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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[12/2/2022]



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Last week, I was honored to be invited to CCMB's Thanksgiving Luncheon with some of our research faculty and staff. I hope everyone in our community had a terrific Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you, **Yang Chai**, for the invitation to CCMB's festivities.

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Speaking of CCMB, Ostrow researcher **Dechen Lin** had a study published this week in the journal *Science Translational Medicine* in which he and some colleagues from Johns Hopkins University created a new study model using organoids (3-D miniature organs developed in a lab) to better understand the development of gastroesophageal cancer. The study has potential to make a real impact for the more than one million people who die from gastroesophageal cancer every year around the globe. I'd like to congratulate Dechen on this publication. I know it's one of many more to come for one of our newer research faculty members. You can [read more about it here](#).

Yesterday, **Yaara Berdan** represented Ostrow during ADEA's Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists Virtual Fair. The free, online fair was attended by nearly 1,000 internationally educated dentists from around the globe. As part of the event, Yaara put together a panel, which included colleagues from New

England and Nebraska, that was meant to help these prospective students navigate the admissions process. In addition to getting an overview of Ostrow's interview process, attendees were given tips on what to include in letters of recommendation and how to make themselves stand out as applicants. Thank you, Yaara, for showcasing Ostrow.

We recently found out that **Ellie Fridman** was selected as the grand prize winner of ADA's 2022 Student Ethics Video Contest. In her winning video, titled "Lose Yourself": Dental Ethics Parody," Ellie extolls the virtues of patient autonomy, veracity, non-maleficence and justice — all done to the tune of Eminem's "Lose Yourself." It's a fun video that really showcases Ellie's talent for songwriting. You can [check out the video for yourself here](#). Please join me in congratulating Ellie on this honor!

Finally, I just had the opportunity to review the next issue of *TroDent*. I'm excited to have Ostrow's official publication back after three years of hiatus. The cover story celebrates our volunteer faculty members, who selflessly come to Ostrow to impart real-world wisdom into our bright, talented students. The *TroDent* is every bit as good as I remember. I hope you enjoy the issue, coming to inboxes and mailboxes soon.

With that, I would like to wish you all a nice relaxing weekend and to our students the best of luck on your finals next week.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

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