Welcome! We are very pleased that you will be joining our Oral and Craniofacial Science (OCS) graduate program. As you know, OCS is an interdisciplinary graduate research program that seeks to educate students with the research tools and approaches to study function related to oral and craniofacial tissue and organ systems in development, physiology, disease, and prevention.

Our **mission** is to develop and train individuals who will be world leaders in oral and craniofacial related scientific discovery and its translation into health benefits for patients and society.

We recognize that significant scientific discovery occurs at the crossroads of different disciplines. Therefore, OCS students acquire a high level of competence in both cell biology and interdisciplinary study of oral and craniofacial tissue and organ systems. This is incorporated with the study of key developmental, physiological, materials science or clinical research questions related to oral and craniofacial sciences. The OCS training program emphasizes the importance of translating scientific discovery to advances in patient treatment and clinical care. The OCS program produces students embrace this challenge and the result is a new generation of inter-disciplinary biomedical scientists who are able to forge collaborations that break down traditional research boundaries.

The following information is meant to help you as you navigate your way through our program:

**Leadership:** The OCS PhD and DDS-PhD programs are co-directed by Pamela DenBesten DDS, MS and Ralph Marcucio PhD. Dr. Pam DenBesten is Professor in the Department of Orofacial Sciences in the School of Dentistry, and Dr. Ralph Marcucio is Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopedics in the School of Medicine.

**Steering Committee:** Program oversight and direction is provided by the OCS Steering Committee, including both faculty (elected from the Graduate Group) and student representatives (PhD and DDS-PhD). Among other things, this committee oversees admissions, curriculum, appointment of Advisors, and faculty membership in the OCS program.

**Graduate Advisors:** Each PhD student will be assigned a Graduate Advisor who will provide guidance and feedback to help ensure the success of each student. In addition, DDS-PhD students will be assigned a Clinical Mentor. When a student identifies a Thesis Advisor, in whose lab then will do their dissertation research, the Thesis Advisor will replace the Graduate advisor.

**Staff:** Mr. Roger Mraz is our Program Administrative Analyst, and as such, he provides administrative support to the OCS graduate program and students. Roger can help direct
students with questions related to program costs and financial support, and manages paperwork necessary for student stipends and tuition offsets, and other administrative and programmatic related questions.

**Graduate Group Faculty:** Faculty members of the OCS graduate group are eligible to mentor students in their PhD program. If student identifies a UCSF faculty member that he/she would like to do a rotation or dissertation research with who is not a member of the OCS graduate group, it is possible that the faculty member can be considered for eligibility by the Steering Committee. If approved, the faculty member will be invited to join the OCS graduate group, allowing them to mentor an OCS student.

**Curriculum:** The OCS curriculum is structured to ensure that all OCS graduates have a common scientific background and expertise, while allowing for diverse student interests ranging from cell and molecular biology to material sciences. The curriculum and course descriptions are attached.

**Annual Reviews:**
Each year (normally Spring Quarter) OCS Students are reviewed by their Graduate and/or Thesis Advisor and Clinical Mentor. These reviews are discussed at a meeting of the OCS Steering Committee and the Advisors’ reports are placed in each respective student file. If a student is experiencing challenges with their academic plan, an action plan is developed by the OCS Steering Committee and shared with the student and Graduate Advisor and/or Thesis Advisor.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, we congratulate you on choosing this challenging and exciting career path and look forward to working with you.

Pam DenBesten and Ralph Marcucio