

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear USC Dentistry Community:

This week, we continued our efforts to get the engines of USC Dentistry revving once again, starting with holding some clinic orientations yesterday and today, during which we further familiarized our Group Practice Directors, faculty and students with the new health and safety protocols that we've adopted in our clinic and lab spaces. It was important to get this time in so that, come Monday, Aug. 17, our students will be able to hit the ground running with their patients. Selfishly, I was thrilled to be participating and present myself. It was reassuring to be back among faculty and students once more, and I look forward to once again teaching on the clinic floor.

The third licensure exam was held last weekend and the fourth, and final one, will be held this weekend. I am appreciative of Dr. Mike Mulvehill, his wife Dr. Suzanne Coulter, and the entire team ensuring these moved forward. The dedication to making sure the graduating class of 2020 had ample opportunities to be licensed was a special closing to this already challenging year.

We also pushed ahead in our graduate specialty clinics. As you know, we opened these clinics a few weeks ago, allowing our residents to continue and finish necessary dental treatments that were temporarily put on hold during our "Safer at Home" social distancing efforts earlier this year. But, effective Monday, Aug. 10, we expanded beyond our patients of record and welcomed new patients to these clinics. It's a testament to the hard work, dedication and adherence to safety protocols in our advanced specialty clinics that we are able to make this move. Thanks to all our Program Directors, faculty, residents and staff for all that you do in our advanced specialty clinics.

One of the keys to the safety of our operations is having a wealth of clinical PPE on hand. Last Friday, we received nearly 20 pallets of clinical PPE, thanks to a program that distributed PPE to dentists and dental educational institutions through the Dentists Supply Company, a subsidiary of the California Dental Association (CDA). In all, we received nearly 400,000 masks, ranging from N95s to KN95s to surgical masks. We are incredibly grateful for the support.

In addition to our clinics, the DDS class of 2023 and the ASPID students of 2022 recently participated in the Inter-Professional Education learning experience, delivered remotely. More than 180 students actively contributed to a two-and-a-half-hour discussion and Q&A session with expert panelists inclusive of dentistry, dental hygiene, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work and pharmacy. It's vital that our health professions are working together to tackle some of the world's most urgent medical situations today and in the future. These discussions definitely seed that concept.

Finally, I'd like to announce that we have appointed Dr. Joyce Galligan to Chief Health Officer, a newly created executive position that will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of safety and infection control for students, patients, faculty and staff throughout all clinics, laboratories and the Dental Faculty Practice. Dr. Galligan has been instrumental over the past few months, overseeing all facets related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved appointment.

I know this was final exam week and thus I hope everyone takes time this weekend to relax and enjoy your accomplishments. Moreover, many of you have been working diligently to welcome the incoming DDS class of 2024 that will join us in just a couple weeks! I am looking forward to seeing many of our students back here on campus to continue their clinical training, beginning Monday.

As always, 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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Our mailing address is:

925 W. 34th Street DEN 202

Los Angeles, CA 90089

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