
[View this email in your browser](#)

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

7/02/2021



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

As we wrap up another academic year, we have said goodbye to yet another class, who were taught the art and science of dentistry during a global pandemic. I would like to once again thank all of our faculty and staff members who had a hand in making sure these classes — including dental hygiene, doctor of dental surgery and our advanced specialty residents — graduated

with the skills and professionalism expected of a Trojan dental professional. Thanks to our collective efforts — **students, faculty and staff**, alike — we have met our goals of on-time graduation, successful passing of licensure exams and the retention of the class as they finished their studies earlier this month. We should all be incredibly proud of the work we have done to ensure our class maintains its longstanding legacy of excellence. Thank you for all that you do.

Earlier this week — and for the first time ever — we held an intraoral scanning training session for our ASPID and DDS Classes. The **ASPID Class of 2023** and the **DDS Class of 2024** were trained to use intraoral scanners (supplementing their use of traditional impressions and mounted stone casts) for their preclinical orthodontics module by our **orthodontics graduate students**. It's an exciting development — made possible by the acquisition of four intraoral scanners, thanks to a generous donation by **Dr. Ralph Allman** and his late wife, the thoroughly-missed **Mrs. Sigrid Allman**. We often say we prepare our students for dentistry, not as it is practiced today, but as it will be practiced in 5, 10, 15 years from now, and I truly believe that this type of intraoral scanning will be commonplace in the coming years, giving our ASPID/DDS students an added benefit as they enter the workforce. More than that, it's also beneficial for our graduate orthodontics students who not only got the opportunity to conduct and oversee more than 180 intraoral scans, but also got an opportunity to teach this material. As they say, you truly show you have mastered a subject when you can teach it well. I'd like to thank Advanced Orthodontics Program Director **Dr. Glenn Sameshima** as well as **Dr. Robert Gire, Dr. Stuart Hoffman** and **Dr. Hovhanness Shnorhokian** for their efforts in preparing our DDS, ASPID and Orthodontics students to use this groundbreaking technology.

In other exciting news, we received the necessary approvals to resume operations at Union Rescue Mission (URM). We will resume operations at 50 percent capacity for the first two weeks before ramping back up to full capacity thereafter, conditions permitting. As you will remember, we had been seeing a limited number of URM patients in the mobile clinics behind the dental school. Resuming treatment at the Union Rescue Mission will allow us to provide treatment to even more individuals from this most vulnerable of populations. I would like to thank **Dr. Roseann Mulligan**, whose leadership during these challenging times has been so incredibly helpful. I would also like

to thank **Dr. Mehdi Mohammadi** (who recently took over as Interim Director of our dental clinic at the Union Rescue Mission), **Dr. Laura (Kathy) Elizondo**, **Dr. Melina Grigorian**, **Dr. Santosh Sundaresan** and **Dr. Nineli Zadourian** as well as staff members **Ms. Rachelle Bautista**, **Mr. Bobby Boyer**, **Mr. Alexander Castaneda**, **Ms. Jessica Luna**, **Mr. Edward Mondorf** and **Mr. Edwin Salgado** for their efforts. This has been 16 months of alternating moments of grueling wait and Herculean effort to be able to reach this milestone, and you all played such pivotal roles.

(continued below)

THANK YOU TO OUR CLINICAL STAFF MEMBERS







Last week, I dropped in on our clinical staff to thank some of them for all of their hard work over the past year and a half. Obviously, we couldn't have gotten to everyone but we're so happy with all of our staff — onsite and off, clinical and administrative — for their efforts. We, faculty members, all realize what a challenging time it has been, requiring each of you to be nimble, resilient and positive, even while dealing with all of the uncertainty in your own personal lives. We couldn't have gotten through this pandemic without your continued efforts. Thank you!

PICTURED ABOVE

Picture No. 1 L-R: **Ms. Ofelia Lozoya, Ms. Tara Lam and Mr. Alexander Ruiz**

Picture No. 2 L-R: **Ms. Claudia Contreras, Ms. Afton Young and Ms.**

Antwanette Washington

Picture No. 3 **Ms. A'jee Thomas**

(continued from above)

We were incredibly proud to find out that we have been approved for T90/R90 training grant funding for our PhD students and postdocs by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). This prestigious grant will financially support four PhD students and five post-docs — with a preference for students from underrepresented backgrounds — with a stipend, tuition, fees and a full benefit package that includes travel to conferences related to their specific areas of research as well as training-related experiences and lab equipment. The training grant's goal is to educate

outstanding scholars who wish to pursue basic, fundamental, translational or clinical research and prepare for careers relevant to dental and craniofacial disease and health. You can [read more about this news here](#). I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Michael Paine**, **Dr. Amy Merrill-Brugger**, **Dr. Malcolm Snead** and **Dr. Yang Chai** for their efforts in putting this grant proposal together. I'd also like to thank **Ms. Janice Bea** and **Dr. Bridget Samuels** for pulling together the necessary data as well as proofreading and perfecting the proposal before it was sent off.

Finally, as a friendly reminder to our hourly staff members and student workers, the Workday system is down from now until Tuesday, July 6. You will need to log your hours using the paper timesheets that were sent to you via email by **Ms. Maribel Salizar** and input these hours into the system once it is back up and running (by no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 7). If you have any questions at all, please check in with your supervisors.

Additionally, just a quick note to clarify, as **Dr. Joyce Galligan** did earlier this week in a community email, that even though campus has loosened some of its COVID-19 mitigation protocols, we, at Ostrow — a healthcare facility — will still follow the same masking, physical distancing and daily Trojan Check screening we've done all along. There has been no change to our efforts against COVID-19.

With that, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and Happy Fourth of July. Enjoy the three-day weekend.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA
Dean
G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery
Professor of Dentistry
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Copyright © 2021, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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