

## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[12/04/2020]



### BI-WEEKLY DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and, even more importantly, took some time to simply recharge to be able to finish the fall trimester strong.

As you know, Los Angeles County has issued a new three-week stay-at-home order, effective Monday, Nov. 30. Because dentistry is considered an essential business, we are able to keep our operations sailing ahead. Even so — and particularly because we are in the midst of an infection spike, I urge you to continue taking all of the necessary precautions — both inside the school and outside — to keep yourself and your community healthy. With vaccines on the horizon, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but we must not let down our

guards just yet.

Those of you at the school regularly might have noticed a new addition to the school's back parking lot. We recently got permission to roll in one of our mobile clinics for additional space to provide treatment. This clinic, which has been retrofitted extensively to allow for safe patient care, is intended to relieve the Dr. Roseann Mulligan Special Patients Clinic, which had amassed a backlog of patients due to ongoing restrictions. I'd like to thank **Drs. Sunny Fereshteh, Rebecca Kim and Daniel Romo, Mr. Bobby Boyer, Ms. Marshall Miller-Barber, Mr. Mike Cassar, Ms. Claudia Ortega and Mr. Edwin Salgado** for their efforts in bringing this extra clinic online. We are also indebted to USC Information Technology Services, USC Facilities Management Services and USC Transportation for their help. We hope to bring a second mobile clinic onto campus very soon.

Additionally, because of ongoing safety restrictions within the Union Rescue Mission, we have moved another of our mobile clinics to Skid Row to continue providing essential treatment to those experiencing homelessness. Thanks once again to **Dr. Sunny Fereshteh, Mr. Bobby Boyer, Mr. German Hernandez and Mr. Edwin Salgado** for their efforts with the new URM mobile clinic. Additionally, I'd like to acknowledge **Drs. Mehdi Mohammadi and Kathy Elizondo** and our partners at the Union Rescue Mission for helping us find innovative approaches to educating our students and delivering care for our diverse patient population. As I've mentioned before, we had already been providing treatment to women and children experiencing homelessness at Hope Gardens in Sylmar Calif. The mobile clinic at URM was another important step to help this vulnerable population.

Despite the stay-at-home order, its economic toll on our patients and all of the other obstacles endemic to a global pandemic, we continue to support the community that relies on us for care. To that end, this week, thanks to the untiring efforts of **Drs. Ramon Roges and Rafael Roges**, we re-opened our Urgent Care Clinic, with a slightly different operational model. Our students will conduct assessments and make diagnoses, under faculty supervision, and then the patient will receive actual care in the appropriate clinic — more often than not, the Endodontics Clinic.

In other news, our PhD program in Craniofacial Biology recently underwent its University Committee of Academic Review (UCAR) assessment. These intensive reviews, which take place every 7 to 10 years, require a lot of work, and typically end with recommendations for making the program even better. I

would like to acknowledge **Drs. Michael Paine, Yang Chai** and **Malcolm Snead** for their work in preparing our self-study. I would also like to thank **Ms. Janice Bea, Ms. Robin Fox** and all of the other faculty and staff members, who contributed to the successful site visit.

With that, I wish you all a great weekend.

Stay safe, stay health and, as always, 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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