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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[9/26/2025]



# DEAN'S MESSAGE

FROM THE DESK OF DEAN YANG CHAI

Dear Trojan Dental Community,

We recently received some terrific news that our very own **Parish Sedghizadeh** has been awarded the 2025 Evidence-Based Dentistry Award in the Accomplished Faculty category. Bestowed by the American Dental Association, this award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to implement and

advance evidence-based dentistry in research, practice and the classroom. We're so proud of Parish for earning this award. As someone who has distinguished himself as a leader who has made and will continue to make significant contributions to the development and implementation of evidence-based dentistry at USC, Parish is very deserving of this honor. He will officially be recognized at the ADA Smile Con, taking place at the end of October in Washington, D.C. Please join me in congratulating Parish on this prestigious honor!

Last week, we held a joint **Board of Councilors-Friends of Dentistry-Century Club Alumni Association** board meeting on September 18. A recent advent, these joint meetings are meant to foster communication and collaboration among USC Dentistry's support groups. In addition to taking care of regular business, our support groups were treated to a tour of the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology and presentations from some of our leading researchers. It was such an enjoyable event, seeing the excitement and energy in the room as we looked ahead to Ostrow's future. Thank you to all alumni leadership from the Board of Councilors, Friends of Dentistry and Century Club Alumni Association, who attended the event. I would also like to thank the **Office of Development** for their work in pulling the joint meeting together as well as the many **researchers (faculty members, doctoral students, postdocs, etc.)** and the **CCMB support staff members** for taking the time to showcase Ostrow's research to our school's alumni leaders. They were all so impressed with the enthusiasm, professionalism and overall brilliance showcased in our research labs.

A couple of weeks ago, our **Office of Student Life and Well-Being** held the annual Student Palooza Ostrow Resource and Club Fair. The event is meant to introduce students (particularly our new students) to the many clubs Ostrow has to offer as well as USC resources (USC Department of Public Safety, USC Student Health, etc.). In addition to finding ways to connect with their classmates and enhance their education, students could get a flu shot from USC Student Health as well as shaved ice, pressed juices and special giveaways from FIGS. Thank you to all the club members and student ambassadors who took part in holding this event. And thank you to the Office of Student Life and Well-Being for your efforts!

On the alumni side, the **Century Club Alumni Association** (in coordination with the **Office of Development**) held a young alumni reception for the alumni classes graduating between 2015 and 2024 in the San Gabriel Valley area. I had the opportunity to share with the group my vision for the school's future before they held a panel discussion with Ostrow alumni, including **Bethany Ku**, **Craig Cheng** and **Cory Nasoff**. The event took place at the private practice of **Scott Adishian** and **Lee Adishian**. It was such a nice evening. I'd like to thank the Century Club Alumni Association for hosting this event and the Adishians for their hospitality. I'd also like to thank the alumni panelists, having only recently started their own oral healthcare careers themselves, for taking the time to give some professional advice to our young alumni. Finally, thank you to the Office of Development for your efforts in bringing this event to our young alumni.

Finally, we were very excited to see that Ostrow's own **Mehdi Mohammadi** and the **URM Team** were in the news again. This time, it was Spectrum News that did a story on the work that our students, faculty and staff do to turn lives around on Skid Row. It was only in the last Dean's Message that we were celebrating the URM Dental Clinic's [cover story](#) in the magazine, *Lighting the Way* — and a couple messages back, we spotlighted their press coverage in the [Just Help 1 podcast](#). We continue to be so proud of our oral healthcare team on Skid Row and are excited that they are getting the kudos they deserve. If you'd like to see the most recent news story, visit the [Spectrum News website](#).

With that, I wish you a relaxing weekend.

Stay safe, and fight on!

Yang Chai, DDS, PhD  
Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery Professor of Dentistry  
University Professor of Dentistry, Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, and  
Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery



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