

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear Ostrow Community:

We're coming up on almost three full months of being away from our offices, classrooms, labs and clinic spaces, and I know many of us are very eager to get back to work. We are continuing to work diligently with city, county and university leadership to ensure we are able to do so in the safest, healthiest manner possible. Once I know more, I will certainly let you know. Thanks for all of your patience during this time.

I mentioned last week and want to reiterate that everyone must complete the [mandatory Covid-19 training](#) by the end of June. If you have not completed the training, you will not be permitted inside our facilities. As I've mentioned before, we've gone to great lengths to rethink our operations to ensure the health and safety of our faculty, staff, students and residents. This training is an essential part of that effort.

We continued this week to come to grips with the tremendous pain and grief that we all feel confronting some of the insidious systemic racism that is so deeply ingrained in far too many of our institutions. We've heard from many of our black faculty, staff and students about how this has personally impacted them. We, at Ostrow, are 100 percent behind you. We support you, we respect you, and we want to be the best allies we can be. Yesterday, USC President Carol Folt announced the university's first steps to address some of these issues, based on input from students, staff, faculty leadership, deans, diversity liaisons, the Culture Commission, alumni leaders, and neighbors. [Read more about those actions here.](#)

This week, we were very excited to find out that **Dr. Yang Chai** has been appointed to University Professor. This designation is awarded very selectively to those whose accomplishments have brought special renown to USC. There

are fewer than 20 individuals across the university to have achieved such a distinction. Better still, he is the first ever Ostrow faculty member (in our 120-plus years of history) to become a University Professor. I can't think of anyone more deserving of this honor. Please join me in once again congratulating Dr. Chai for this amazing accomplishment.

Finally, I would like to ask that you mark your calendars for **Tuesday, June 23, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.** for a faculty and staff Zoom-based "State of the School" presentation. We will discuss the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement on life at Ostrow, the ways in which coronavirus has already affected the school and how it will impact operations, moving forward, with screening protocols, etc. It promises to be an informative hour, so please plan on attending. We will send out a Zoom link separately very soon.

Stay safe, 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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