

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[10/16/2020]



BI-WEEKLY DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community,

This week, I am really happy to provide the update that Ostrow will once again start accepting new patients to our DDS clinics, effective Monday, Oct. 19. Continuously admitting new patients to our clinics is critical. This was a long time coming, and it took a significant amount of effort and resources to ensure we had enough staff to provide the support necessary for our faculty and students to resume new patient care activities. Thank you **Ms. Gina Jackson**, **Ms. Maria Rivas** and **Ms. Norma Vasquez** for your efforts to get the clinic operation up and running again for our patients, who rely on us to maintain their oral health.

Last week, we also resumed patient care in our operating rooms, with a case involving a youth with acute situational anxiety, requiring general anesthesia. The girl had been waiting for more than a year to receive dental care and had been experiencing quite a bit of pain. Understandably, her parents were incredibly grateful for the treatment, relieving her of unnecessary pain. We took every precaution to ensure this procedure was safe and secure. Our team looked like astronauts, wearing so much PPE. But if that's what it takes to provide this much-needed treatment, that's what we'll do. Thanks to **Drs. Michael Alanes, Alexander Alcaraz and James Tom**, residents **Drs. Jessica Bailey and Jessica Ton** and assistants **Carmen Uzueta and Juana Reyes** for making this return to the OR such a success.

As you likely saw, there was an announcement earlier this month that flu shots are mandatory for all on-site students and employees at any USC facility. Obviously, this is a requirement this year to keep our community safe from experiencing what could be a "twindemic," with both COVID-19 and the flu in circulation. Make sure to get your flu shot by Nov. 1. If your flu shot is done at a USC facility, it will be automatically uploaded into the MySHR portal (for faculty, staff and students). If not, you'll need to make sure it's uploaded by logging into studenthealth.usc.edu/myshr, clicking "Downloadable Forms" on the left-hand menu and then scrolling down to "2020-2021 Flu Documentation" and uploading your form. The USC Pharmacy is providing free flu vaccinations for faculty, students and staff and are holding outdoor flu clinics. Check [their website](#) for dates, times and locations.

The DDS Class of 2024 recently elected its leadership. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Class President **Deena Fatehi**, Vice-President **Daniel Kohanghadosh**, Secretary **Brandon Pham**, Treasurer **Brian Zahab** and GSG Senator **Vahe Nahapetyan**. I look forward to working with this group of exceptional students over the course of the next year.

Looking ahead, Ostrow will be celebrating Homecoming and Reunion Week (virtually, of course) from Monday, Nov. 2 through Saturday Nov. 7, with a number of online festivities. Our **Office of External Relations and Student Life** have put together a great line-up of virtual events, including a Trojan Marching Band performance, a tour of the L.A. Memorial Coliseum, a Paint-and-Sip event and Trivia Night. I'd like to thank the **Century Club Alumni Association** for their generosity in hosting all of these events. It will be a great chance to reconnect with some of your favorite Trojan Dental Family members. Be on the lookout for more information coming to your mailboxes and inboxes

soon!

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](#)



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Our mailing address is:

925 W. 34th Street DEN 202

Los Angeles, CA 90089

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