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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[5/28/2021]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community,

Earlier this week, I had the great honor to join many of you for this year's Research Day, which, of course, took place virtually. This annual event is always a highlight, giving us all an opportunity to see some of the truly innovative work going on across our school. It's perhaps even more exciting to

catch glimmers of what the future holds for our profession. I also enjoy seeing the scientific investigations taking place across town by our colleagues at the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy. Congratulations to all the students and faculty who shared their research posters with us, including Dean's Research Award winner **Dr. Nicha Ungvijanpunya**; Innovative Scientific Achievement Award winners **Dr. Wei Zhang, Dr. Yuan Yuan, Dr. Mengfei Yu** and **Dr. Li Ma** as well as all the other research award winners! I'd like to also thank to the **Research Day Planning Committee** for all of their efforts in bringing this day to fruition, despite the ongoing pandemic. Finally, congratulations to the **Student Research Group** for another terrific issue of the award-winning publication, *The Explorer*. If you haven't had a chance to thumb through it yet, you can [view it here](#).

Our time with the **DDS Class of 2021** is drawing ever nearer to a close as they continue completing the necessary clinical work to finish their studies here at Ostrow and begin the next chapter of their professional journeys. We were certainly reminded of that a few weeks ago, when we celebrated them, along with their colleagues from the **Class of 2020**, at an in-person Commencement at the L.A. Coliseum. Then, last weekend, the Class of 2021 accomplished yet another milestone by completing their Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) exams. This Class continues to amaze, with the amount of passion, determination and resilience they exhibit every day. Administering the WREB exam is a feat in and of itself, requiring a large collective effort. I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Michael Mulvehill** for preparing our students beforehand in the Sim Lab and **Ms. Socorro Gutierrez** for her part in coordinating the logistics of the exam. Additionally, I would like to thank **Ms. Jill Yoshimi** and the staff members from the dispensary (**Ms. Tami Oshiro, Mr. Ramon Solano, Ms. Vivian Amaya** and **Ms. April Lamadrid**), shipping and receiving (**Mr. Manny Juarez, Mr. David Hutchings** and **Mr. Jaime Gonzalez**), facilities (**Mr. Silvestre Cruz-Guzman**) and instrument management services (**Mr. Warren Andaya, Ms. Blanca Interiano, Ms. Maria C. Alvanez de Valiente, Ms. Noemi Padilla, Ms. Lidia Alvarez, Mr. Philip Abi-Farah** and **Ms. Abigail Nava**) for their tireless work during the exam itself. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Finally, next week, we begin a USC Mobile Clinic event in Bakersfield. During the week-long clinic (June 3-11), Ostrow students and faculty will provide comprehensive treatment — including root canals, pulpotomies, restorations, sealants, prophylactics, oral health instruction and stainless steel crowns — to up to 100 children of migrant farm workers. As always, thank you to **Dr. Roseann Mulligan** and **Dr. Sunny Fereshteh** as well as staffers **Mr. Chan Chan, Ms. Epifania Juarez, Mr. Edwin Salgado, Mr. German Hernandez,** and **Mr. Anthony Santiago** for all of your efforts in coordinating this clinic. And, of course, thank you to our students and their faculty supervisors for providing care to some of society's most vulnerable.

With that, I would like to wish you all a Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

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