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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[3/18/2022]



# DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Earlier this week, we made the announcement that all DDS and ASPID students and advanced specialty residents will no longer be required to work with assistants while performing aerosol generating procedures in the clinic. It's a really encouraging step in our fight against COVID-19 that I am sure is universally welcomed. I want to echo two important points made in the announcement by **Dr. Douglas Solow**. First, while we are

relaxing this protocol, it's still important to maintain vigilance in all other areas. We may be over COVID, but it is not yet over us. So please continue to wear your N95 mask and the appropriate PPE on the clinic floor and a medical grade mask elsewhere in the building. Secondly, even though you are not required to assist or have an assistant, there is certainly value in learning by watching and participating, so if you still want to assist other students or seek out an assistant, you are free to do so.

We recently announced the keynote speaker for Ostrow's satellite Commencement ceremony, set to take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 13 on the Brittingham Intramural Field (behind the John McKay Center). **Dr. Andrew Spielman** is a professor in the department of molecular pathobiology and the former associate dean for academic affairs at New York University College of Dentistry. He's been at NYU since 1989, teaching basic sciences, the integration of clinical with basic sciences and the history of medicine and dentistry. Andrew has a long list of accomplishments, awards, honors and publications. I respect him a lot and think our graduates will walk away having learned something from him. You can learn more about our Commencement keynote speaker by visiting [the news story](#) on our website.

Speaking of Commencement, there was an email that went out recently from **Mrs. Kim Eeles** and the **Office of Student Life** giving information about ordering regalia. Faculty must order regalia by Monday, March 21 to be able to participate in this year's ceremony. [Faculty can order here](#). Students must order by Friday, April 15 or else get regalia directly from the USC Bookstore the week of Commencement. [Students can order here](#).

I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Jian Xu** has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Dentistry with tenure. Jian first joined Ostrow in 2013, coming to us from the University of California, San Francisco, where she served as a research track faculty. She earned her bachelor's of science degree from Peking University in Beijing, China, before pursuing her doctoral degree in pharmacology and cell biophysics at the University of Cincinnati/Cincinnati Children's Hospital. At Ostrow, Jian oversees the [Xu Lab](#), which focuses on protein arginine methylation in periodontal inflammation, craniofacial development and cardiac function. Anyone who knows Jian knows how well-deserved this promotion is, so please join me in congratulating her!

As you may know, next week — Wednesday, March 23, to be exact — we host our first

in-person Research Day since 2019! This day — always a favorite of mine — is one of the university's only events dedicated exclusively to scientific inquiry. I look forward to seeing everyone there and learning about the new and exciting discoveries being made at Ostrow, including at the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy. For those who can't make it in-person that day, you can still see the presentations in a virtual format by [logging on here](#) at 12:30 p.m. You can also view the agenda, *The Explorer* and the research posters at [USCDentistryResearchDay.com](https://USCDentistryResearchDay.com). For everyone else, see you at the Galen Center!

With that, I wish you a relaxing weekend, and a Happy Nowruz to all who observe!

Stay safe, healthy and Fight on!

*Avishai*

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