

April 12, 2020

Update #4

Dear Students and Volunteers,

It has been over three weeks since our last update. I hope all of you are well and safe and are having a good Easter and Passover week. Remember, it is important to shelter in place and maintain social distance when you are outside. The news keeps changing every day and we are seeing an increase in cases in the United States and California. Most dental offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and only taking emergencies.

We do have some new updates. Dr. Donna Silverstein has secured the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) externship for this year. We are not sure of the week yet, it could take place as early as the end of June, but it could also occur much later. It will be dependent on what happens with the pandemic. This externship will be one week in Detroit, hosted by UDM, in which they pay for food, lodging and transportation within Detroit. The only expense you have is the airfare back and forth to Detroit. This has been described by previous participants as an amazing experience. During the course of the week, participants get to sit in on dental school classes, assist in their clinics, and meet one-on-one with a member of the admissions committee to review their file. This is a great opportunity! People who are interested should contact Dr. Donna Silverstein at dsilverstein@ucsd.edu. Remember, space is limited, so please **apply soon**. Participants need to be chosen, so that we are ready to go when we know the exact dates. Also, UDM wants to know the names of those who are interested, so that they can put them on their list. Selection is based on an application and interview, as well as activity within PDS and the Free Clinics.

The scholarships and awards applications were due at the end of March. We have received 10 applications. We were notified that because of the pandemic, and that many students had to adjust to multiple changes and could not complete the application, **the deadlines have been moved to May 15th**. Please ask for an application from Joyce Jiang (joyce.jiang@ucsdpds.org) so that she can send it to you. Submit the completed application in to Dr. Donna Silverstein as soon as possible. If you already sent it out, please contact Dr. Donna Silverstein to make sure she received it. Also, our awards banquet on May 30th has been put on hold. The awards and scholarships will still be given, but we don't know the date yet.

It has now been determined that our Student-Run Free Dental Clinics will not be having any patient contact until after May 31st. Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi and her team will be moving all of our patients into June. If you know of any emergency situations, please contact Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi so that we can figure out how these patients can be handled. Managers, please work with Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi and make sure that all patients who were scheduled in our clinics are contacted, and move their appointments out until after May 31st.

Dental schools have canceled their graduation ceremonies to comply with social distancing. Students will be graduating, but without a public ceremony. This is also true of most undergraduate and graduate programs throughout the United States. Unfortunately, the DAT tests have been canceled until further notice. This will cause some complications in the application process this June. I have not heard if the application cycle will open up on June 2nd. You may want to continue checking with AADSAS. I have been in discussion with several dental schools to see if they are changing the dates of their first day of school, orientation and white coat ceremonies. They keep telling me they are in discussion and have not determined that yet. If you have been admitted to dental school or a post-bac program, you need to keep in contact with them. Also, for students that are leaving San Diego who are holding some of our dental supplies, posters, pamphlets, and other materials, please contact Dan Nam daniel.nam@ucsdpds.org, Joyce Jiang joyce.jiang@ucsdpds.org, and Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi miss.sussiq@gmail.com so we can make arrangements to get them from you.

At this time of year, we would normally be transferring duties from students who are leaving their positions to the new students who will be taking over. I'd like to have Dan Brohard, Dan Nam, Joyce, Tuyet, Angeli, Aniel, Rebekah, Gianni, and other exec team members get together with Dr. Donna Silverstein and Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi via some form of electronic meeting to do some planning so that we have an organized transition. We may be able to do some very small group training sessions in our clinics in May with Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi. These would occur without any patients present. The procedures for doing this have not been determined yet. Further announcements about this will be coming.

The USNS Comfort is now in New York City and the USNS Mercy is now in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, several crew members on each ship have tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. So far, neither ship has asked for civilian volunteers. We will keep you updated.

I know that these are trying times and many of you are nervous about the uncertain future and understand how you feel. I haven't been able to get together with anybody because I have been in complete isolation at home for the last four and a half weeks. I am very immunosuppressed and in the very high risk category. Please stay strong, safe and well. Social distancing is very important. We will update you with more information as it comes through. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Donna Silverstein (dsilverstein@ucsd.edu) and Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi (miss.sussiq@gmail.com).

Best wishes,
Dr. Irvin Silverstein