

The CRDTS Report

Over 50 Years of Testing Excellence

Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc.

Spring 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sam Jacoby, DDS
President

CRDTS. A WORK IN PROGRESS?

To most who hear the phrase “a work in progress” it means that something is missing, lacking, or incomplete. So, is CRDTS a work in progress? Most definitely it is, but not for those reasons. Our work at CRDTS is just unfinished.

Over the more than fifty years that CRDTS has been involved in licensure testing we have always been deeply involved in test development and data collection. Much time has been spent in cooperation with other organizations and testing agencies using input from us to improve the way dental professionals are evaluated. This quest for improvement has never been about strengthening our agency. It has been about strengthening State Boards of Dentistry by giving them a product they can count on to achieve their mission of protecting the public. Additionally, as we continue to do this, our efforts are always guided by the principals of professionalism, honesty, and accuracy.

Over the past year, I have witnessed the CRDTS Leadership Team, Professional and Central Office Staff and Committees cultivate a renewed enthusiasm to become an even greater “work in progress”. Both Dental and Dental Hygiene Exam Review Committees continue to recommend innovative modifications to our examinations, and adjunctive support for schools and Boards. The Strategic Planning Committee has recently formulated an updated strategic plan. The Bylaws and Governance Committee completed a thorough review and made recommendations for revisions of our Bylaws, Membership Agreement and Committee Charters. The Executive Committee has responded to the needs of CRDTS Professional & Office Staff reorganization appropriately and the Steering Committee has approved expenditure of funds to make everything work. Our Executive Director, Professional and Office Staff have worked tirelessly to monitor and participate in State Board meetings, develop contacts across the country, renew

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relationships with Schools and Boards, streamline the process of supporting our exams with both technology and materials and promote our organization as the most trustworthy, ethical, and professional agent for licensure testing.

What has been the result of all this hard work and motivation? Recently CRDTS has grown to include three new member States. Modifications to our examinations have made them more cost and time effective yet increased the level of fidelity and validity for the simulated patient exams. We have fielded multiple requests for School and State Board presentations and have seen increased interest from students. The establishment of CRDTS independent test sites is a concept that has been implemented, successful and appreciated. The continuing exploration of virtual haptic technology coupled with our recent partnership with SIMtoCARE, the premier developer of this technology, holds immense potential to expand our services.

So, in answer to my original question, YES, CRDTS is a work in progress, but only because our work is unfinished. It never has been and never will be, because our organization thrives on constant improvement of our products based on feedback from examiners and individual Member States. All these recent accomplishments have been achieved while maintaining a positive attitude and a core belief in professionalism, honesty, and integrity. No money has changed hands to open doors and no roadblocks have been placed to close others. The progress we make is made with our values intact. What would the world of dental professions licensure testing be like without CRDTS? It's hard to imagine.

Sam Jacoby, DDS
CRDTS President

CENTRAL REGIONAL DENTAL TESTING SERVICE, INC.



*Sheli Cobler,
Executive Director*

After a year since starting as Executive Director of CRDTS, I am very happy to report that CRDTS continues to make great strides toward the goals we have set. CRDTS has an excellent team that is continually working to overcome challenges and find new ways to grow.

To that end, I am happy to announce that Texas, Utah and Idaho have all joined CRDTS since the last newsletter and we are proud to welcome them. Full Members have a voting seat on the CRDTS Steering Committee, thus each state board that is a Member, has a voice in the development and enhancement of the CRDTS examinations. Collaborating with our Members, CRDTS is able to ensure that the examinations are meeting the needs of the state boards and the candidates who will be taking them.

I am also pleased to announce our newest Central Office staff employees, Amelia Hursey, Materials Coordinator, and Ashley Holaday, Facilities Coordinator. Please help us welcome them if you call the office and speak with one of them.

Due to the changing environment in regional testing as a pathway toward licensure, CRDTS is in a position to grow in ways it has not for many years. We have the best professionals in dental and dental hygiene, we have a support staff that is second to none, and we have strategies in place to help us meet the goals before us. We are prepared for the challenges ahead and know that the efforts will culminate in growth.

Over the years, I have worked with many industrious folks yet, none as hard-working and dedicated to the mission and vision of an organization as what I am experiencing with CRDTS. The teamwork and integrity that is a constant is truly inspirational. Along with those characteristics comes the commitment to excellence that CRDTS has continued for over 50 years.

Don't be surprised if you find Dr. Jacoby, President of CRDTS, Dr. Edwards, Director of Dental Examinations, Ms. Gaskill, Director of Dental Hygiene Examinations, Ms. Laudenslager, Director of Communication and Education, or myself ringing your phone or even knocking at your door, as we expand our outreach efforts and tap into the resources we have. Together with our board members, committee chairs, central office staff and examiners, we are reaching out more often and, in more ways, to get the word out about CRDTS.

What we have learned is that there is a lack of knowledge about CRDTS at the state board level, in dental and dental hygiene education, and with the candidates themselves. CRDTS' leadership is working overtime to eliminate

misinformation and ensure that those involved in the dental and dental hygiene licensure have the information they need to make informed decisions regarding initial licensure.

Additionally, CRDTS is invested in the future of dental and dental hygiene licensure and with the support of our board members, we are continually researching innovative technology and ways to enhance our exam portfolio. With the forward-thinking that is taking place, CRDTS will be able to assist the state boards even more effectively in their mission to ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

If you didn't already know, these are just a few things that makes CRDTS what it is -

A Model of Excellence and Integrity in National Testing
Toward Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure.

- ▶ National Dental and Dental Hygiene Exam
- ▶ Patient Based Exam Options
- ▶ Simulated Patient Exam Options
- ▶ Dental Therapy Exam
- ▶ Local Anesthesia Exam
- ▶ Restorative Auxiliary Exam
- ▶ Exam Location Flexibility
- ▶ Exam Scheduling Flexibility
- ▶ Same Day Results
- ▶ OSCE Administered On-Site
- ▶ Complimentary On-Site Retakes
- ▶ Virtual Haptic Options
- ▶ Remediation Assessment

As we continue to move forward in our mission and vision, we hope that if you find you have questions or wish to learn more about CRDTS, you will contact us. We are always interested in hearing from anyone who may like to know more about what we are doing to continue the legacy of CRDTS.

Sheli Cobler
CRDTS Executive Director

*See You In Kansas City
August 25-27*

*At a Glance
Schedule on Page 4*

ITS THE PEOPLE!



Otto Dohm, DDS
President Elect

Why bother?

Why bother essentially volunteering to be an examiner, to serve on committees. Why bother to expend time and effort trying to deliver an ethical, fair examination to the State Boards, and dental professionals seeking licensure?

For me the answer is I would like to give back to a profession that has provided an excellent career for myself and my family.

Everyone reading this has their own answer and reasons for their commitment to a similar goal. The broader question is why CRDTS?

Why have we chosen to throw in with this organization?

The exciting travel to faraway places like Wahpeton ND? The outstanding BBQ at the KC Hilton? The advanced technology of the ESD tablets or the "Tooth"

I would invite each of you to consider what it is that makes CRDTS worthy of your time and effort.

I had to ponder this last summer when I was approached about

serving as an officer in this organization. I do care about the mission, but why would I want to bother doing more. Why would I choose to have more things on the perpetual "to do list"? I talked with my wife and pondered this for some time last summer before deciding to go "all in". I've had the opportunity to work with other testing agencies and have dealt with many of the officers and management of these groups over the years. Their goals are similar to CRDTS, and they provide a good product. Why CRDTS?

As I considered these things last summer and I to only one conclusion. The answer to why CRDTS for me is the people!

I feel much more comfortable working with people that I admire, and respect and this organization is made up of those people. Every agency has technology, psychometrics, calibration etc. Every agency does not have a central staff that is dedicated and committed to achieving the goals of the agency. They don't have state membership in the organization and examiners/committee members that are dedicated and committed to integrity and improvement of the process. CRDTS has these people and more. It's the people that set CRDTS apart.

Otto Dohm, DDS



Nancy Kearn, RDH
Vice President

Spring Fever has arrived at my house and I am ready to travel and examine with my testing friends!

CRDTS Staff and Officers have worked nonstop to prepare for this testing year.

We are so excited for the new opportunities that face us each day.

You will hear more about these happenings as you read this newsletter but did you know...

We are celebrating our 50th year of Dental and Dental Hygiene examinations!

To celebrate,

We will gather Friday, August 26 and Saturday the 27th for our Annual Meeting. We have reservations at the Loews Kansas City Hotel that is within walking distance to the Power & Light District.

You will want to arrive early on Friday as we will have our Presidents dinner and special program on Friday night.

We hope many of our past leaders will be joining us to celebrate

LET'S CELEBRATE 50 YEARS!

this milestone in our history.

Saturday we will hold our necessary business meeting, which we will try to keep brief and to the point!

Breakout Sessions for Educators, Examiners and State Board Members were a favorite at last year's annual session. We will be using a similar format for our meeting agenda. From the feedback we received most everyone enjoyed having time to connect, network or just relax with our community.

Mark your calendars and watch for an email/invitation.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Vice President these past four years.

The pandemic pushed us into new uncharted waters, but we have become stronger and better because we had to!

Special thanks to our Executive Director, Richael Cobler and President, Dr. Sam Jacoby for their leadership and perseverance. Who knew Zoom calls could be so fun!

Thank you to our Central Office family,

You truly are the best!

Thank you and Happy Testing!

Nancy Kearn, RDH

NICE TO MEET YOU



*Andrew Johnston, RDH
CRDTS Secretary/Treasurer*

I am grateful for the opportunity to address our CRDTS family for the first time via the newsletter having recently taken on the role of Secretary/Treasurer. While I am fortunate enough to call many of you friends, there are still many who I do not know, but look forward to serving you as time goes on. The message I bring to you today

agencies struggle with their direction and voice, CRDTS continues to have incredible members and leaders who have the uncanny ability to see what is coming our way in dentistry and act quickly to adapt and be ahead of the curve. Our recent meetings are evidence of this. We have several directives coming from our January Steering Committee meeting that will help us to grow both our dental and dental hygiene exams, without overextending our financial position. I am excited to see the next phases of CRDTS!

Looking forward to meeting you all,

is an encouraging one. We are in a wonderful position financially based on the decisions of the leaders in years gone by. They have built up the needed funds for us to weather COVID successfully and also enough to carry out the Steering Committee's directive to build out the next chapter of what CRDTS will be for the future. While other

*Andrew Johnston, RDH
CRDTS Secretary/Treasurer*

See Y'all In KANSAS CITY



An email with instructions for registration and travel will be sent in April

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM Examiner Evaluation & Assignment Committee
 Noon - 3:00 PM Dental Exam Review Committee
 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Strategic Planning Committee

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Executive Committee
 Noon - 4:00 PM Steering Committee
 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Happy Hour (Cash Bar)
 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM President's Dinner - CRDTS Alumni in Attendance
 Retiree Plaques Presented

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM Meet & Greet Breakfast
 CRDTS Presentations
 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Break
 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM Presentations Continued
 10:30 AM - Noon Business Meeting
 Noon - 1:00 PM Luncheon
 1:15 PM - 3:00 PM Dental Exam Changes 2023
 Dental Hygiene Changes 2023
 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Dental Educator's Meeting
 Dental Hygiene Educator's Meeting

NEWS FROM DENTAL

We hope 2022 is off to a safe and strong start for all. CRDTS Dental ERC has been busy modifying simulated patient examination typodonts as well as simulated patient content, criteria, and policy. Restorative simulated patient procedures have been reduced from six procedures to four. These include an anterior Class III preparation on tooth #9DL, an anterior Class III restoration on tooth #23DL, a Class II posterior preparation on tooth #4DO OR #14MO (candidate chooses) and a posterior Class II restoration on tooth #18MO or #29DO (candidate chooses). In analysis of examination results, the additional Class II preparation and restoration

procedures were non-discriminatory regarding pass/fail rates. Time limits for Part IV Periodontal simulated patient were reduced from 3 to 2 hours, and time limits for Part V Restorative simulated patient were reduced from 6 to 5 hours.

CRDTS independent testing site located above CRDTS central office in Topeka,

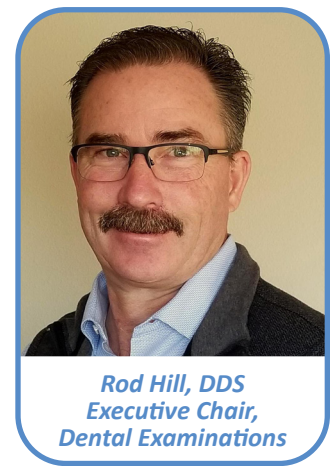
KS is set to open in April 2022, and will allow candidates the opportunity to schedule simulated patient examinations seven days/ week. Additional independent testing sites in Decatur, AL. and Hastings, NE. allow candidates the opportunity to take patient based, simulated patient or hybrid examination formats outside of the school setting.

CRDTS continues to embrace and explore new avenues and the impact of technology in dental and dental hygiene licensure assessment, education and remediation. CRDTS has begun a collaborative relationship with SimToCare to develop and refine virtual haptic technology to be used in education and remediation at the independent testing site in Topeka, KS. Particularly relevant due to COVID and the disruption in patient-based care, CRDTS

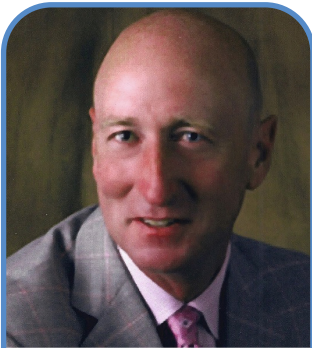
Steering Committee sees an opportunity for altruistically impacting the learning experience for students who have fallen behind. Skill refinement courses are currently in development to allow students an environment to practice and improve their skill set prior to taking a licensure examination.

CRDTS dental leadership in February attended the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) meeting in Louisville, KY and the American Dental Education Association meeting in Philadelphia, PA on March 19-22. These are excellent opportunities to share the CRDTS vision and mission with both students and educators as we strive to tell our story as opposed to our competitors sharing what is many times misinformation.

As always, CRDTS greatly appreciates all feedback as to how CRDTS dental can once again become relevant by improving models for testing by licensure to protect the mission of State Dental Boards but also positively impact Dental schools and students.



*Rod Hill, DDS
Executive Chair,
Dental Examinations*



*Mark Edwards, DDS,
Director of Dental
Examinations*

Mark Edwards, DDS
Director of Dental Examinations

Rod Hill, DDS
CRDTS Dental ERC Chair



Cindy Gaskill, RDH, MAE
Director of Dental Hygiene Examinations

NEWS FROM DENTAL HYGIENE

The last six months of my life has been full of learning and adjusting to working for our testing organization CRDTS. It seems like there is never enough time in the day to do all that I want to do – I honestly do not know how Kim did it! I am enjoying working with the other great team members, our Executive Director Sheli, our President

Sam, my counterpart Mark, and the many wonderful dental hygiene program contacts that Kim has developed over the last 25 years. Of course, I couldn't do my job without almost daily input from our DH Exam Review Committee Chair Janine – I am so lucky to have her and Kim to serve as mentors and guides in my new journey. Their knowledge of CRDTS and Dental Hygiene Testing is truly incredible.

One of our main goals is to continue the relationships with the over 200 schools who administer our CRDTS Dental Hygiene Exam (both live patient and simulated), Anesthesia Exam, Auxiliary Restorative Exam, and Dental Therapy Exams. I am enjoying working with the Program Directors, Faculty, and students as they prepare for their exams. I am gratified and full of respect for the way that our organization has maintained our integrity, validity, and ethical principles through the years despite many curveballs thrown in our path.

It has been a pleasure to meet with new Program Directors and new faculty members that want to learn more about our exams. It has been eye-opening to observe their excitement about the onsite grading, immediate scores release, complimentary exam retakes, and the on-site OSCE. It is exciting to receive calls from schools who want to be placed on our exam schedule for 2023 due to the changes happening in the examining world now. We have already started a list and are looking forward to working with the new programs and sites.

We have less than a month until the beginning of our busy Exam Season. I am ready to gear up for the many successful exams and working with our committed and dedicated examiners. We will miss the following examiners who have decided to hang up their examining explorers this year: Lisa Herder, Laura Jacob, Pat Lepp, Jane Stratman, Deb Palacioz, Nancy Stewart, and Valinda Parsons. These individuals have our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks for their years of service to CRDTS.

The C-CAP (Clinical Calibration and Assessment Program) kicked off our initial pilot session with 10 dental hygiene faculty members from UNMC in Lincoln, Nebraska. The team of C-CAP presenters are Kim, Janine, Penny, and me.

We have three more pilot sessions scheduled for 2023 and will be using the statistics that Kim is gathering to access the program and possible expansion next year. Almost every program wanted to participate this year so the future of C-CAP is exhilarating!

It is an impressive time to be part of CRDTS as we are growing and also celebrating 50 Years of Examining Excellence. I hope to see you in KC this fall for our annual meeting and celebration, if not before!

Cindy Gaskill, RDH, MAE
Director of Dental Hygiene Examinations



Janine Sasse-Englert, RDH, MS
Executive Chair, Dental Hygiene Examinations

Greetings from the dental hygiene side of CRDTS. The 2022 exam season is upon us, and we kicked it off with a written local anesthesia exam in Washington. The season gets very busy in the coming months with restorative, local anesthesia, patient-based and simulated patient hygiene examinations. We are utilizing our 3rd generation typodont for the 2022 exam season, and though we were pleased with the 2nd generation model used in 2021, we are excited about the improvements in the

teeth and calculus that resulted from work with the research and development team at Acadental. As always, the CRDTS independent third-party assessments exist to serve our state boards' needs and the number of exams we have ready to administer upon request is impressive.

The Clinical Calibration and Assessment Program (CCAP) kicked off in Lincoln, NE this month. We will learn a lot from our pilot programs at four sites throughout this season and will be ready to offer this module to all programs in 2023. It is an exciting opportunity for faculty calibration for both our dental hygiene programs and our CRDTS dental hygiene branch.

The newest member of the dental hygiene team is Cindy Gaskill, who hit the ground running last fall and is busy developing exam materials, meeting with state boards, program directors/faculty and dental hygiene exam candidates. Her knowledge and expertise in all aspects of our exams has been an immeasurable asset to CRDTS.

CRDTS is an innovator in the examining arena. New technologies, new ideas, and a newly designed and constructed independent testing site are explained in other areas of this newsletter. Though covid-19 presented its challenges, we were able to meet them with futuristic thinking visionaries. What an exciting time to be in healthcare and licensure in the United States!

Janine Sasse-Englert, RDH, MS
Chair, Hygiene Examination Review Committee



EEAC Chair, Dr. Steve Holcomb recognizing retiring examiner, Dr. Karen Jahimiak



EEAC Chair, Dr. Steve Holcomb recognizing retiring examiner, Laura Jacob, RDH



Outgoing President, Dr. Tom Willis

2021 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Nashville



Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, Ermelinda Baca, RDH



Executive Chair, Dental Hygiene Examinations, Janine Sasse-Englert, RDH



Executive Chair, Dental Examinations, Dr. Rod Hill & Director of Dental Examinations, Dr. Mark Edwards



Incoming President, Dr. Sam Jacoby



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ANNUAL MEETING - POWER & LIGHT DISTRICT

**All Annual Meeting attendees are invited to the
“CRDTS Meet & Greet Breakfast” on Saturday, August 27th from 7:45-9:00 am.**

We are excited to share what is happening in CRDTS and for you to meet the Executive Committee and Staff.

There are no CRDTS sponsored group events scheduled this year as we wanted everyone to have the opportunity to go out and enjoy Power & Light and what KC has to offer.

Power & Light is the reborn Downtown Kansas City that opened in 2008. A nine-block neighborhood featuring a variety of local, regional and national restaurants, shops, entertainment venues, nightlife and lifestyle amenities. The neighborhood is surrounded by landmarks and entertainment icons like Sprint Center, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, the Crossroads Arts District and more.

Check out Power & Light's website for a directory and list of events closer to date.

www.powerandlightdistrict.com

