

2019-2020 UCSF: UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative Fellow Application

**Applicant Name: Jerry Liu**

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Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) Candidate  
Class of 2021  
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## **Application Letter**

To whom it may concern,

I am a second-year dental student writing to express interest to serve as a UCSF CNI fellow. This past year I worked with UCSF's Office of Sustainability to push for improvements within the School of Dentistry to move towards becoming eco-friendlier. So far, we were able to deploy recycling bins in the simulation labs, designed and printed custom signs for the bins, created an educational module to inform 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years on proper waste disposal, and collected data on waste flow. I plan on continuing my project by expanding it to the clinic floor via a soft-plastic disposal pilot project.

Contrary to popular beliefs, thin soft-plastics cannot be combined with other recyclables. It must be separately collected for it to be properly recycled. My project will create a two-month study to gauge effectiveness of soft-plastic waste bins strategically placed in x-ray rooms on the first and second floor of the UCSF Dental Center. The x-ray rooms were chosen because implementation of proper waste diversion within those rooms will have the least amount of impact on work-flow. The volume of diverted soft plastics will be used to estimate cost-savings to the school and provide insight on future expansion of the project. Simultaneously, I will work to educate staff, colleagues, and faculty on how to properly use the soft plastic bins. Thus allowing for greater levels of participation.

In addition, the UCSF Dental Center is in the planning stages of remodeling its clinics. I will use this opportunity to inject suggestions on bringing in energy efficient lighting, and plastic waste bins into each operatory.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Liu