

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear Ostrow Community,

I am very happy to announce that we have been granted approval to resume operations within the Rex Ingraham second-floor clinic and the Dr. Roseann Mulligan Special Patients Clinic, beginning next week. Students, more information will be forthcoming, including schedules and new operational procedures by email (to your USC accounts) from the Office of Clinical Affairs. Faculty and staff, you will also receive an email (to your USC email addresses) from your Division Chair, supervisors or designees about your reporting schedules.

Every week, I have worked to lay out in detail some of the measures we have taken (and continue to take) to ensure that a return to our school would be done healthfully and safely. I thought this week, I would invite a community member who returned to the Norris Dental Science Center a few weeks ago to share his observations with us about returning to life at USC. Lushen Naidoo is entering the second year of his advanced endodontics specialty program. Below he shares a little bit about life at Ostrow during a pandemic:



We tend to remember significant periods in our lives — and, more specifically, certain days. March 15, 2020 will be a day forever etched in my mind. The realization that I would not be able to go to school, assist my patients and continue life as usual was slow to catch up to reality.

I feel fortunate that my program adapted early and provided

██████████ numerous virtual learning opportunities. It was incredible to be able to listen to eminent academics and clinicians from around the globe. The temptation to be complacent whilst being at home was ever present, and I had to remind myself that finding some balance was a worthy challenge.

Initially, during the shutdown, the advanced endodontics residents and some faculty were managing some of the school's patients who would have otherwise been treated by their respective dentists or students. To me, that experience epitomized the commitment of the school to our safety and patient population.

The return to the advanced endodontic clinic about two weeks ago felt a lot like returning home, but a home that had undergone some renovations. The atmosphere was charged with a deliberate sense of purpose. For instance, the passage ways into the school were marked with COVID-19-related protocols. The usual chatter in the hallways was noticeably absent

It became clear very early that the school had been extremely diligent with details and protocols in order to optimize our safety. We work in an environment that produces aerosols and, in the advanced endodontics clinic, the measures taken to mitigate the risks have been laudable.

While life is different at Ostrow, different should not be seen negatively. This scenario is an evolving script in which I learn and try my best to adapt in order to enrich my journey and make a difference in the lives of my patients.

The quote, "Change is the only constant in life" was derived from the teachings of the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus. This situation represents "change" on a global scale, and I feel very fortunate to have found myself in an environment with the ability to adapt, and I see every day in the clinic as a privilege and blessing. Embrace the change because, although the end point is important, the journey is fundamental to success. The commitment of the faculty, staff and everyone tasked with our education has been evident and abundant. Optimize every clinical experience because there are several people working tirelessly in the background to ensure our success.

A great human being, Mahatma Gandhi, once said, "The future depends on what we do in the present." I have learned over the years that there are things that can be controlled and those that are out of your control. So, control that

which is within your grasp and the rest should work itself out.

I am confident that the hallways will be rich with chatter once again.

Take care, stay safe and “fight on.”

—Lushen Naidoo ENDO '21

Before wrapping up this week’s message, I would like to take an opportunity to congratulate Dr. Mike Mulvehill and his entire team of faculty and staff as well as Jill Yoshimi and the inventory management services and facilities teams who learned very quickly how to administer a successful licensure exam amid a global pandemic. You can imagine it was a steep learning curve, but the exam was well orchestrated and implemented, and I am grateful for all of the work this team put in to make sure our DDS Class of 2020 begins the process of licensure exam completion.

I’d also like to acknowledge some of the support we’ve received from our foundation friends and partners. We partnered with the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry to better facilitate the training of our pediatric residents during these unprecedented times. We also would like to thank the Harry L. Dougherty and Keith S. Tanaka Orthodontic Foundation for their partnership in purchasing electric handpieces for our advanced orthodontic residency clinic.

As always, stay safe, healthy and fight on!

Avishai

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Professor of Dentistry

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates



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