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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[9/1/2023]



### DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community,

Earlier this week, we were thrilled to see the Wilson Dental Library re-open after a year and a half. You might remember that we had some pipes burst in early 2022, forcing us to close the physical space and make certain resources available online. In addition to repairing the pipes, we took the opportunity to modernize the front half of the library, adding a new front desk; sleek, modern

individual study carrels with privacy barriers and lots of plug-ins as well as a small lounge area. The back half of the library still has two group study rooms and multiple seats for individual study. I'd like to thank Head Librarian **Hannah Schilperoort** and her team, **Olivia Carreon**, **Sylvia Leoner**, **Matthew Codey** and **Jennifer Silverman**, for providing remote services during the closure and overseeing the efforts to make the library look better than ever! I'd also like to thank **Jill Yoshimi** and **Marshell Miller-Barber** for their contributions. If you did not get a chance to see the space earlier this week at the Open House, drop in and check it out the next time you're on the building's lower level.

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## WELCOME TO THE TROJAN DENTAL FAMILY

Last week, our **DDS Class of 2027** officially began their dental school journey with Orientation Week, where they attended various trainings, received their

scrubs and instrument kits and were brought up to speed about life at Ostrow. Thank you to the **Office of Admissions**, especially **Arek Horozyan** and **Christy Wade**, as well as the **Office of Academic Affairs'** **Jessica Ostroff** for pulling off such a successful week. On Saturday, the class got to know each other better at a Tailgate Party before the Trojans vs. Spartans game. Then, on Sunday, the cohort was joined by their **ASPID Class of 2025** counterparts for Ostrow's White Coat Ceremony, where each put on their white coats for the first time and took a solemn oath to conduct themselves with the professionalism, ethics and commitment to excellence befitting a Trojan dental professional. Thank you to our speakers ASB President **Deena Fatehi DDS '24**, Chief Health Officer **Joyce Galligan** and Friends of Dentistry Chair **Brian Hong** for taking time out of your weekends to share your knowledge and experience with our incoming students. I'd also like to thank the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** and the **Office of Admissions** for your work in putting together such a spectacular event.

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We recently received exciting news that the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research has provided a five-year grant to Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences **Amy Merrill-Brugger** to continue research on the mechanisms behind the function and dysfunction of fontanelle development in a baby's developing skull. Amy first received NIDCR funding back in 2015 to begin this research project; this second NIDCR grant is proof positive that she and her team are conducting some excellent research that could one day lead to the development of therapeutics to treat these congenital disorders. Join me in congratulating Amy on this noteworthy accomplishment! You [can read more about it here](#).

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## CELEBRATING PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

This past weekend, we held a get-together to support the mission and vision of the advanced pediatric dentistry program under the leadership of **Alexander Alcaraz**. I'd like to offer a special thanks to **Fariborz** and **Rita Rodef** who hosted the event and to **Dimitri Bizoumis** for his support. I'd also like to thank **Brian Hong** for his dedication and contribution to our premiere alumni support group, the **Friends of Dentistry**. (Pictured L-R: Brian Hong, Avishai Sadan, Margaux Gibson, Dimitri Bizoumis, Alexander Alcaraz, Rita Rodef, Fariborz Rodef and Michele Cesca)

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With that, I wish you a relaxing Labor Day Weekend!

Fight On!

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

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