

Top 25 Women in Dentistry

Dentists, Team Members, Industry, Educators, Dental Labs
Dental Products Report
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As the number of women in the industry continues to grow—in the practice, in the lab, in the schools and in the manufacturing sector—Dental Products Report wanted to develop an award that recognizes them for their many contributions. This year, our second soliciting nominations, the publication received more than 300 outstanding submissions among the five categories: dentists, team members, dental lab, research and education, and industry.

The winners were chosen based on the number of people who nominated them, the quality of those nominations, the ability to demonstrate a clear contribution to the dental community and the diversity their story would bring to the category.

Building on last year's model, the 25 women who are being honored are all incredible individuals who we believe are stepping up to lead this profession in so many different ways. Dental Products Report, as the leading product magazine in the industry, wanted to be a part of recognizing their efforts.

We hope these stories motivate you to recognize the outstanding women you work with each day.

Dentists

Dr. Glenda Payas
Dr. Nancy Norling
Dr. Sheri Doniger
Col. Priscilla H. Hamilton
Dr. Ashifa Nurani

Team Members

Dr. Colleen Brickle, RDH
Sheri Kay, RDH, BS
Bobbi Jo Muto, RDH
Shannon Pace Brinker, CDA, CDD
Pauline Heath, Practice Administrator

Dental Labs

Dena Lanier
Laura Sheppard, CDT
Jane Ji Young Lee
Ann Schmitt, CDT
Barbara Warner Wojdan, CDT, AAACD

Educators

Dr. Joyce Bassett
Dr. Rella Christensen
Dr. Luisa DiPietro
Renata Budny, CDT, MDT
Esther Wilkins, RDH, DMD

Industry

Milly Goldstein, President of Bosworth
Julie Charlestein, President of Premier
Dental Products
Cathy Jameson, Founder of Jameson
Management
Linda Ruggiero-Gehring, VP of Sales for
Schick Technologies
Marguerite Walsh, VP of Product
Merchandising at Henry Schein Dental

Top 25 WOMEN in Dentistry

DENTISTS | TEAM MEMBERS | INDUSTRY | EDUCATORS | DENTAL LABS

2011

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*Profiles by Annemarie Mannion
Additional reporting by Thais Carter*





DR. JOYCE BASSETT

Dr. Joyce Bassett operates a solo practice in Scottsdale, Ariz. and recently was inducted into the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. She feels very gratified when she creates restorations that look beautiful, are functional, and long-lasting.

"I like it when I'm done with a case and then I see it six months or even 25 years later and see how well it has lasted and changed a person's life," Dr. Bassett said.

She also is Accredited in the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, a member of the Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics and a mentor for the KOIS Center.

Dr. Bassett became interested in teaching after taking the initial esthetic continuums courses in the late 1990s. At the time, she felt she would have learned easier and quicker if there had been more women teaching. As a result, she created a teaching facility and dedicated it to Women Teaching Women.

Over the years it has evolved into the aesthetic continuum for the A.J. Stills dental school. Her patients are a mix of the CASS homeless shelter and the AACD Give Back A Smile survivors of domestic violence.

The greatest challenge of her work is managing the day-to-day activities of the office. The most rewarding is the diagnosis and treatment planning of complex cases and finding the most minimally invasive treatment plan possible for her patients.

DR. RELLA CHRISTENSEN

When Dr. Rella Christensen calls herself a "Mama Bear," she is referring to her oversight of a close-knit team at the non-profits she co-founded. But it might also be extended to her wider role in the dental industry of helping ensure the efficacy of dental products and concepts.

She co-founded the CRA Foundation with her husband, Gordon, a dentist, and served as its Director for 27 years and as chairman of its Board of Directors for two years. Today, she is the team leader of Technologies in Restorative and Caries Research (TRAC Research), a non-profit dedicated to in-depth and long-term clinical studies of restorative materials, preventive dentistry and dental caries.

Helping others in dentistry find tools and concepts that really work on the frontlines of treating patients is a passion for Rella.

"It's important that products be clinically useful as well as efficacious," she said. "There are products that are efficacious, but they're not useful in clinical settings because they may be too complicated, take too long

to use, destroy tissue or have other similar issues." An abundance of products makes it difficult for clinicians to wade through what is available.

"Dental clinicians are offered many products and it's very difficult to make choices," she said. "The clinicians have a lot of questions about what works and what doesn't."

Rella received a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Southern California in 1960, and practiced dental hygiene for more than 25 years. She started the bachelor degree expanded function dental hygiene program at the University of Colorado in 1970, and was its first director. She earned a PhD in physiology, with an emphasis on microbiology, from Brigham Young University in 1986, and completed a post-graduate course in anaerobic microbiology at Virginia Polytechnic State University under the leadership of the well respected Moore team.

She wants to see the industry embrace objective scientific reviews of products and concepts, and see professionals take the time to do their own clinical research by tracking performance in patients.

"Two things I think are of utmost importance for clinicians and industry are objective scientific data and clinical testing of products," she said. "I don't think we take adequate time to follow through in these areas before using new products and concepts on patients."



ESTHER WILKINS, RDH, DMD

A pioneer in the field of dentistry, Dr. Esther M. Wilkins has devoted her career to the practice and education of dental medicine. In 1950, she was founding director of the Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Washington, School of Dentistry in Seattle. She developed the curriculum and taught a majority of the courses during the growing stages.

She is currently a Clinical Professor at Tufts in the Department of Periodontology. She also has presented many continuing education courses for dental hygienists in every state in the United States and many countries around the world, and likes interacting with students.

She also is known for having written a widely used textbook "Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist."

The book has been translated into several languages and is used in dental hygiene schools around the world.

"That gives me a special outreach in the efforts that are being made to educate all people, especially children, that a healthy mouth is necessary for a generally healthy body," Esther said. "I am really most proud that I wrote the text book that is used for dental hygiene and I'm working on the 11th edition."

She is an active member of the Tufts Dental Alumni Association, the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Dental Science, the American Association of Dental Education and the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

