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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[6/24/2022]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

June 15 has come and gone. As you know, this was the deadline for our graduating class to complete all of their competencies to finish their DDS studies here at Ostrow. I would like to congratulate all of our graduates who met this deadline and closed this chapter of their lives. Just as it does for our graduates, meeting this deadline requires a massive effort, with all of our faculty and staff putting in long hours to make sure our

students finish on time. This annual effort is all the more difficult with the specter of COVID constantly looming over our daily lives. I would like to thank each and every one of our faculty and staff members for their tireless work to usher our Class of 2022 to the next chapter of their professional journeys.

As one cohort exits, another joins us. Last week, we welcomed our advanced specialty residents to the Trojan Dental Family. The group of residents is 63 percent female and 37 percent male and ranges in age from 22 to 49 years old. As part of their orientation, they received training in information technology tools, infection control, campus safety, research tools, treating the LGBTQ+ community and sexual harassment and violence prevention. I'd like to thank **Dr. Anita Tourah** and **Mr. Corey Berry** for their efforts in orienting this group as well as **Dr. Kim Austin** for putting together the LGBTQ+ panel as part of her role as assistant dean for diversity, inclusion and access.

On June 11, we held our Celebrating the Legacy of USC Dental Hygiene event to commemorate USC's dental hygiene program. It was a really great event, with nearly 300 members of our dental hygiene community showing up to celebrate this excellent program. The event was by no means a farewell; we are committed to both the profession as well as this valued portion of our Trojan Dental Family and will continue to find ways to support them. I would like to thank all who attended. I'd also like to acknowledge the work that went into planning this event — in particular the planning committee helmed by **Ms. Diane Melrose** as well as the work of the **Office of External Relations and Student Life**, especially **Ms. Michele Cesca** and **Ms. Christie D.C. Van Paepegghem**.

Finally, we were recently informed that one of our PhD students, **Ms. Audrey Nickle**, was awarded a three-year NIH NIDCR F31 Predoctoral Fellowship for her research on bent bone dysplasia syndrome. Under the guidance of her mentor **Dr. Amy Merrill-Brugger**, Audrey aims to increase scientific understanding of craniosynostosis using the first rodent model for bent bone dysplasia syndrome, which was developed in Amy's lab. It's just the latest feather in the cap of our outstanding research team, who as you might remember, is the third most well-funded dental education institute by the NIDCR, the highest we've ever appeared on the funding list. Congratulations, Audrey, for earning this award!

With that, I wish you a relaxing weekend.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

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