



NEWS RELEASE

## With Focus on ‘Resilience, Reinvention and Reconnection,’ IAHTM Convenes In-Person 2021 Annual Meeting, Education Conference

Powell, OH – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – The International Association for Healthcare Textile Management (IAHTM) held its 2021 Annual Meeting and Education Conference Sept. 10-14 at Disney’s BoardWalk resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL., with almost 100 attendees (*photo, right*) representing 17 laundries (some virtually).



IAHTM is a nonprofit membership organization for healthcare laundry cooperatives that provides senior-level textile managers with resources and support to maximize their laundries’ efficiencies and control costs without compromising quality or patient focus.

“We were very excited that the conference this year was a great success,” said Rocco Romeo, a member of IAHTM’s board of directors who served as official host of the event. “The education program was excellent, and the venue provided unique networking opportunities for everyone. The feedback from the conference has been very positive and it was great being able to see everyone again.”

The five-day meeting and conference featured a variety of speakers presenting on a range of relevant industry topics. One networking event, the “Snack Chat,” provided opportunities for suppliers and laundries to reconnect post-pandemic in short-meetings similar to “speed dating.”

“The IAHTM conference was a great time to network with others in the industry. Learning from the education conferences everything from human-resource tips during this trying time, how Covid has impacted our industry, how we can learn from Walt Disney, and looking at the future with robotics. What a wonderful experience all around,” said new IAHTM member representative Danielle Warner of Methodist Hospital system.

Several after-hour events were held throughout the Disney complex. “Heartfelt thank you, what IAHTM did for all of us at Disney was truly amazing and the best conference I have attended,” said new IAHTM representative Chris Hansen COMTEX. “I also want to mention how grateful I am for the way my wife was accommodated at every turn and all of the activities she enjoyed. It was awesome!”

Member Malcolm Pallos of Cumberland Laundry was a virtual participant in the conference. “A sincere thank you to the education committee.” Pallos said. “Every time

we have a conference we fine-tune; we source better and there are more dynamic speakers and timely topics. This year's conference is proof that we are emerging from the pandemic better, stronger, and more resilient than ever. The Zoom broadcast enabled me to see and comment on sessions and having access to the Whova event software platform kept me in the loop. Being on the west coast meant some very early mornings, but it was worth it to catch up, to hear from our trade partners and to touch base with everyone."

Meredith Bowery, IAHTM board president, summed up the event, saying, "The conference was an amazing opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues in person again after having to change the way we interact for so long. I was grateful for the chance to see everyone again, and the education sessions could not have been better. Seeing our association pull off such a great conference is nothing less than I'd expect from the talented group of professionals who participate in IAHTM."

### **About IAHTM**

Founded in 1969, the International Association for Healthcare Textile Management (IAHTM) is a nonprofit organization serving healthcare laundry cooperatives. IAHTM membership comprises experienced laundry executives serving 7,000 healthcare facilities in the USA and Canada. IAHTM members have access to training and education programs, benchmarking resources, peer information sharing and networking, and group purchasing power on textiles and chemicals. [www.iahtm.com](http://www.iahtm.com)