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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

11/11/2022



### DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

On Halloween, our **Community Oral Health Programs** made their annual trek to the mayor's Getty House residence, handing out goodie bags (filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste and oral health information) to 350 trick-or-treaters. I would like to thank **Carmen Molina-Diaz** and **Jessie Creecy** for putting together the goodie bags and dental students **Luke Aguilar**, **Martha Vélez Hernández** and **Olenka Portugal** under the

leadership of **Carlos Sanchez** for representing Ostrow so well and teaching children the importance of taking care of their teeth.

Ostrow's **Community Oral Health Programs** also took part in a USC Student-Run Clinic at East L.A. Rising Youth Club on Oct. 29. They were part of an interdisciplinary team (including pharmacy students, medical students and physician assistant students) that provided a number of free services to the community. Some of these services included dental screenings, free flu shots, glucose levels checks, diabetic foot screenings, chronic vision disease management and nutritional information. Thank you to all the students, faculty and staff who participated. I'd also like to acknowledge **Jessie Creecy, Epifania Juarez** and **Carmen Molina-Diaz** for their behind-the-scenes efforts to make the event so successful!

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## OSTROW RECOGNIZED BY CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC

At the recent Children's Dental Health Clinic 90th Anniversary Gala, Ostrow was recognized for our longstanding partnership and collective impact that our school and pediatric dentistry residents have had on the Children's Dental Health Clinic of Long Beach. While the award is meant to recognize our school, I would specifically like to congratulate **Alexander Alcaraz** whose steadfast leadership makes this community partnership work so incredibly well. Additionally, at the event, faculty member **Jonathan Lo** was recognized with a leadership award for his service as a faculty member and board member of the Children's Dental Health Clinic. Way to represent Ostrow!

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With the return of conferences and symposia across the nation, Ostrow hasn't missed a beat, continuing to impress. At the 27th annual Hinman Student Research Symposium in Nashville, **Greg Park**, represented Ostrow after earning a travel award. His research poster, which detailed how intron retention triggers degradation of extracellular matrix genes and leads to skeletal defects — such as cleft palate and retrognathia — during craniofacial development, earned an award for excellence in student research.

And at the Gordon Research Conference on Craniofacial Morphogenesis and Tissue Regeneration, postdoctoral scholar-research associate **Eva Janeckova** won a best research poster award for her study highlighting the role of *Wnt* signaling in

palatogenesis through controlling ciliary homeostasis, which could lead to the development of improved, biologically informed soft palatal muscle restoration strategies. Please join me in congratulating both!

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## HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST



Last week, Ostrow's **Talent Acquisition team** held a Halloween costume contest, recognizing costume in three different categories. **George Rosado** won for most creative, dressing as a "cereal killer." **Christie D.C. Van Paepeghem** won for scariest, dressing as the Joker. And **Yanet Grant** won for funniest, dressing as a baby chick. Thank you to all who participated. It was fun seeing so many great costumes. And thank you to our Talent Acquisition team for putting this together for us and bringing

some Halloween spirit to the halls of Norris Dental Science Center.

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Earlier this week, Ostrow students took part in the Great American Smokeout, where they conducted oral cancer screenings, handed out toothbrushes and dental floss, and gave information to Trojans on how to become a patient at our dental school or faculty practice. The effort was truly interdisciplinary, with individuals from several schools and organizations across campus taking part. Thank you to all who participated, including **Diane Melrose** and **Justin Urbano**, who led dentistry's efforts. They will be hosting a virtual resource fair next week on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. [You can register for that event here.](#)

You might have noticed the table in the East Lobby with bins for non-perishable food items. Ostrow's **Student National Dental Association** is collecting canned and boxed goods as part of a food drive, with all items going to the Midnight Mission, which helps the unhoused population get back on their feet. The food drive lasts until Tuesday, November 22, so there's still time to make your donation, if you are interested.

With that, I wish you a nice, relaxing weekend. And to those in our community who have honorably served, I wish you a Happy Veterans' Day. Thank you for your service and patriotism!

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

*Avishai*

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry



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