

**Subject:** [ptdent-l] Community Message from Dean Avishai Sadan

**Date:** Friday, February 18, 2022 at 10:41:15 AM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** ptdent-l-request@mymailists.usc.edu on behalf of Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

**To:** Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[2/18/2022]



## DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

I think we've all been really heartened to see the number of new COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths coming down in L.A. County throughout the past few weeks. As you know, the State of California has dropped its indoor mask mandate, but there are a few counties — including Los Angeles County — where the requirement remains in place until we reach certain metrics making it safe to unmask. While we're

all itching to return to something resembling pre-pandemic life, please remain vigilant to prevent infection here within the halls and clinics of Norris Dental Science Center.

As you saw from a memo earlier this week, we are incredibly excited to embark upon the largest capital construction project in more than a decade at the Norris Dental Science Center with the renovation of Sim Lab A. This much-needed project, which was initially scheduled for 2021 but delayed due to the pandemic, requires the shutdown of Sim Lab A for a limited period of time. At this point, the renovations are tentatively scheduled to begin on July 5, 2022 and end on October 3, 2022, but we will have finalized dates soon. **Dr. Mahvash Navazesh** and the **Office of Academic Affairs** will reach out to the appropriate stakeholders to ensure the continued delivery of our curriculum. As you know, in 2019, we renovated Sim Lab B, adding new computers, units and manikins — thoroughly modernizing the space. We're excited to do the same for Sim Lab A. I'd like to acknowledge our **Facilities Team** who has so tirelessly maintained our Sim Labs over the years. I'd also like to thank **Ms. Jill Yoshimi** who has been, and continues to be, instrumental in both Sim Lab renovations.

This past Monday, Ostrow faculty, staff and students took part in USC's Interprofessional Education (IPE) Day. The virtual event, which was the largest in nearly a decade, was attended by 1,000 USC students from the healthcare professions: dentistry, medicine (including physician assistants and nurse practitioners), nutrition, occupational therapy (including occupational therapy assistants), pharmacy, physical therapy, social work and speech pathology. The training is meant to celebrate the importance of interprofessional healthcare and to expose students to the concept of other professions working together for the best patient-centered treatment plans — knowledge that will be invaluable as healthcare becomes increasingly collaborative in the 21st century. I would like to thank **Dr. Piedad Suarez** and **Ms. Diane Melrose**, both of whom sat on the IPE Day committee and were instrumental in getting Ostrow to the table. I would also like to acknowledge staff members **Ms. Jessica Ostroff**, **Ms. Ruth Perez** and **Ms. Delmi Sandoval** for coordinating students' schedules as well as all the other logistics that allowed our successful participation in this cross-campus endeavor. Thank you **Dr. Mahvash Navazesh** for your support in this activity as well as the faculty from the Dental Public Health and Community Outreach group, which includes the Department of Geriatrics, Special Needs and Behavioral Sciences, for helping to facilitate this event. Finally, thank you to all who participated. I hope you walked away having learned something to take into the professional world.

*(continued below)*

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## CONVERGENCE OF CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Earlier this month, you might have noticed that our East Lobby had not one but two tables commemorating holidays and observances. Above, the **Student National Dental Association (SNDA)** crafted a table celebrating Black History Month. This year's Black History Month theme is health and wellness. On the table, the SDNA share the achievements of Dr. Robert Tanner Freeman and Dr. Ida Gray Nelson Rollins, the nation's first Black dentist and doctor, respectively. Below, the **Chinese Student Dental Student Association (CSDA)** created a table (which has since been taken down) celebrating the Lunar New Year, ushering in the Year of The Tiger. The table was complete with candy and red envelopes. Thank you to the SNDA and the CSDA for sharing a bit of your heritage with us.





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In a prior Dean's Bi-Weekly Message, we detailed the work that our **Office of Admissions** had done with ADEA's recent Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists (CAAPID) Fair. This event allows international dentists looking to receive their U.S. DDS degrees the chance to learn more about U.S. dental education institutions. I acknowledged **Mr. Corey Berry** for his ongoing work with this annual fair, representing Ostrow and USC so well. Just days after that message published, we found out that Berry had been appointed to the CAAPID Advisory Group for a three-year term. Congratulations Corey on this well-deserved recognition and acknowledgement of your work over the years!

Finally, invitations have been sent out for our annual Friends of Dentistry Scholarship Recognition Dinner, which will take place this year on March 26 at the Fields L.A. Rooftop within the Banc of California Stadium. This event, which brings together scholarship recipients with their generous donors, is always a really enchanting evening, and I look forward to it this year when it returns to an in-person format — the first time since early 2020. Students, you will be notified if you receive a scholarship this year. Those who do will also receive an invitation to the Scholarship Recognition Dinner. Thank you to the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** for your continued work on this highly anticipated event.

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

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

*Avishai*

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

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