



**THE NETWORK**  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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

# TUFH2020 MEXICO

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH  
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED  
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

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## TUFH 2020 Abstracts

<b>Title</b>	<b>Multi-level stigma reduction interventions for HIV prevention and care continuum outcomes among Men who have Sex with Men</b>
<b>Type</b>	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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<b>Abstract N°</b>	TUFH4

### Content

While stigma associated with HIV infection among men who have sex with men is well recognised, there remains relatively limited intervention data on effective stigma reduction strategies. This systematic review was conducted to highlight the mechanisms through which sexual and HIV stigma is reduced in relation to HIV prevention and care engagement. Method: Search of PubMed and Scopus resulted in 11 tested interventions to include in our preliminary model constructed from program frameworks and recommendations. We refined the preliminary program theory to identify whether, why, or how mitigation strategies produce observed outcomes. Results: Our review showed that the interventions produced stigma reduction through three groups of mechanisms: 1) Self-acceptance, leadership and motivational activation for behaviour change from intrapersonal strategies, such as education and mobile health strategies, which intervene on internalized and anticipated stigma, 2) Socialization, knowledge sharing and social empowerment from interpersonal strategies, such as peer-support and training for care providers and 3) Community introspection, self-reflection and humanistic activation from structural strategies such as community leaders' sensitization, which intervene on both anticipated and enacted stigma. Conclusion: Interventions' mechanisms act complementarily and can be activated in different contexts. This review seeks not to judge but to explain, and is driven by the question 'What works, in what circumstances and in what respects' we found the interventions mechanisms in the refined model act complementarily and can be adapted in term of different socio-structural and cultural contexts in which MSM exposed to and infected with HIV are living.