



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	To the Rhythm of the dance: Teaching the Culture of Disability in a Residency Program
Type	TUFH Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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Content

Increasing the cultural competence of health care providers has been suggested as one mechanism for reducing health disparities. The “Culture of disability” involves the knowledge of belief, values, and about how individuals live with their disability. We described a module that aims to discuss the culture of disability to educate residents in training on how to deliver effective care to persons with disabilities. The program in which the patients and family members serve as educators describe their daily routines, barriers for education and work, advocating and health care experiences while encouraging their students to reflect about their stigmas, prejudices and attitudes towards patients and families. The educators included a patient with cerebral palsy, a medical doctor with visual impairment, families and patients with muscular dystrophy, and an artistic director and dancers of a Brazilian professional dance group, which has several artists with various disabilities. The sessions address the multi-professional residency program for the care of people with disabilities at Instituto Santos Dumont, Brazil 16 residents participated in the module in 2019. Self-assessment data were collected using a survey about their perceptions on the development of cultural competency after the experience. 87% of the students strongly agreed that the module helped them to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes towards the subject. The culture of disability has implications for the health care process and is essential in residency programs. Having persons with disabilities in educational settings can contribute to building disability related competences.