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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[2/05/2021]



BI-WEEKLY DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

This week, our on-site students, faculty and staff took the next step in their fight against the pandemic, receiving a second shot of the Pfizer vaccine. As a reminder, if you've not yet received your second shot, you need to make sure to take your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards with you to your second appointment. It might be enticing to think that, with this second shot, you're done and can interact with

the world as you once did before. But I urge you to continue practicing all the appropriate measures to stay safe and healthy — even after your second shot. These vaccinations will continue into next week. As was the case before, you will still need to be tested every week to gain access to campus. Thanks once again to **Dr. Joyce Galligan** for her tireless work and the students, who — despite their demanding schedules — continue to volunteer to work four-hour shifts to make sure everyone's second shot is going smoothly. Thank you also to the Office of Student Life and Well-Being, especially **Ms. Kim Eeles** and **Ms. Mariam Agazaryan**, for their efforts in scheduling student volunteer!

As you saw earlier this week, we made the incredibly difficult decision not to matriculate any more dental hygiene students, making the **DH Class of 2021** our final dental hygiene class. Decisions like these are never easy, but as we mentioned, the convergence of USC's ever-rising admissions standards and the emergence of new bachelor's and certificate programs in dental hygiene at a lower cost have made it really difficult to fill classes, year in and year out. I've been humbled by the reactions we've received about just how beloved this program is, and I think I speak for most everyone when I say it has so much to do with the incredible loyalty, dedication and passion of our dental hygiene faculty. For years, these educators, led by Director of Dental Hygiene **Ms. Diane Melrose**, have been providing the profession with some of the world's highest-caliber dental hygienists, and for that, we owe you a debt of gratitude. As we mentioned, even though the program is coming to an end, our commitment to our dental hygiene alumni community and the profession will not be diminished in any way. We hope to find ways to continue propelling this profession forward in impactful ways.

In other news, we are happy to welcome back to the University Park Campus our **Community Oral Health Programs team**, who just today will finish their move from the USC City Center (formerly the AT&T Tower) to the Norris Dental Science Center, occupying the Soule Learning Center. As you can imagine, moving an entire office across town is no easy feat. I would like to recognize **Ms. Irene Reyna**, who served as a project manager for the entire move. I'd also like to thank **Mr. Bobby Boyer, Ms. Carmen Molina-Diaz, Ms. Ana Parra, Ms. Sari Peralta, Mr. Kevin Ramos, Mr. Edwin Salgado** and **Mr. Anthony Santiago** for their part in the move. And I would be remiss in not mentioning **Ms. Marshall Miller-Barber** and **Ms. Jill Yoshimi**, who can always be counted on to make sure things run smoothly at the school.

The **Community Oral Health Programs team** won't be able to get too comfortable in their new space just yet. Next week, they begin what will be a three-week mobile clinic event at the To Help Everyone (T.H.E) Wellness Clinic in South Los Angeles. The team of Ostrow faculty, staff, DDS/ASPID/DH students and pediatric and

endodontic residents aims to provide free treatment to up to 230 children and their parents. As you know, we have extensively retrofitted our mobile dental clinics to allow for safe treatment throughout the pandemic. Additionally, the treatment will be provided over several staggered appointments, with a limited number of Ostrow community members on hand at any given moment. Patients will also be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test, taken within three days. We wish the team the best of luck over the next few weeks as they provide this much-needed treatment.

Additionally, we will use this mobile clinic event, sponsored by T.H.E. Wellness Centers, as a backdrop for our Give Kids A Smile Day efforts, which this year, will take place over the entire duration of this mobile clinic event. To that end, we will have 300 oral health kits on hand, each of which contain two adult and two children's toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste and dental literature. Kudos to **Dr. Roseann Mulligan, Dr. Sunny Fereshteh, Ms. Linda Brookman, Mr. Carlos Sanchez, Ms. Meyerer Miller and Ms. Ana Parra** for their ingenuity, creativity and flexibility in finding a way to still recognize this all too important day in the lives of children who might not have regular access to dental treatment — especially during a pandemic.

And finally, I would like to announce that we will be holding our annual Friends of Dentistry (Virtual) Scholarship Recognition event on Thursday, March 25. If you've gone to one of these events in the past, you know just how special they are each year. Not only do we bring together scholarship recipients with their donors — which is really touching in and of itself — but it has historically taken place in some of the coolest venues (beneath the Space Shuttle Endeavour, within the gorgeous Vibiana cathedral). While the event will necessarily be virtual this year, I have no doubt it will maintain this same patina of excellence. You can find additional details on [Ostrow Connect](#). Be on the lookout for electronic invitations to be distributed in the next week.

With that, I wish you a great weekend. Stay safe, healthy and, as always, fight on!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marion James Montgomery Professor of Dentistry
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



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Our mailing address is:

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC
925 W. 34th Street, DEN 201, Los Angeles, CA 90089

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