

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



TUFH2020 MEXICO

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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Attitudes of medical students towards men who have sex with men infected with HIV in Haiti: implications for social accountability
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World</i>
Presenting Author	Willy Dunbar
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Country	Belgium
Abstract N°	TUFH6
Content	<p>The world is stepping up efforts towards ending HIV, but new infections remain much higher among men who have sex with men (MSM) for whom the delivery of appropriate healthcare remains sub-optimal due to stigma and other barriers. Attitudes of caregivers play a significant role on retention in care and medical outcomes. As medical students reflect societal attitudes held in their society and community of practice in which they are immersed, we aimed to assess their attitudes toward MSM infected with HIV in regards to the Haitian context. Methods We conducted a qualitative study by purposively recruited 22 medical students among whom individual in-depth interviews were conducted. Interviews were audio recorded, transcribed and analyzed thematically. Results Although layered stigmatizing attitudes emerged through the interviews, medical students expressed willingness to provide MSM with adequate health services in relation to HIV care. Their expressions were based on the right for MSM to receive adequate care, the moral obligation of health care professional, the perception of health disparities regarding MSM and the HIV global risk reduction. They pointed out that Haitian medical education curriculum does not consider sexual health neither LGBT and MSM specificities and made important suggestions.. Conclusion To achieve an HIV free generation, stigmatized populations and sexual minorities can no longer be kept unremarked. Thus, interventions targeting future healthcare providers are urgently needed. Shift from evidence to action requires synergy to enhance relevance, quality, efficiency and equity of the medical education's social accountability</p>