

[View this email in your browser](#)

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[12/3/2021]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Here we are, nearing the end of another trimester. As we look ahead to the upcoming trimester break, I wanted to make sure everyone saw the message from USC President **Dr. Carol Folt**, in which she extended Winter Recess in gratitude for our collective efforts to get through this second year of the pandemic. I'd certainly like to

echo that sentiment. It's been a tough couple of years, but I feel our community is stronger than ever as we forge ahead, continuing to produce some of the nation's finest dental practitioners. Each and every one of you can take some credit for that. Winter Recess now takes place between Monday, Dec. 20 through Sunday, Jan. 2, with everyone returning to campus on Monday, Jan. 3. This means the last day of clinic will be Friday, Dec. 17. I hope you enjoy the extra downtime to begin 2022 relaxed, refreshed and reinvigorated.

You might have seen the plastic bins on the table in the East Lobby full of canned goods, cereal, snacks and soups. These were part of an effort, led by our **Student National Dental Association** (SNDA), for a Food Drive for the Homeless. All donations were given to Midnight Mission, which is located on L.A.'s Skid Row. We're really proud of SNDA's efforts to give back to the community — particularly during the altogether uncertain times caused by COVID-19. Similarly, the **Hispanic Student Dental Association** (HSDA) has launched a Holiday Hope Donation Drive, where they will collect toys, books, games, clothing and personal/oral hygiene products to be donated to the Latino Resource Organization West L.A. HSDA will be collecting these items through Dec. 17, so feel free to make any donations in the East Lobby. I'd like to extend a pre-emptive "way to go!" to HSDA for brightening the days of families in need!

We recently celebrated a noteworthy milestone with FaceBase, a central repository for craniofacial datasets and tools meant to advance craniofacial science by fostering cooperation and collaboration around the globe. This collaboration has led to FaceBase reaching its 1,000th dataset. The research initiative began in 2009; in 2014, USC researchers took the helm with **Dr. Yang Chai** and USC Viterbi's **Dr. Carl Kesselman** as principal investigators. Other Ostrow contributors include **Mr. Thach-Vu Ho** as well as **Dr. Bridget Samuels**, who has played a major role in the management of the project. [Read more about this milestone](#). And, please join me in congratulating the entire team on this achievement.

As you saw earlier this week in an email from **Dr. Doug Solow**, like the rest of our medical counterparts, we are now entering the world of electronic prescriptions. It's an exciting move that pushes healthcare operations further into 21st century technology and improves patient safety since the system checks a proposed prescription against recorded allergies and eliminates the misreading of handwriting. More than that, it helps reduce fraud and reduces the use of paper, which, as you

know, aids the university in its sustainability initiative. I'd like to thank **Dr. Joyce Galligan** and **Dr. Doug Solow** — with a special thanks to **Mr. Ramon Enachescu** and **Ms. Rebecca Jackson** whose efforts were instrumental — for their involvement in implementing this system at Ostrow.

Finally, I am very proud to announce that **Ms. Oluwaferanmi Balogun** has been selected to represent Ostrow in the American Dental Association's Health Literacy Essay Contest for Dental Students, where participants were invited to write an essay about the topic of "More Than Teeth: What Your Dental Team Wants You to Know About Health Misinformation." One student from each accredited dental school will submit an essay, and a national winner will be declared in early 2022. [Read the selected essay.](#) There were several really great essays, and I am sure it wasn't an easy decision as to which to move onward. Kudos to all who took part, and thank you to **Dr. Mina Habibian** who oversaw the process. Best of luck, Olu!

With that, I wish our students best of luck as they finish their final exams. I also hope you have a relaxing, restful and, above all else, safe and healthy winter recess.

As always, 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](#).