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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of **USC**

[9/23/2022]



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

This past weekend, we held our annual White Coat Ceremony, honoring the **ASPID Class of 2024** and the **DDS Class of 2026** (see group shot below). Though the event occurred later in the year due to scheduling conflicts, it was no less magical, with students and their loved ones beaming with pride as they took their first official steps toward becoming dental professionals, putting on their white coats and taking the solemn oath to uphold the longstanding legacy of professionalism, ethics and

compassion befitting a Trojan dentist. The event is helmed by the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** with assistance from the **Office of Admissions**. They do a terrific job every year, and this year was no different. Thank you to **Ms. Kim Eeles**, who spearheaded the effort with assistance from both offices as well as our **Student Ambassadors**.

(continued below)



Meet the ASPID Class of 2024 and the DDS Class of 2026 (Photo: Glenn Marzano) See [more photos](#) from the event.

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We recently received some very exciting news regarding our hybrid master's program in orofacial pain and oral medicine. The program, which had already been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and had undergone a successful review by USC's University Committee on Academic Review, has now been accredited

by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, a venerable, centuries-old institution. As you may know, ADA's Commission of Dental Accreditation does not currently have standards for accrediting online programs, so this accreditation from the Royal College of Surgeons gives our master's degree program in orofacial pain yet another stamp of approval from an institution that is well-respected across the globe. Kudos to **Dr. Glenn Clark** and the entire **Distance Education Team** for this recognition.

As you might have seen in a recent email, Ostrow will be welcoming a new director of predoctoral oral and maxillofacial surgery on October 1. **Dr. Daniel Miller** will be joining Ostrow's faculty, coming to us from Boston University. It's a bit of a homecoming for Dr. Miller who, before moving to the Boston area, owned and operated a private practice here in Huntington Beach for nearly 25 years. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to one of Ostrow's newest faculty members. We can't wait to see what he does in his new position.

Speaking of new faculty members, we've had two new researchers join Ostrow's Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology. In February, **Dr. Dechen Lin** joined us as an assistant professor tenure-track. His research background is in cancer genomics and epigenomics in upper aerodigestive squamous cancer. In June, we welcomed **Dr. Zhaoyang Liu** as an assistant professor tenure-track. Her research background is in the study of genes, pathways and the cellular and molecular mechanisms responsible for joint development and osteoarthritis pathogenesis. Both obviously bring unique backgrounds to our stellar research team, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish here at Ostrow.

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CELEBRATING CHUSEOK

You might have noticed the (now taken-down) table in the East Lobby decorated for Chuseok, which is also known as Korean Thanksgiving Day. Chuseok is celebrated on the brightest full moon of the year, which takes place on the 15th day of the eighth month on the lunar calendar, typically landing some time in September or early October on the solar calendar. Thank you to **Ms. Jee Hyung Lee**, **Ms. Jessica Kim** and the entire **Korean Dental Student Association** for sharing a bit of their culture with us.

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Today, the USC Mobile Dental Clinic wraps up its final day of providing free comprehensive dental treatment to as many as 100 homeless and at-risk veterans outside the Wilshire Federal Building in Westwood. For the past week and a half, Ostrow students and faculty members have completed comprehensive exams,

radiographs, restorations, root canals and extractions. As part of an ongoing partnership with Village for Vets, a nonprofit dedicated to filling healthcare gaps for veterans, we were able to conduct recall exams and cleanings for patients seen at previous veterans' mobile clinics. It's such an honor to see Ostrow making such lasting impacts in the community — and particularly for some of our nation's bravest. I'd like to thank faculty members **Dr. Gardner Beale, Ms. Liz Brummel, Dr. Rebecca Kim, Mr. Justin Urbano, Dr. Daniel Romo and Dr. Nineli Zadourian**; endodontics residents **Dr. Mattison Donaldson and Dr. Ariana Malek**; and, of course, the students who participated for their collective efforts. I'd also like to acknowledge the staff members who truly make these events happen: **Ms. Epifania Juarez, Mr. Juan Landeros, Mr. Edwin Salgado and Mr. Anthony Santiago**. And of course, last but not least, thank you to **Dr. Roseann Mulligan and Dr. Sunny Fereshteh** for your steady leadership. Each and every one of you makes us so proud.

Last, but definitely not least, I am very happy to report that we are right on schedule to complete our Sim Lab renovations by early October. We will be holding a Sim Lab Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, with doors to the Sim Lab opening at 8:30 a.m., followed by a presentation at 9 a.m. and breakfast at 9:30 a.m. I hope to see you there as we unveil our largest construction project in nearly two decades. If you have any questions concerning the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, reach out to the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** at ostrow.alumni@usc.edu.

With that, I wish you a nice, relaxing weekend.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

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