October 14, 2002

Burt Feuerstein, MD, PhD, Chair, Graduate Council
Cliff Attkisson, PhD, Dean, Graduate Division
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA 94143

Dear Drs. Feuerstein and Attkisson:

It is the intent of the Graduate Group in Oral Biology to change the name of the program to “Oral and Craniofacial Sciences.”

There are two aspects to this change that should be addressed, first the addition of the term “Craniofacial”, and the second, the change from “Biology” to “Sciences”. “Craniofacial” relates to the areas of research beyond the mouth and in which those in our field now engage. The word “Science” in the modified title broadens the scope of the program and more accurately reflects the state of science as it relates to oral health and disease. Thus, the change from “Biology” to “Sciences” relates to the way in which the scope of our program now includes social and behavioral sciences, epidemiology and biostatistics, bioengineering and materials science.

As is clear from the above, these are important proposed changes that reflect the realities of the program as it currently exists. These adjustments reflect no fundamental changes in the nature of the degree program, nor any need for new resources.

Sincerely,

Grayson W. Marshall, DDS, PhD, MPH, Acting Chair
Oral Biology Graduate Program Steering Committee