



THE NETWORK
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Facultad de Medicina



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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	Some initial insights of COVID-19 as a test of social obligation in health professions' training
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Abstract N^o	TUFH253
Content	<p>Background With confirmation of the first COVID-19 patients in Jamaica, the University of the West Indies (UWI), Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) temporarily suspended classes and clinical training. Despite being on the frontlines via partnership with the Jamaican government for clinical care and laboratory testing, the FMS social accountability response considered roles for its health professional students in response to the pandemic. We examine the opportunities and students' responses. Methods In partnership between FMS administration and student leadership, anecdotal responses of students were sought via face to face and online meetings including social media platforms to gauge students' responsiveness to opportunities for engagement in the COVID-19 response. Three opportunities were assessed: I. Student nurses to screen hospital visitors II. Medical students to assist in contact tracing III. Student engagement in promoting credible health information Results Student nurses expressed some interest but wanted an inter-professional team as opposed to nursing students only. The Nursing Council which regulates nursing training did not support having students involved. Medical students had varying feelings about participating in contact tracing with fear of exposure limiting responsiveness. Student leaders proposed a response around sharing credible information on COVID-19. This was considered positively by the FMS. Conclusion COVID-19 despite being an emerging priority health problem challenges the framework of "obligation" of the health professional training institution to respond. Given the potential risks to students and the institution's duty to protect their well-being, COVID-19 presents an interesting ethical challenge to the social accountability agenda.</p>