



Organizer and UAH nursing professor Dr. Lori Lioce (left), along with colleagues Ms. Colette Foisy-Doll and Mr. Matthew Aldridge, hosted several expert panel discussions at the annual International Simulation Symposium in Nursing Education in Istanbul, Turkey, this past January.

An Education in Simulation

UAH nursing professor champions widespread adoption of clinical simulation

Universities are increasingly recognizing the value that clinical simulation can add to nursing education. “National studies have shown that you can replace regular clinical experience with up to 50 percent simulation education with the same or better outcomes if there is a well-developed, standardized simulation program framework and faculty development,” says Dr. Lori Lioce, a clinical associate professor of nursing at UAH and the executive director of the College of Nursing’s Learning and Technology Resource Center.

That’s why she successfully advocated for its implementation at UAH – and why she’s now helping other universities do the same as the vice president of operations and the past chair of the standards committee for the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL). Just this past January, for example, she was selected to organize the first annual International Simulation Symposium in Nursing Education in Istanbul, Turkey.

Presented in partnership with INACSL and the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing at Istanbul University, the two-day conference was held at the

university’s Congress and Cultural Center. In addition to presenting six times over the course of the conference, Dr. Lioce also hosted several expert panel discussions with her colleagues Ms. Colette Foisy-Doll, a professional resource faculty member in the Clinical Simulation Centre at MacEwan University in Alberta, Canada; and Mr. Matthew Aldridge, a senior lecturer with the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at the University of Wolverhampton in England.



“It was a call to action for them,” says Dr. Lioce of the 400 physicians, administrators, nurses, and faculty members who took part in the conference. “They see that they’ve got everything they need to be successful; it’s just a matter of implementing the delivery differently.” Learning, she continues, is no longer about teaching on a stage. “It’s about re-creating an on-demand, immersive, learner-centered environment, where instructors are facilitators and debriefers in clinical situations as opposed to lecturers or one-way communicators.”

Since the conference’s conclusion, several attendees have contacted Dr. Lioce about pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship at UAH. “They have a real hunger for knowledge and application,” she says. And while that would no doubt add to her workload, the investment would be more than worth it given how much is riding on the outcome. After all, she points out, “we’re not training technicians who watch monitors. We’re training nurses who can assess, clinically reason, communicate, and take care of the whole patient to ultimately improve patient safety.”