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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

1/28/2022



# DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

You might have noticed some familiar faces from the not-so-distant past in our hallways this week, as the remainder of our workforce, who had been working remotely since March 2020, returned to campus in accordance with university direction. While they have been with us all along — working tirelessly from their homes, juggling many other responsibilities simultaneously — we are thrilled to

officially welcome them back to the Norris Dental Science Center.

In the past few weeks, we have continued to see an uptick in General Notification emails coming from **Dr. Joyce Galligan**, informing us of COVID cases that have popped up in many of our learning and working spaces. While I recognize this can be cause for concern, I do want to remind our community once again of the steps we must continue to take to ensure we maintain a safe, healthy learning environment. Please continue to be vigilant about your mask wearing (no cloth masks; only medical grade masks); continue to eat alone or outside, when weather allows; do not come to Ostrow if you have any COVID-19 symptoms; make sure you are wearing the proper PPE in our clinic spaces and continue to maintain proper hand-washing/hand-sanitizing protocols. With omicron's high transmissibility rate, an increase of cases on campus was to be expected, but we do have the power to stem the tide with the proper actions.

This past week, we had the pleasure of welcoming a new Chief Development Officer to staff. **Ms. Michele Cesca** joins us from California State University-Long Beach, where she served as the Vice President of University Relations and Development, leading a team of more than 65 people. Ms. Cesca has deep ties with USC, having earned her executive management degree from USC Marshall School of Business. Beyond that, her self-proclaimed "family business" is development here at USC. Her mother served as Director of Development for the USC School of Pharmacy for 25 years. Her sister is currently the Chief Development Officer at the USC School of Marshall School of Business. Earlier in her own career, Ms. Cesca served as the Director of Development and Major Gifts at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. So her joining our staff is really a return home for this Trojan. I am confident she is going to be a great success in this role. Please join me in welcoming her to the Trojan Dental Family. For any matters related to alumni relations and development, please reach out to [Ms. Cesca](#), moving forward.

Last week, ADEA held its annual Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists (CAAPID) Fair, held virtually of course. This event allows international dentists looking to receive their U.S. DDS degrees the chance to learn more about U.S. dental education institutions. **Mr. Corey Berry** always does a terrific job, putting together presentations for this annual event, and this year was no different. So I'd like to thank Mr. Berry for his continued hard work to ensure we always

get the best ASPID students walking through our halls. This year, international dentistry students were asked to record videos for prospective students. Our ASPID Class of 2023 students **Dr. Karl Meawad** and **Dr. Veronica Rivero Testamarck** did a really terrific job with these videos — not only giving sage advice to would-be ASPID Class of 2025s but also explaining what made them choose USC. I'd like to thank both of them for representing Ostrow so well. You can view their videos here: [Dr. Karl Meawad](#) and [Dr. Veronica Rivero Testamarck](#).

Finally, the latest episode of *Louped In* has recently dropped. In the episode, titled "Pain, Pleasure, and Patient Rights: Exploring Opioids in Dentistry," **Dr. Alon Frydman** and **Dr. George Jaber** discuss the use of opioids in the dental office. The conversation is really quite fascinating, with Dr. Jaber suggesting the need to develop a robust pain management plan that deals with pain pre-surgery, intra-surgery and post-surgery, without risking a patient developing an addiction to opioid medication. For those of you who don't know Dr. Jaber is a board-certified dentist-anesthesiologist and dental surgeon, who is not only an alumnus (he completed his undergraduate studies and his doctor of dental surgery degree at USC) but also a faculty member. He's very knowledgeable in this area and will be leading a continuing education course here at Ostrow on March 5. [You can learn more about that CE course here](#). Dr. Frydman always does an excellent, thoughtful job with these episodes, and this one is no different. [You can find it here](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

With that, I wish you all a nice relaxing weekend.

As always, stay safe, stay healthy and Fight on!

*Avishai*

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Dean

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