

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



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Toward a New Ethic in Global Health Practice: Perspectives from Central America
Type	Oral Presentation Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment
Presenting Author	William Ventres
Co-Authors	
Country	United States
Abstract N°	TUFH122
Content	<p>Global health is “an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving health equity for all people worldwide.” In settings other than disaster relief, the ethical practice of global health can no longer simply consist health care professionals from the US and other high-income countries learning on, investigating the circumstances of, giving direct care to, or teaching people in low-income countries without the involvement of local organizations, clinicians, and educators. Methods: Using a standard contemporary interpretation of global health and emerging tenets from Latin America Bioethics, the presenter analyzes six example case studies of health care professionals from high-income countries practicing in Central America. These examples resulted from participant-observations made during the presenters’ five years’ working in Central America as a professor of public health and medical anthropology (2010-2015). Results: Many health care professionals from high-income countries practice unethically by 21st century understandings of global health. Conclusions: All global health activities by health care professionals from the US and other high-income countries must embrace (1) the involvement of local professionals as equal partners in therapeutic and training activities, (2) the inclusion of local individuals from public institutions that coordinate health care practices, (3) the development of government-supported systems meant to address community needs, and (4) the commitment to shared learning and reverse innovation. The presenter calls for the creation of codes of conduct to guide and monitor the behaviors of these health care professionals.</p>