

Rella Christensen, RDH, PhD

Short Biography

Currently Dr. Christensen leads TRAC Research. It is part of the non-profit educational Clinicians Report Foundation, formerly called CRA, which she founded and directed for 27 years. The work of TRAC Research is devoted to oral microbiology and dental restorative concepts. Dr. Christensen's work is characterized by her development of practice-based controlled clinical protocols to study treatments and outcomes as they actually occur in the hands of practicing dentists.

Dr. Christensen received a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Southern California School of Dentistry and practiced dental hygiene for 25 years. She worked as a laboratory technician fabricating cast gold and ceramic restorations. She founded and directed the expanded function dental hygiene program at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry. She earned a PhD in physiology with emphasis on microbiology from Brigham Young University and completed post graduate training at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University under the W.E.C. Moore team, who are noted pioneers in anaerobic microbiology.

Throughout her career Dr. Christensen has taught at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels, authored many research abstracts and reports, and received numerous honors. She considers high points of her life to be her 53 year marriage to Dr. Gordon Christensen; her experiences rearing their 3 children; and all she has learned from working with TRAC colleagues and hundreds of dentists and their staffs as they labored together seeking the best patient treatments.