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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[7/15/2022]



### DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

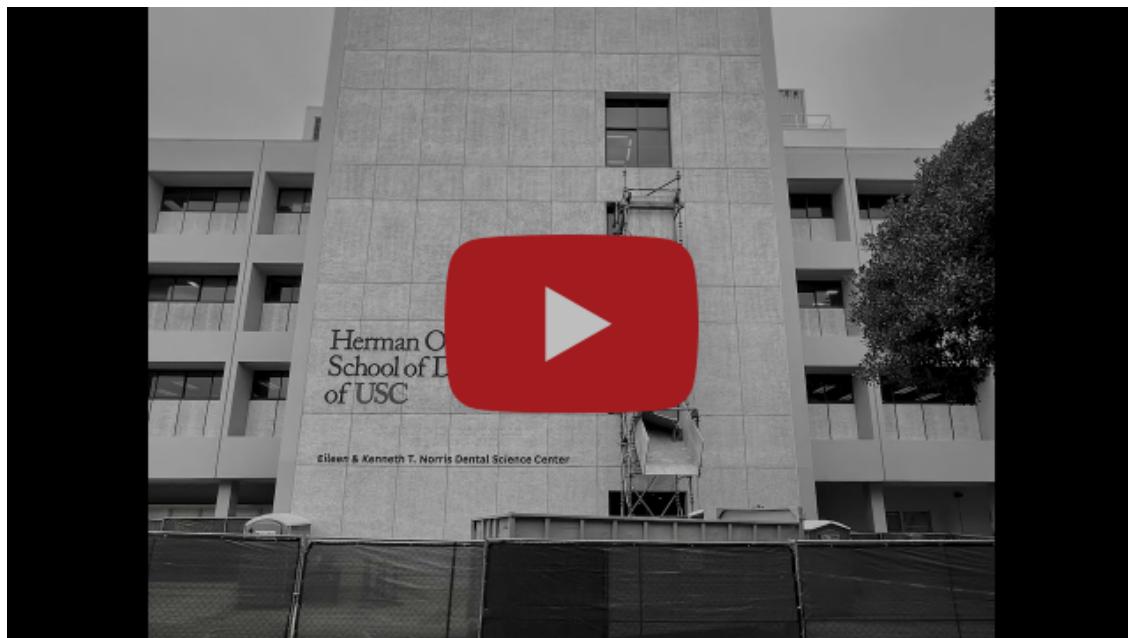
Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Last week, we began our largest capital construction project in nearly two decades, with the long-anticipated start to an extensive upgrade of Sim Lab A. Following in the footsteps of our [Sim Lab B update](#), which was completed in early 2020, Sim Lab A renovations will entail the replacement of all 150 benches with sleek, modern workspaces, offering more countertop space than ever before; the installation of all

new computers, mobile units and manikin heads as well as 5 x-ray machines. Check out the video below for a photo slideshow of the project's beginnings. This massive construction project comes on the heels of other major upgrades to the Norris Dental Science Center over the years, including the total transformation of three auditoriums (Century Club, Guggenheim and Blair), the replacement of all dental chairs throughout the DDS clinics and renovations to both the East and West Lobbies. In regards to the Sim Lab A renovation, I would first like to thank our faculty and staff who were flexible enough in adjusting their schedules to allow us the time to complete this task. A special thanks goes out to **Dr. Anna Chen**, **Ms. Jessica Ostroff** and **Ms. Ruth Perez** who, under the leadership of **Dr. Mahvash Navazesh**, provided exceptional services for curriculum management and uninterrupted learning experiences throughout construction. I would also like to acknowledge **Ms. Marshell Miller-Barber**, **Mr. Dan Cheock** and **Mr. DeJuan Parrish** for their contributions to this project and, of course, **Ms. Jill Yoshimi**, whose steady leadership has overseen so many of the capital constructions I've mentioned over the years. I can't wait to see the new space!

*(continued below)*

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The long-awaited upgrade to Sim Lab A began last week. Click here to see some images of the demolition efforts making room for a modernized learning environment.

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*(continued from above)*

We recently found out that Ostrow's Community Oral Health Programs has received a generous grant from the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation to assist them throughout 2022 in their efforts in providing quality, affordable oral healthcare to underrepresented populations, particularly unhoused senior citizens. This grant gives us the opportunity to extend outreach to seniors in desperate need of dental treatment as well as acquire an additional x-ray unit for our operations at Union Rescue Mission, helping us increase our efficiency of treatment planning and care delivery. A hearty congratulations to **Ms. Michele Cesca**, **Dr. Mehdi Mohammadi**, **Ms. Meyerer Miller-Perez** and, of course, **Dr. Roseann Mulligan**, for their efforts in securing this funding for our patients.

With that, I wish you a relaxing weekend.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

*Avishai*

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