Dr. Roland Dykema was born in Wilmar, MN on February 28, 1924. He was raised helping his father in his hardware store. He also participated in high school athletics and was an avid outdoorsman. Dr. Dykema was a veteran of the U. S. Navy and Air Force. Following his military tour he attended Wheaton College in Illinois.

He attended Indiana University and Tufts University under the Navy V-12 program, followed by his graduation from Indiana University School of Dentistry in 1947. Soon after graduation he joined the dental school faculty where he dedicated his goals and life to dental education for over 40 years. He served as Chair of the Prosthodontic Department for nearly 20 years. Dr. Dykema co-authored several textbooks, many articles, and presented many clinics throughout the U. S., South America, and Japan.

Dr. Dykema was a member of many dental organizations including Indiana Universities John F. Johnston Society. He was a charter member of the American College of Prosthodontists and active in the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics. He was a President of the AAFP in 1979 and received the George Moulton Award for Lifetime Contributions to Fixed Prosthodontics in 1997.

He became a Fellow of American College of Prosthodontics, passing the Board in 1974. He later served his term as examiner and was President of the Board in 1982-83. In 1988 Dr. Dykema was awarded Professor Emeritus of Prosthodontics at the Indiana University School of Dentistry on his retirement. He passed away unexpectedly, on November 20, 2005.