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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[4/1/2022]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

These past two weeks Ostrow has seen a number of first in-person events in years. That, coupled with the haft-sin table celebrating the Persian New Year featured below, has me feeling cautiously optimistic as I write this that perhaps we are coming out of a very long metaphorical winter into a verdant spring, full of life, health and happiness.

This past weekend, we had our first in-person Friends of Dentistry Scholarship Recognition Dinner since early 2020. It was such a great feeling to once again enjoy an enchanting evening — this year, atop the Banc of California Stadium — during which our scholarship recipients meet their generous donors. The evening kicked off with a boisterous performance by the **Trojan Marching Band** and included great speeches from Friends of Dentistry Chair **Dr. Derick Tagawa** and Friends of Dentistry Scholarship recipient **Mr. Francisco Ramirez**. I would like to sincerely thank our **Friends of Dentistry**, the premier support group behind this event, for the support they continue to provide the school. We couldn't do it without you! I would also like to acknowledge the **Office of External Relations** — in particular **Ms. Christie D.C. Van Paepeghem** and **Ms. Breana Faciane** — and the **Office of Admissions** — in particular **Mr. Corey Berry**, **Dr. Arek Horozyan** and **Ms. Christine Wade** — as well as the student ambassadors volunteering that night for all of their efforts in pulling off such a successful event. I'm already looking forward to next year's dinner!

(continued below)



Nowruz Celebration

The **Persian Dental Student Association** (PDSA) put together a beautiful haft-sin table in our East Lobby to commemorate Nowruz, which took place March 20 this year. The haft-sin table contains items symbolizing aspirations and goals for the New Year, including knowledge, health and beauty, prosperity, etc. Thank you to the PDSA for sharing a bit of your culture with us.

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Last week, we held our first in-person Research Day since 2019 at the Galen Center. It was a terrific event, and, as is always the case, I so thoroughly enjoyed the research findings presented throughout the day. This year, there were 124 research posters in total, with our colleagues at the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy providing 26 posters each. I also enjoyed perusing through the [2022 issue of *The Explorer*](#), the award-winning publication put together by our **Student Research Group** (some of whom are pictured below at a dinner we held afterward to celebrate a job well done).

For dentistry, I would like to thank **Ms. Donna Castillo, Mr. Jaime Gonzalez, Dr. Thach-Vu Ho, Ms. Giselle Mejia, Mr. DeJuan Parrish, Dr. Bridget Samuels, Dr. Parish Sedghizadeh** and of course our Associate Dean of Research **Dr. Yang Chai** — all of whom were instrumental in making this event a success. Also, thank you to USC Chan's **Ms. Tanya Madirossian and Dr. Mary Lawlor and Ms. Jacqueline Cordova and Dr. Lori Michener** from the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy for their contributions. I always look forward to seeing the research from our colleagues in biokinesiology and occupational science! Finally, thank you to all the faculty and staff who participated. Please join me in congratulating all of [this year's winners](#).

(continued below)



Meet the Student Research Group

L-R: Ms. Neha Sharan, Mr. Aaron Huang, Mr. Daniel Kohanghadosh, Ms. Parinaz Esteghamat, Mr. Greg Park, Mr. David Adelpour, Ms. Ooyung Jang, Ms. Jessica Kim, Ms. Sarina Taylor and Mr. Sam Sheridan

(Not pictured: Mr. Luke Aguilar, Ms. Natalie Black, Ms. Stephanie Chai, Ms. Catherine Choi, Ms. Sumi Chung, Ms. Catherine Frusetta, Mr. Ilan Kaboud, Ms. Chenxin Li, Mr. Antranig Mesrobian, Ms. Danielle Min, Ms. Mahboobeh Mirzaei, Ms. Candice Shanhandeh, Ms. Mala Singh and Ms. Iris Yu)

Photo: Ms. Linda Hattemer

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Another in-person event that returned this year after a hiatus was a mobile dental clinic event in Lindsay, Calif. We were supposed to have held this clinic in 2020, but COVID-19 had other plans. During this 8-day clinic, which ended this past weekend, our faculty and students completed more than 2,000 procedures, including comprehensive exams, regular and deep cleanings, sealants, composite fillings, pulpotomies, extractions and root canals. They also provided oral health instructions to their patients, all children (18 and under) of migrant workers, to ensure they knew how to maintain their oral healthcare after our clinic rolled away. I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Sunny Fereshteh** and **Dr. Roseann Mulligan** for their continued leadership over these mobile dental clinics. I would also like to thank **Dr. Gardner Beale**, **Dr. Rebecca Kim**, **Dr. Daniel Romo** and **Dr. Nineli Zadourian** for their work treating patients and supervising students. I'd also like to acknowledge our tireless staff — **Mr. German Hernandez**, **Ms. Epifania Juarez**, **Mr. Edwin Salgado** and **Mr. Anthony Santiago** — who always work so hard to support our patient care providers in this all-too-important work. Finally, thank you to our students who participated in the event. You all always make us so proud!

With that, I wish you all a relaxing weekend!

Stay safe, healthy and Fight on!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

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