

## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear USC Dental Community,

How can it be October already? 2020 has this mysterious quality of feeling both interminable (with all of the challenges we've faced) and as if time's flying by. This week, we continue our diligent efforts to ramp up life at Ostrow.

To that end, I am excited to announce that, beginning next week, our DDS and ASPID Classes of 2021 will have access to night clinics on Tuesdays and

Wednesdays, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This is an important step to give as much time in the clinics as possible to our students needing to complete the depth and breadth of our vigorous curriculum before Commencement 2021. I want to thank the faculty and staff who have stepped up to make these night clinics work. We also recently announced that we are shortening the winter recess, with the fall trimester extending to Dec. 18 and the spring trimester beginning Jan. 4 to give our students more opportunities to make up for lost time. On the patient care front, we recently installed HEPA air scrubbers in our operating rooms, which will allow us to resume patient care requiring anesthesia.

I am also elated to see that our mobile dental clinics are back up and running — this time in Monrovia, working with a nonprofit called Foothill Unity Center. An extraordinary amount of work, ingenuity and forethought went into re-imagining the way we provide much-needed dental treatment in our mobile clinics to underserved communities during a global pandemic. Under normal circumstances, our faculty and students would provide treatment over the course of six to seven days in three mobile units (plus one used for IMS). During COVID, we are sending out six mobile units (five of which will be used for treatment), so that we can maintain physical distance. We will also increase our time there to eight days, allowing for staggered appointments to maintain 50 percent capacity each day. In all, our faculty and fourth-year dental students

aim to treat 100 patients, as is customary. I commend **Dr. Sunny Fereshteh, Mr. Edwin Salgado, Mr. German Hernandez** and **Ms. Epifania Juarez** all under the steadfast leadership of **Dr. Roseann Mulligan** for all of their creativity and sweat equity in getting our mobile clinics back on the road. Take a video walkthrough of the [Hutto Patterson Mobile Dental Clinic](#), "[the 500](#)" [Mobile Dental Clinic](#) and the [entire set-up at Foothill Unity Center](#), with all of the adjustments made for safe and healthy patient care.

I'd also like to take a moment to congratulate the team working on FaceBase, an online repository for craniofacial datasets and tools that advances craniofacial science and fosters collaboration across the globe. The team, led by **Dr. Yang Chai**, made the cover of the journal *Development* in its latest publication. In the article, the research team, composed of many Ostrow community members, shares 10 years' worth of work and invites new contributors to participate. FaceBase recently entered its third phase, after receiving a \$12.5 million grant from the NIDCR. This endeavor is so exciting because it literally puts USC at the epicenter of craniofacial science research. You can learn more about [this work here](#).

We recently announced a [brand-new partnership](#) between Ostrow and Trinity College's Dublin Dental University Hospital/School of Dental Science to launch a hybrid online/on-campus certificate program in orofacial pain. This is impressive for so many reasons. Trinity College is a highly respected institution, listed among the top 100 universities in the world. That prestige, coupled with Ostrow's innovative online educational delivery system, can make a real difference in patient outcomes in the European Union, where orofacial pain practitioners are few and far between. The program takes one year to complete and yields a certificate. From there, students have the opportunity to join our three-year online master's degree program during its second year, with their certificate serving as year one of the program. Kudos to **Dr. Glenn Clark** for forging these ties with our Trinity College colleagues and continuing to raise the profile of our online programs around the world!

Last weekend, our dental hygiene Class of 2020 completed their licensure exams — something that would have typically taken place in April. It was a big feat to get this accomplished, with rigorous debate within the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) itself regarding live patient- versus manikin-based testing. **Ms. Diane Melrose** was a tireless advocate for our dental hygiene students, working with the DHBC and later the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments to schedule this test, which is only available on a

limited basis. Last Saturday, the class was joined by West L.A. College dental hygiene students (headed up by alumna **Ms. Lisa Kamibayashi DH '95**) to complete these exams. I want to thank **Drs. Doug Solow** and **Mike Mulvehill** as well as **Ms. Socorro Gutierrez** for all the work they put in to bring this long-anticipated endeavor to fruition.

Of course, with October, comes the Good Neighbors Campaign (GNC), with the kick-off taking place in early October. The GNC is an annual university-wide initiative where Trojan faculty, staff and friends make donations to support local community programs. Grants funded by the GNC have consistently supported Ostrow programs, including the USC Dental Screening Initiative for Foster Children and the USC Neighborhood Mobile Dental Van Prevention Program. Last year, we were among the top five fundraising academic units across the university. The campaign is more important than ever this year, with underserved communities disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. I want to thank this year's GNC school leads, **Mr. Carlos Sanchez**, **Ms. Alexandra Ochi** and **Ms. Rena Robles**, for volunteering to head up this year's effort. For those of you interested in participating, visit [goodneighbors.usc.edu](http://goodneighbors.usc.edu).

As always, stay safe and healthy and fight on!

*Avishai*

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

**Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates**



*Copyright © 2020 Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

925 W. 34th Street DEN 202

Los Angeles, CA 90089

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

---