



Fuld gift contributes to inter-disciplinary simulation center

YSN students will soon have a place to simulate the environment of their future careers. The Helene Fuld Health Trust of New York, the nation's largest private funder devoted to nursing students and nursing education, recently awarded YSN a \$500,000 grant to help establish a simulation center for the education and training of health care teams. The facility will be an interdisciplinary partnership between YSN, Yale School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Hospital.

“There is a fundamental problem in the education of health care students,” says Linda Pellico '89, an assistant professor at YSN who has taught in the Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing (GEPN) program since 1989. “We educate members of teams in silos and expect them magically to find out what everybody's role is when they get out there.”

The simulation center will include an intensive care unit designed to the exact specifications of an ICU bed space with ventilators, monitors, oxygen, and all the typical equipment found in a working intensive care unit. There will also be an emergency room, an operating room, offices and a conference room.

“Beyond the goal of developing, refining and evaluating our students' clinical skills and decision making, the center offers us a tremendous opportunity to look at communication and teamwork in a simulated situation,” Pellico says. “We are also going to have patient simulation with live actors. We are thinking broadly about simulation. It's not just going to be a dummy tethered to a machine. This center should really help prepare our students for their careers.”

Pellico says the location of the simulation center is now being determined, along with the infrastructure requirements for each stakeholder. “Right now, we're just dreaming the dream,” she says. Due in part to the Helene Fuld Health Trust, that dream is now closer to reality.