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THE NETWORK
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Facultad de Medicina



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

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Sowing the Seeds of Meaningful Youth Participation in Primary Healthcare in Jamaica
Type	TUFH Oral Presentation <i>Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World</i>
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Abstract N^o	TUFH252
Content	<p>Background: The Jamaica Medical Students Association (JAMSA) is the national medical student organization of Jamaica and National Member Organization of WHO non-state actor the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA). Through its standing committees on public health (SCOPH), human rights and peace (SCORP), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SCORA), JAMSA engages meaningful youth participation in national health advocacy and education. Primary health Care (PHC) development is foundational and inculcated into programs and activities. Methods: JAMSA, through SCOPH, SCORA, and SCORP are national health partners in promoting PHC in Jamaica through campaigns and health fairs. SCORP has placed special emphasis on serving the community through their paediatric home visits and mentorship programs. SCOPH's community hand-washing campaigns promote healthy behaviour and communication change from a young age. SCORA campaigns on female and male reproductive cancers, advocates for abortion legalization, and sexual education and rights. Results: These activities and programs by SCORP, SCOPH and SCORA have all garnered student support, involvement and national awareness from the campus to community to national levels. These are opportunities for not only public health education and promotion but also meaningful youth participation in our health system. Students apply their knowledge and training at the primary health care level of prevention and screening while promoting health and wellness. Conclusion: Meaningful youth participation is an overarching IFMSA Global Priority that JAMSA fulfils through both its advocacy of proposed national health system and intersectoral policies and volunteer primary health care national practice.</p>