
[View this email in your browser](#)

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[4/15/2022]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

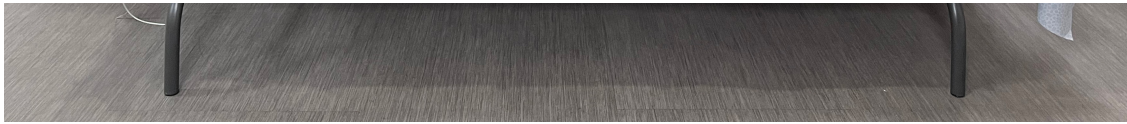
Earlier this week, we received some really exciting news concerning our ranking in National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) funding. Ostrow is now the third most-funded dental institution in the United States. This is the highest we've ever appeared in the rankings — thanks in large part to a boost in funding for C-DOCTOR (Center for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Tissue and Organ Regeneration), an

Ostrow-initiated interdisciplinary effort to bring to market safe and effective clinical strategies for dental, oral and craniofacial tissue regeneration. This ranking is a true testament to the collective effort of our outstanding team of researchers and their support staff, particularly during the pandemic. Please join me in congratulating Associate Dean of Research **Dr. Yang Chai** and his entire team!

We also recently found out that Department Chair of Biomedical Sciences **Dr. Amy Merrill-Brugger** has received a 2022 USC Mentoring Award for Faculty Mentoring Graduate Students. This award is meant to recognize exceptional individuals who go above and beyond what is expected, fostering an engaging, supportive and inclusive academic environment through the mentorship of colleagues and graduate students. It's an even greater distinction when you find out that Amy was selected by a group of colleagues who had already earned mentorship awards themselves, which means they really know what to look for in a superior mentor. Please join me in congratulating Amy on this well-deserved award. Our students are lucky to have you!

(continued below)





Ramadan Kareem

The Ostrow Muslim Student Association President **Mr. Abdulrahman Alkhatib** helped put together a Ramadan-themed table in the East Lobby to celebrate the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The table contains crescent-moon shaped decorations, which denote the beginning and end of the Islamic month, as well as a countdown to the holiday Eid Al-Fitr, which signifies the end of Ramadan. Ramadan is the holiest month in Islam, where Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset for around 30 days to practice self-restraint and show compassion and empathy for people who don't have food and water around the world. Thank you Abdul and the **Ostrow Muslim Student Association** for sharing a piece of your culture with us.

(continued from above)

I recently had the honor of attending this year's Asian Pacific Alumni Association Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala. Every year, the APAA pays tribute to distinguished members of the Asian Pacific Islander Trojan Family, and it was so exciting to see some of them this year were from Ostrow's alumni community. First, Friends of Dentistry members **Dr. Darren Chu** and **Mrs. Sandy Chu** were honored with the 2022 Service Award for their longtime involvement with university endeavors. Congratulations, Darren and Sandy! On top of that, Friends of Dentistry members **Dr. Kent Ochiai** and **Dr. Ruth Kawakami** accepted an honorary degree awarded to their family's patriarch, Tadashi "Tad" Kawakami, whose education was cut short here at USC. He was a member of the Nisei generation, first-generation Japanese citizens who were sent to detention camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was really moving to see a historic wrong corrected and justice served.

And lastly, the latest episode of Louped In, the official podcast of the **Office of Continuing Education**, has dropped. In the episode, titled "[The Patient Perspective: Choice Architecture and How Ease, Endorsement and Endowment Influence a Patient's Decision to Accept Treatment](#)," **Dr. Alon Frydman** talks to a former Ostrow dental

assistant and current patient "Cecilia," who underwent an esthetic crown lengthening here at USC, at the skilled hands of third-year periodontics resident **Dr. Shira Scholten**. Alon uses the case to explore the ways in which our patients make informed decisions to proceed with dental treatment. It's another great episode, and I highly suggest listening to it.

With that, I'd like to wish all of you a restful trimester break. Please stay safe wherever your time-off may take you. As a reminder, the clinics will remain open throughout the trimester break.

Stay safe, healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Copyright © 2022, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC
925 W. 34th Street, DEN 201, Los Angeles, CA 90089

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

