“We are confident we are taking the needed measures to discourage such behavior in our students. We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts.”

– Charles Goodacre, dean of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry

New York University says the news articles are inaccurate and it is not a target of any investigation by ADA or the JCNDE. In a statement to Dental Tribune, Elise Bloom, assistant dean for communications and public affairs at the school’s college of dentistry, called the allegations about NYU “categorically untrue.”

“Dean Bertolami spoke with an ADA official earlier today who confirmed that NYU is not being investigated,” she said on November 14. “There is no truth at all to the allegations, nor do we know who talked to the (Los Angeles Times) reporter. We are working on a strategy to get a retraction.”

USC is not commenting on the allegations beyond saying, “We will cooperate with any ongoing investigation being conducted by the ADA and stand behind the quality of instruction that our students receive as part of their academic experience at the USC School of Dentistry.”

In a press statement, Loma Linda University acknowledges that one graduate of its school of dentistry is alleged to have possibly cheated on the national board exam. But the school says that because it has not been given any specific information or substantiating evidence other than a letter of notification from the JCNDE, it “is not at liberty to discuss the allegations.”

“The university has not received any credible or specific information with regard to this situation, and we are not in a position to comment further,” notes Charles Goodacre, the school’s dean. “However, if and when we are presented with appropriate evidence of cheating, we will investigate thoroughly.”

Goodacre stresses that cheating is not tolerated at Loma Linda. “We are confident we are taking the needed measures to discourage such behavior by our students,” he says. “We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts, and if we are presented with more specific information relative to this one student, we will cooperate with the appropriate parties and investigate the matter thoroughly.”

On November 14, Dr. No-Hee Park, dean of the UCLA School of Dentistry, issued a statement denying that the university’s orthodontics program’s admissions process was biased in favor of legacies or the children of large donors.

“The school of dentistry recently faced allegations of preferential admissions associated with the orthodontics residency program. An independent thorough investigation requested by former acting chancellor Norman Abrams found no credible and convincing evidence to support allegations of a donor legacy program in the orthodontics admissions process,” Park noted.

“The investigation did, however, provide us with an opportunity to review our admissions policies and procedures. Consistent with the recommendations of UCLA’s independent auditor, the faculty executive committee and the faculty of the school of dentistry have taken steps to improve the oversight and clarity of our admissions processes for all 15 of the school’s postdoctoral and residency programs. The revised standards and policies are being utilized in the admissions processes now underway for applicants who will enter the school in the fall of 2008.”

He added that “all of our students have worked hard throughout their academic careers to earn their positions, and these changes should in no way be viewed as a reflection on their qualifications.”

With regard to the JCNDE investigation, Park acknowledged that the school “has been made aware that the ADA has notified some D.D.S. students that it is investigating allegations of testing irregularities. The exam in question is not administered by UCLA and is not a requirement for graduation. Because the students have a right to confidentiality, the ADA has not advised us of the details of the allegations. It is our hope that the ADA investigation provides adequate due process to the students and that the resolution is quick and fair.”