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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[12/17/2021]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

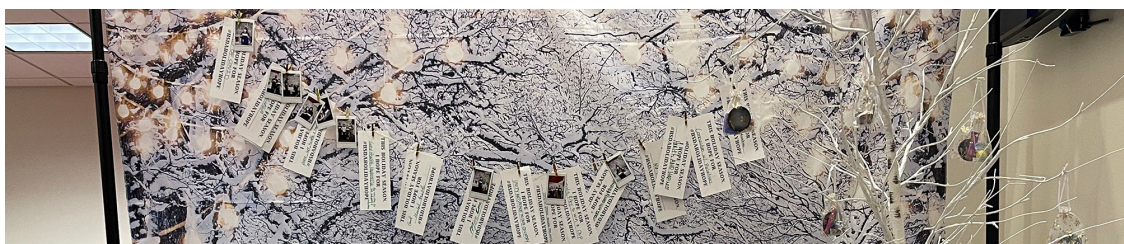
Congratulations to our students, who completed their final exams last week! As is the case at the end of every trimester, there's an almost Herculean effort to get all final examinations graded and trimester grades submitted to the university. You can imagine it's not an easy process. I would like to acknowledge the **Office of Academic**

Affairs as well as **Mr. Ben Creighton, Dr. Anna Chen, Ms. Jessica Ostroff, Ms. Ruth Perez** and **Ms. Cathy Tomlin** for going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure a smooth transition during the final exam week and timely submission of grades across all disciplines. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

This past weekend, we held our third annual Friends of Dentistry celebration event, where we honored our new and upgraded members (from both 2020 and 2021), thanked our outgoing executive board members (**Dr. Mark Collons** and **Dr. Frank Enriquez**) for their longtime contributions, reflected on the past two years and looked ahead to 2022. Just in case you don't know, the Friends of Dentistry is Ostrow's premier philanthropic support group dedicated to advancing the dental profession. It was such a pleasure to be able to hold this event in person this year. I would like to thank all the Friends of Dentistry members who made it out and the **Office of Alumni Relations and Events** — **Ms. Danielle Barr** and **Mrs. Christie D.C. Van Paepeghem** — for their efforts in making this event happen. I'd also like to thank the student ambassadors who lent a helping hand at the event — **Ms. Aida Dadashzadeh, Ms. Donna Davami, Ms. Margella Elad** and **Mr. Daniel Kohanghadosh**. Everyone's efforts made this such an enchanting evening.

Earlier this fall, our pediatric dentistry residents put together a really great, engaging video for prospective residents, showcasing "A Week in the Life of a USC Pediatric Resident." I really enjoyed watching it and thought it was a great way to get would-be residents to imagine themselves in our program. The video was created by primarily first-year residents, with **Dr. Christina Shih** at the helm of production. If you get a chance, check out ["A Week in the Life of a USC Pediatric Resident"](#) on YouTube.

(continued below)





HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

You might have seen the festive holiday table located in the East Lobby. I haven't walked past it without seeing the boxes — part of a toy drive led by the **Hispanic Student Dental Association (HSDA)** — with toys inside for underserved children. It's a testament to our school's commitment to giving back to our communities, and I couldn't be prouder. The table was put together by the **Office of Student Life & Well-Being** and HSDA. Thank you for bringing a little holiday cheer to Ostrow! Additionally, the **Ostrow Sustainability Group** completed its Nordstrom BeautyCycle campaign, collecting 133 beauty product containers to be recycled. Way to go!

(continued from above)

Our group practice directors recently completed a six-month calibration called “Grand Round in Treatment Planning.” During the calibration, which aims to align didactic and treatment expectations across faculty members, the group practice directors completed 14 modules — led by pre-clinical module directors — covering topics related to the DDS curriculum and patient treatment. At the end of the process, the group practice directors were given the assignment of proposing a detailed treatment plan for a patient, which was then evaluated to ensure consistency with the pre-clinical

curriculum. I'd like to thank all the group practice directors, who participated in this always-important process. I'd especially like to thank the pre-clinical module directors who took time out of their already busy schedules to lead these modules.

Speaking of calibration, **Dr. Jin-Ho Phark** has been busy both optimizing and calibrating the School's Caries Management by Risk Assessment (CAMBRA) protocol. For those of you who don't know, CAMBRA is a powerful preventive tool that allows practitioners to determine a patient's risk of caries looking at a number of factors, including history of or existing caries lesions, oral healthcare habits, frequency of consuming sugary snacks and beverages and the amount of saliva in the mouth. It is taught at Ostrow from the first trimester on as part of our push toward minimally invasive dentistry. Dr. Phark has been working with our Enterprise Applications team to upgrade CAMBRA forms on Axiom to allow our students to provide more personalized management for our patients. Thank you to Dr. Phark for his ongoing efforts as well as **Mr. Ramon Enachescu** and **Ms. Rebecca Jackson** for their work in this optimization and calibration process.

With that, we've come to the end of yet another trimester, another calendar year. I hope you enjoy your time away from the School and get to spend quality time with your loved ones. I also wish all of you the Happiest of Holidays.

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



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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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