

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
FOR HEALTH & FACULTAD DE MEDICINA,
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THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



TUFH2020 MEXICO

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	Equipping Pre-Service Students with One Health Skills: A One Health Attachment and Fellowship Experience in Uganda
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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Content

75% of emerging infectious diseases have been caused by pathogens that spread to humans from animals or animal products. In Africa, there have been Yellow fever epidemics in DRC, Uganda, Angola and Kenya. Lassa Fever in Nigeria and Togo. Ebola outbreaks in Uganda, DRC and West Africa. The One Health Institute at Makerere University provides interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate students in their final year of study with knowledge, skills and ability to detect, prevent and respond to zoonotic disease threats/outbreaks. Methods: We were introduced to theoretical courses on One Health principles of Infectious disease prevention and mitigation followed by simulation practice from experts from National Task force that responds to epidemics in Uganda. This was followed by a 4 weeks field attachment in rural Western Uganda. Results: We identified health challenges within the community and innovated solutions. An eco-friendly and cost effective bat repellent was innovated in response to the high infestation of bats in about 70% of household structures which posed a risk of spread of zoonotic diseases. Locally available material were mobilized to reconstruct a water source which had proper drainage and was responsible for the high burden of water borne diseases recorded at the community healthcare center. Following the outbreaks of yellow fever and marburg in Uganda. Some of the students were able to practice the skills they obtained from the fellowship. Conclusion: Pre-service students can be equipped with knowledge on how to predict, detect and respond to emerging and re-emerging pandemic threats.