



**THE NETWORK**  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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

# TUFH2020 MEXICO

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH  
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED  
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

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## TUFH 2020 Abstracts

<b>Title</b>	<b>Student Research as a measurement of Meaningful Youth Participation in the Jamaican Health Sector</b>
<b>Type</b>	TUFH Oral Presentation <i>Measuring Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals</i>
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<b>Country</b>	Jamaica
<b>Abstract N<sup>o</sup></b>	TUFH254
<b>Content</b>	<p>Background: Social Accountability is embedded within the academic culture and curriculum of programmes in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at The University of the West Indies, Jamaica. In the Bachelors of Medicine, Bachelors of Surgery degree, fourth year medical students on the Community Health rotation must complete research on the Jamaican Healthcare System. Findings are referred to the governing health authority, often serving as policy recommendations and innovative solutions in healthcare. We examine students' research as a measure of meaningful youth participation leading to positive change in healthcare. Methods: The Community Health research guidelines and projects submitted were analysed. Students are based at health centres island-wide under the guidance of officials in the parish's Health Department; there they research a topic affecting the population using questionnaires and statistics from Monthly Clinical Summary Reports. Research is then presented to peers, the Course Coordinator and the respective Director of Health Services. Results: Students' research has contributed policy and best practices recommendations, notably: 1. Students investigated perceived burdens and their social determinants among caregivers of adults with schizophrenia attending public mental health clinics. 2. Students analysed sharps disposal management at primary health care centres in a rural parish between 2007- 2008. Findings were used by the health department to support improvement in the systems managing bio-hazardous sharps at public primary health care facilities. Conclusion: Research engagement for students is consistent with meaningful involvement and meaningful youth participation.</p>