

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear Ostrow Community:

As this week closes, we draw ever nearer to returning to the Norris Dental Science Center. As I've mentioned previously, we are working very diligently with city, county and university leadership to resume operations in a safe and healthy manner. Once I know more, I will share with you immediately. Please continue to stay tuned for more details.

We have started to slowly open our advanced specialty clinics. I want to thank **Joyce Galligan, Jill Yoshimi, Gina Jackson** and their dedicated teams for working so hard to ensure that we meet the safety requirements necessary to open our doors to the public. I also want to acknowledge our staff in these clinics, who have been so positive and resilient, adjusting to Ostrow's "new normal" in the age of Covid-19. You have all been terrific and helped set a benchmark for the rest of us to follow upon returning.

I am also happy to report that this week we completed installing the HEPA scrubbers in the Sim labs. Thus, upon receiving the green light, these spaces are ready to be operational. These large filters are, to put it gently, not exactly eye candy, but they serve a purpose and stand as a reminder of our commitment to make the investments needed to create a safe work environment.

This week, we were very excited to welcome our incoming residents, who completed their Zoom-based orientation. I had the privilege to join their orientation and meet them all. Please join me in welcoming them all to the Trojan Dental Family. We all look forward to meeting you face-to-face very soon.

A little more than a week ago, we reopened our USC Dental Faculty Practice to patients experiencing dental emergencies only. It was no easy feat, having to rethink clinic layout for social distancing, sterilizing and disinfecting areas, setting screening procedures and receiving the proper approvals, but they accomplished it. I'd like to thank **Marina Jimenez and Faculty Practice staff members** who put in the long hours to make this happen. You make us proud.

Recently, one of our alumni, **Tiffany Neimar DDS '18**, reached out to update me about where her professional journey had taken her. You can't imagine how much satisfaction, as educators, we get from hearing from our alumni. Dr. Neimar went on to pursue a dental anesthesiology residency at Jacobi Medical Center in The Bronx. Earlier this year (while finishing her second year of the three-year program), Dr. Neimar found herself at ground zero of NYC's coronavirus surge and had her duties immediately changed to running a step-down ICU unit, where she and her team oversaw up to 12 Covid patients at a time. The experience was both profound and eye opening for her, and she's grown up so much in such a short amount of time. Read all about [her inspiring story](#). She's since been selected for the chief resident position of her program. We're really so very proud of her and her professional and personal development.

I'd like to take an opportunity to acknowledge **Dr. Roseann Mulligan**, who as many of you might know, [earned a Gies Award for Achievement for Dental Educators](#) from the ADEAGies Foundation. She was supposed to have been formally celebrated back in March in National Harbor, MD, but the coronavirus crisis led to the awards program's cancellation. We found out this week that instead she will be celebrated at the 2020 Gies Awards@Home virtual program on Friday, July 24. Congratulations, once again, Dr. Mulligan!

Finally, you might have seen earlier this week an invitation going out for the Faculty and Staff Town Hall Meeting, occurring on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 12 p.m. I really hope you all can make it. I have a lot to share. You can join via Zoom at usc.zoom.us/j/92459211419.

Stay safe, healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

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[Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Updates](#)



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