I would like to thank the **Office of External Relations & Student Life** for all of their hard work in pulling this off. I would also like to thank the faculty, staff and students who participated in this video. It was so wonderful seeing all of your faces once again. Additionally, I know many of our faculty members went above-and-beyond to send personalized messages to the Class of 2020. I am so moved by the outpouring of support for this class. If you haven't seen the Commencement Celebration video yet — plus a number of other virtual content — visit our [Celebrating the Class of 2020 page](#). Class of 2020, we can't wait to recognize you once again in person next spring at our official Commencement Ceremony.

Earlier this week, we held our first-ever virtual Dental Faculty Assembly. Thank you to all who showed up. We had 82 attendees in total, and we discussed some of the myriad individuals making a real impact in continuing the school's mission, despite the coronavirus crisis. **Rafael Roges, Gina Jackson, Norma Vazquez** and the **dental assistant team** have been instrumental in helping us safely deliver emergency dental care to our patients of record. **Winston Chee** has done a tremendous job, chairing our task force, which is singularly focused on getting our school safely back up and running. **Anita Tourah** and the

**admission and financial aid team** have been busily working to ensure all incoming classes are well-informed and ready to begin their studies this fall. And finally, **Robin Fox** and **Jennifer Jordan Kean**, along with our division chairs, program directors, section chairs and group practice directors, prepared 20 reports for the Commission on Dental Accreditation, detailing how Covid-19 has impacted our instruction. This school is so blessed to have so many capable, competent individuals continually working behind the scenes to keep our school running seamlessly.

As you know, we are working closely with national health agencies as well as USC to ensure we meet all safety benchmarks and protocols to safely re-open our doors. Last week, I received a message that truly blew me away with its generosity and kindness. Friends of Dentistry member, USC Dentistry alumnus and part-time faculty member **David P. Choe** DDS '89, ORTHO '91 was ordering mobile aerosol suction units — which may improve clinical safety by potentially providing enhanced air evacuation — for his own practice and felt inspired to add an additional 14 units to his order to gift to the dental school. David, the faculty, staff, students and I are in awe of this gesture and can't thank you enough for thinking of us during these troubling times. This magnanimity reminds us once again of what it means to truly be a part of something larger than ourselves — the Trojan Dental Family — and how special a bond that truly is.

This weekend is already Memorial Day, one of the milestones that typically heralds in the beginning of summer. It's hard to believe when we first started this “Safer at Home” campaign that it was barely spring. I hope you take some time this weekend to relax and perhaps enjoy some outdoor activities with your family — while, of course, maintaining social distance from others who are enjoying our beautiful SoCal sunshine.

While we still do not yet have an official return date for the dental school, just know that your Trojan Dental Family is missing you and can't wait to get back at it. I'll let you know more once we have finalized details; until then, don't speculate or guess timing. Just enjoy the time with family and breathe-in all life has to offer.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

*Avishai*

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

**Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates**



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