



## MEET OUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR



**Carl Christensen, MD, PhD, FACOG, D-FASAM, cMRO**

Dr. Christensen obtained his MD and a PhD in Biochemistry at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hutzel Hospital. He then completed a Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at Duke University Medical Center in 1988 and returned to Wayne State, practicing both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology, and was Associate Residency Director of the OB Gyn Residency until 2012. He retired from WSU in 2012 and continues as a Clinical

Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and OB Gyn.

While working with the late Dr. James Wardell, one of the first obstetricians to treat pregnant women with addiction, he became certified in Addiction Medicine in 2004 and later Board Certified in Addiction Medicine in 2009. Dr. Christensen was elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society Addiction Medicine in 2013.

He served as the Medical Director of the Eleonore Hutzel Women's Recovery Center, founded by Dr. Wardell in 1969, an outpatient program dedicated to caring for pregnant, chemically dependent women from 2004 to 2016, as well as the Medical Director at the Tolan Medical Research Clinic in the Department of Psychiatry at WSU from 2009 to 2018. He continues his work with pregnant chemically dependent women at St Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

He was the Medical Director of Dawn Farm from 2003 to 2012 and returned after the death of Dr Pat Gibbons, who served as Medical Director from 2012 to 2014.

Dr Christensen is also on the Advisory Board of Families Against Narcotics in Western Wayne County. He is the past president of the Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine and the current Medical Director of the Michigan Health Professional Recovery Program, which monitors impaired nurses, pharmacists and doctors.

Dr. Christensen also specializes in the treatment of chronic pain patients who are trying to detox or taper off opioids and works at SJMH at Recovery Specialists. He currently works with the US Attorney's office, the DEA, and local law enforcement as an expert witness for opioid prescribing cases. He is one of the US Attorney's experts on the the Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force (ARPO).

He lives in Canton with his wife Cathy, a Nurse Practitioner who also volunteers at Dawn Farm, their therapy dog Olive, their rescue dogs Lucky and Syd, and their three rescue cats.