

June 6, 2020

Update #6

Dear Students and Volunteers,

It has been over a month since our last update. So much has happened over that time. We have been witnessing the ups and downs of Covid-19 and how it is affecting many different types of people in the United States. We have received some more direction on how we are going to try to reopen our free clinics. The following are some of the steps that we need to take:

1. Many procedures and protocols will need to be set in place and our professional staff and students will need to be trained in these methods. Some will take place by zoom meetings and some will take place in person. The in-person training sessions will be done without patients, but each participant will have to wear face masks, gloves and gowns. Only a limited number of people will be able to participate at one time. Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi will be in charge of these training sessions.
2. Our clinics will need to be inspected to evaluate how we can make them safer when treating patients. Also, our equipment and evacuation systems will need to be evaluated. The use of certain equipment such as cavitron units, will need to be discontinued.
3. We need to obtain enough personal protection equipment (PPE) and supplies in order to protect our staff and patients. This will be very difficult currently, because of the expense and the shortages.
4. We will need to screen both patients and volunteers when they come in to the clinic. This will be true when we are doing our training session so that we do not see people that may have Covid-19. Volunteers who are sick should not come in to the clinic.
5. We will continually have to monitor the new updates that come out weekly from the various health agencies

We have many volunteers that have to be trained. The acquisition of necessary protection gear will take us a few months. This will delay the re-opening of our clinics. However, we will be bringing back our general body meetings via zoom on our summer schedule of every other week. Attendance will be recorded so that you will get credit for being in on the zoom meeting. Our next meeting will occur this Thursday at 6 pm and we will go over upcoming events and updates. Afterwards, Dr. Donna Silverstein will give a presentation on "Research—Why Do it and How" which will be followed by Kenny Jones who will present the research he just finished for his masters thesis entitled, "The fundamentals of tooth staining". This should be an interesting meeting, so please try to make it. Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi will be sending out the zoom link to join. A summer schedule will soon be issued. Keep looking for training session that might apply to you either by zoom or in person.

CPR is needed to volunteer in our clinics. There are people have not updated their CPR, and there are new members who don't have CPR certification. We have been very lucky to obtain a few sessions of in-person CPR training on June 11 and June 15th. Spots are very limited. The sessions will be 2 hours in length and the cost is \$40. Please contact Dan Brohard at danielbrohard@gmail.com right away if you are interested. Also, if these dates are not good for you, we may be able to set up a couple more, but we are not sure. Please let Dan know.

I have seen cases of injustices that have happened over the years in our country. My family came to this country as refugees because of the racism and horrible crimes that occurred in Europe during World War II. They were lucky to survive. I was brought up to respect people of different ethnic backgrounds, religions and beliefs. It pains me to see how people are still hurt in this country because of racism and discrimination. When I began working with the UCSD Free Clinics, and the Pre-Dental Society, I saw a good avenue of working with people from various backgrounds to help people in need. I have also learned about how many people have been affected by discrimination and racism. I know many of you have been suffering and questioning how these problems can be corrected. When I was younger, I joined several organizations and thought that we were making progress. I now question what needs to be done to bring people together and respect differences. Some of our members have told me that they joined the protests to speak out against the racism that we see. Others told me how fearful they are. I understand because I too have been subjected to racism and discrimination. We must stand together to try to correct this wrong that has been going on for years so that it ends. The images that we see on TV are disturbing, but then there are some great images of people coming together. In the past, we have had some of our general body meetings devoted to discrimination and racism, and I would like to see this again in the future. If anyone needs to talk to me, please let me know.

Please stay safe and be careful. We all need to think about how we can do acts of kindness to help others and just be friends to each other.

Sincerely,
Dr. Irvin Silverstein