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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[7/12/2024]



# COMMUNITY MESSAGE

FROM THE DESK OF INTERIM DEAN YANG CHAI

Dear Trojan Dental Community:

It is truly a privilege and honor to serve as your Interim Dean of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. For more than 127 years, our school has been highly regarded as a leader in oral health education, clinical dentistry, innovative research, health care services, outreach to underserved communities, and much more. Our faculty, students, staff and graduates

continue to make us proud by advancing the frontiers of oral health care.

I have already had the pleasure of getting to know many of you, but for those I haven't yet had the chance to meet, I hope I will have the opportunity soon.

Since I arrived in Los Angeles with my wife as students many years ago, I have seen Ostrow from many perspectives: as a student of the International Student Program (predecessor to ASPID) and PhD trainee, as a faculty member, as the Associate Dean of Research, and as the proud parent of two USC students. Each of these experiences has deepened my appreciation of the unique contributions of everyone in our wonderful Ostrow community.

I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you to continue our efforts in building academic excellence at Ostrow, with the shared goal of recruiting talented, motivated, diverse students and helping them to grow into future leaders in oral health care. To provide our students with the best possible education and ultimately benefit the patients who need our care the most, we will develop innovative pre-clinical and clinical programs for our students and trainees. We will expand our fundamental, translational and clinical research programs while strengthening the impact of our community outreach programs, growing our alumni network to expand the impact of our school, and much more.

We are living in such an exciting time in history. What just a few years ago seemed impossible is now routine thanks to incredible technological and scientific advancements like genome sequencing, CRISPR/Cas9 genomic editing, 3D printing, and more. These advancements set the foundation for precision health and advances in oral health care. Furthermore, we now understand better than ever how oral health is a crucial aspect of our overall welfare, with important implications for how we diagnose and treat systemic disease. The future of the field is ours to build. Together, we will lead dentistry to realize this incredible potential to improve lives.

Finally, I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for all the wonderful work you all did under the leadership of Dean Avishai Sadan. Under Avishai's tenure, we were able to build upon the solid bedrock of excellence to foster an unmatched academic environment. Working together, we will set high standards and reach even more ambitious goals. I am incredibly optimistic about the school's future and can't wait to see what we will accomplish

together.

Fight on!

Yang Chai, DDS, PhD  
Interim Dean

Associate Dean of Research  
George and MaryLou Boone Chair in Craniofacial Molecular Biology  
Director, Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology  
University Professor of Dentistry, Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative  
Medicine, and Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery



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**Our mailing address is:**

925 W. 34th Street DEN 202  
Los Angeles, CA 90089

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