



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	A final year medical student's take on a Primary Health Care curriculum
Type	TUFHTalk <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
Presenting Author	Nikolai Nunes
Co-Authors	
Country	Jamaica
Abstract N^o	TUFH238
Content	<p>Primary Health Care and the Social Determinants of Health are critical components of any health professions school's curriculum. At the UWI Mona in Jamaica, medical students engage in a longitudinal clinical clerkship called Community Health across all three clinical years. Community Health while the piece de resistance, is combined with Introduction to Medical Practice, Health Care Concepts, Health and the Environment, and Health Services Management to round out our Primary Health Care curriculum. Jamaica has always been a leader in Primary Health Care, from its landmark paper 'Primary Health Care – The Jamaican Perspective' presented at the Alma Ata conference in 1978 to the first professor of Social and Preventative Medicine, pioneer of Community Health Aides, and PAHO Public Health Hero, Sir Kenneth Standard. It was Sir Ken who introduced Community Health to our curriculum in the 1980s when medical students would be embedded in rural Jamaican communities delivering primary health care services as part of the community. Today, Community Health has evolved into a tripartite of courses across each clinical year focusing in the first instance on fieldwork in the third year, the rural Jamaican experience and community research in the fourth year, and the underserved community comprehensive primary care practice in the final year. This is the story of the UWI Mona Primary Health Care curriculum seen through the eyes of a final year medical student who is a Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage advocate, his experiences and opinions.</p>