



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Place of work of rural origin bonded and non-bonded graduates
Type	TUFH Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
Presenting Author	Andrew Ross
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Country	South Africa
Abstract N^o	TUFH14
Content	<p>Background There is a mal-distribution of health care professionals (HCP's) between rural and urban areas, whilst rural areas carry a disproportionate burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Umthombo Youth Development Foundation (UYDF) has a bonded scholarship scheme recruiting and supporting rural health science students and has produced 387 graduates. The aim of this study was to determine how many UYDF graduates continue to work in rural areas once their work back obligation is completed. Methods Data was obtained from the UYDF database. Results Of the eligible 340 graduates 57% are working at rural public healthcare facilities, 21% are working at urban public healthcare facilities, whilst only 11% are working in the urban private sector. Of the 175 graduates who have no further work back obligations to UYDF, 65% are working at rural public healthcare facilities, 18% are working at urban public healthcare facilities, and 5% in the urban private sector. Discussion and conclusions The UYDF initiative has shown that through the appropriate support, rural youth have succeeded in qualifying as HCP's and have assisted to address staff shortages at their local hospital as envisaged when starting the programme. In addition a high number of rural origin student continue to work at rural health care facilities after their work back obligation is completed strengthening the international evidence which shows that rural origin health science students are more likely to live and work in rural areas than their urban counterparts.</p>