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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	**Teaching pharmacy students about community engagement.**
Type	TUFHTalk *Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World*
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Country	South Africa
Abstract Nº	TUFH197
Content	Background Pharmacy education is focused on preparing students for practice as health professionals. In most pharmacy schools in South Africa, undergraduate program are focused around pharmaceutical and health sciences. Little to no focus is given to expose students to public health concerns and citizenship. Objective To present a Community Engagement (CE) elective for pharmacy students at a pharmacy school in South Africa. Design The primary aim of this elective is to stimulate, challenge and motivate students to become a change agent in society. This CE elective expects students to think in creative, empathetic, systematic and critical ways. Students are required to attend formal classroom lectures as well as participate in community engagement activities throughout the year. Outcomes A total of 2 undergraduate pharmacy students and 3 postgraduate students participated in the elective course since 2018. Student evaluations revealed a strong agreements that the course met the stated objectives. All students agreed that the elective module made them think critically about their learning and encouraged them to actively participate in their own learning. Students feel that the elective module will help them to be more socially accountable healthcare providers when they graduate. Conclusion The outcome from this elective course confirmed that the majority of students felt the course increased their readiness to engage with communities in future. Through the CE elective they developed leadership skills and reflective abilities. Students are able to critically analyse and evaluate the health system/society and their own frame of reference to understand how change is implemented.