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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Community Perspectives: Results from Community Partners' Formal Review of the Service Learning Program for Undergraduate Medical Students
Type	TUFH Oral Presentation <i>Intersectoral Collaborations and the Social Determinants of Health</i>
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Abstract N^o	TUFH153
Content	<p>Background/Purpose In 2016, Service Learning became a curricular requirement for undergraduate medical students at the University of Manitoba (Canada). Students partner with a community-based organization for 2 years to engage in non-clinical activities in a community setting (e.g., after school programs for youth, food security initiatives, and programs to support under-resourced groups). Significant feedback has been collected from students re: their Service Learning experiences. This survey specifically collected systematic feedback from community partners involved with Service Learning. Methods In June 2019, a survey was distributed to 36 community organizations involved with Service Learning; 27 organizations responded. Results Respondent feedback was grouped into two main themes: Logistics, and the Service Learning Experience. About half (52%) of respondents indicated it was “easy” to schedule students for Service Learning; however, students’ busy schedules and differences between hours of organization programming and students’ availability were highlighted. Most respondents described students as “engaged” (70%) or “somewhat engaged” (26%); 68% of respondents indicated Service Learning raised students’ understanding of power and privilege, and systemic oppression. Conclusions/Applications Community partner feedback provided valuable insights to inform and improve the Service Learning program. Results identified specific areas of the program, and logistic improvements, to be addressed moving forward. Ensuring processes are in place to obtain feedback from community partners is an important step to strengthen reciprocal, working relationships between university and community. Doing so contributes toward shared goals such as improved health outcomes, health equity and social accountability.</p>