



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Social Accountability and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) as two perspectives bonded by Social Justice
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Presenting Author	Maria De Bruin
Co-Authors	Tomlin Paul
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Content

A growing number of universities across the globe, through their Medical Colleges or Faculties of Medical Sciences, have demonstrated their engagement with SDG 3, embracing new principles such as equity for health care and attaining health for all; concentrating and collaborating with key stakeholders to respond more adequately to society's changing needs. This is consistent with the social accountability (SA) goal of responding to communities' gaps, wants and priorities. At the same time, Higher Education Institutions (HEI) are recognizing the need to open up their organisation for greater access to their services, allowing a more diverse population to claim their rights and reducing social inequality (SDG 4) . They are guided by principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I), often fostering an institutional policy on ED&I, driven by senior management at the highest level, as well as by managers of faculties and departments.

Although in the context of (higher) education the meaning of ED&I is not static and monolithic, and can be interpreted in various ways, the common denominator of SA and ED&I is their perspective of Social Justice, recognizing human rights, embracing diversity and social inclusion. The discourse about these principles, however, appears to follow a two-way track: discussions on SA—at conferences; through regional meetings; in academic discourse; etc.—seem to be blind for ED&I's social justice perspective, while discourse on ED&I hardly refers, if at all, to SA. The acceptance and integration of these tracks will bring synergies in Social Justice and mutual strengthening of both movements.