Deb has contributed greatly, not only to the University of Maryland School of Nursing, and the area of simulation, but to excellence in nursing education in general.

Tore Laerdal
Laerdal Medical AS

The NLN celebrates the individuals who, through their amazing work on behalf of all of us, support our mission to promote excellence in nursing education. Together we are building a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of our nation and the global community.

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DEBRA SPUNT
LECTURE

Dedicated to excellence in nursing, the National League for Nursing is the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education, offering faculty development, networking opportunities, testing services, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives to its 40,000 individual and 1,200 institutional members.

Funded by Laerdal Medical in Recognition of Dr. Spunt’s Leadership in the Use of Simulation in Nursing Education
Debra L. Spunt, DNP, RN, FAAN

Debra Spunt, an assistant professor and director of the clinical simulation laboratories at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, died of cancer on March 9, 2007. Born in St. Louis, MO in 1956, Debbie was a resident of Maryland for more than 30 years, graduating from Randallstown High School in 1975. She earned a bachelor of science in nursing (1979), a master’s of science (1983), and a doctor of nursing practice (2007), all from the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

Debbie was nationally and internationally recognized for her knowledge, expertise, and leadership in clinical simulation, especially the use of computerized human patient simulators via clinical case scenarios to educate nurses and other health care providers. She was responsible for the design, administration, and management of the School of Nursing’s 28 clinical simulation laboratories, considered the preeminent nursing student learning labs in the world. She collaborated with faculty on the integration of simulation into the nursing curriculum, and in doing so, helped prepare thousands of nurses worldwide.

Debbie was a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, and a member of the American Nurses Association, the Maryland Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the Maryland League for Nursing, and the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She cofounded the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning and served as its first president.

As a thoughtful participant in the plans for her legacy, Debbie created the Debra L. Spunt Clinical Simulation Practice and Research Endowment at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. This endowment supports the use of clinical simulation laboratory equipment. Please join us in celebrating Debbie’s life and honoring her legacy by contributing to the Spunt Clinical Simulation Practice and Research Endowment.

Send contributions payable to "UMBF/Spunt Endowment" to:
The University of Maryland School of Nursing
UMBF/Spunt Endowment
Office of Development, Room 505P
655 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-1579

Or make a secure online gift to at http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/giving/. (Type “Spunt Endowment” in the additional instructions box.) Funds for the Spunt Endowment are administered by the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc.

Kathie Lasater
EdD, RN, FAAN, ANEF

Kathie Lasater is professor at Oregon Health & Science University, home of one of the lead programs with the innovative curriculum of the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE). Early on, Dr. Lasater was a pioneer in simulation research, studying the impact of simulation on the development of nursing students’ clinical judgment and becoming an advocate for simulation in nursing education.

The primary outcomes of her initial study were: 1) the Lasater Clinical Judgment Rubric (LCJR), a valid and reliable tool for evaluating learners’ clinical judgment in simulation; and 2) evidence-based outcomes of learners’ responses to and recommendations for simulation. Since then, the rubric has gone global, with translations (some in process) in 12 languages.

Dr. Lasater has held leadership roles in subsequent simulation and/or clinical judgment research studies, including several multisite and international studies and was the interim statewide director of simulation learning at her home institution. She has received multiple teaching awards, most recently in 2014, the Distinguished Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching. In addition, Dr. Lasater has had the honor to teach faculty and nursing education graduate students about simulation and clinical judgment in the US as well as in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jordan, and Japan.

Come Together...Right Now

Evidence from the past decade indicates that simulation is an effective strategy for learners to develop and improve their knowledge and skills. However, new graduate nurses continue to struggle in their first year of professional nursing practice.

How can practice and academic educators leverage what we’ve learned from simulation research and the first years of practice to ensure a smoother transition?

Simulation in both settings has potential to foster the transition, but without collaboration, it will not be as effective. Additionally, interprofessional simulations offer a realistic means for students and new graduate nurses to learn more effective ways to work with other members of the healthcare team, a need that clearly emerged from a recent multisite study.

Regardless of educators’ roles in or out of simulation, we can all be involved in new graduate nurses’ transition to practice through creative simulation learning, team practice, and reflective debriefing.

In appreciation for her leadership in the design, development, and implementation of simulation in nursing education, the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education and Laerdal Medical established the Debra L. Spunt Lecture to be held each year at the National League for Nursing Education Summit.