

# The University of Queensland Higher Education Academy Fellowship

## DR ALLISON MANDRUSIAK

“ Being recognised as a HEA Senior Fellow is a career highlight for me. The HEA scheme represents professionalisation of higher education and an acknowledgement of great teachers doing great things. Being a Fellow means I can now fly the flag and mentor others to become fellows, so it is a way to pay-it-forward when thinking of those who have helped me to where I am. ”

Senior Lecturer, Physiotherapy  
School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences  
Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences



### My favourite teaching tools

- Clinical simulation, using actors and mannequins as the patient so students can practice their skills in a safe environment. My specialty is 'pop-up sim' where I can turn any space into an authentic clinical setting.
- Virtual experiences, for example a virtual cultural empathy experience where students 'become' a patient who is hospitalised while travelling in a developing country.
- Using everyday objects to make visible the usually invisible cardiorespiratory structures, for example: a tube of toothpaste to explain equal pressure points in the lungs; a slinky spring to describe lung compliance; bubble wrap and balloons to symbolise various lung pathologies; a tomato sauce bottle to visual the effect of body position on lung secretions.



### Expertise

Physiotherapy  
Cardiorespiratory  
Simulation  
Work integrated learning  
Interprofessional education

### Memorable teaching moment

I remember being in Vietnam supervising UQ students in an interprofessional and intercultural clinical placement when I had an epiphany. I vividly recall this moment, seeing students from physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology working successfully in interprofessional teams, flourishing in a challenging intercultural context. Then and there, I appreciated the importance of building interprofessional and intercultural capabilities into my teaching curriculum. This memorable moment continues to fuel my pursuit to help foster these skills within students.



## Programs

### **UQ Physiotherapy Standardised Patients Program**

(Program Leader)

An intensive work integrated learning program for all final year physiotherapy students.

### **National Simulation in Physiotherapy Project**

(Chief Investigator at UQ)

A government funded project to embed simulation in physiotherapy curricula, in partnership with 16 Australian universities.

### **HaBS Faculty “Common Course” Project**

(Leadership Team member)

ITaLI partnership project to develop a first year common course for 15 programs (HLTH1000).

### **International simulation initiatives**

Collaborations with international institutions to enhance simulation in health sciences.

### **UQ Cardiorespiratory Research Projects**

(Unit Leader)

Research related to cardiorespiratory physiotherapy including scholarship of teaching and learning (eg simulation, cultural empathy) and clinical practice (eg heart failure, cystic fibrosis).

