

## **TUFH 2020** Abstracts

Induction into the health system: the impact of internship.
Oral Presentation  Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World
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Content

Medical Internship is the transition phase between being students to being independent practitioners within the health system. For the first time the interns undertake the responsibility of caring for patients under minimal supervision. It is a period when they acquire the required practical skills in clinical, communication and administrative matters to enable them to get registered as members of the medical profession. It is a busy and challenging experience. Induction is therefore an important process to prepare them for this period. It enables them to understand how the health sector operates, what is expected of them and introduces them to government policies. Methods: ACHEST and Makerere University prepared a half day course to help trainees build self-confidence and professional identity, maintain life balance, manage expectations and networks, and facilitate teamwork so as to help them succeed. It administered it to 113 interns. Results: The course was delivered for the first time in form of short lectures and experience sharing by senior professionals, employers and regulators; evaluation was undertaken both after the course and after the internship. Topics included Introduction to the National Health Plan, ethics and professionalism, managing stress etc. The evaluation showed that the interns appreciated the course. Conclusion The induction provided a platform for the interns to interact with the senior professionals, and also provided an understanding into quality assurance, the job market and career path, the Ugandan health system under which they are supposed to operate. The importance of the intern's induction was highlighted.