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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	Building skills for the next generation of public health workers: Graduate and Employer Perspectives
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World</i>
Presenting Author	HELLEN JEPNGETICH
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Content	<p>Background: Public Health workforce face various challenges leading to their inability to meet current health demands in service delivery. Specific focus is on their health management competencies and their responsiveness to the health needs of the future public health leadership. Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive mixed methods study was done. Public health graduates and corresponding employers' perceptions were sought. Data was collected using a pretested semi-structured questionnaire and an interview guide for in-depth interviews with the graduates. Quantitative data was summarized using proportions and median while inferential statistics was carried out using Mann Whitney U test, Kruskal Wallis and logistic regression. Statistical significance was considered for $p < 0.05$. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically. Results: Out of 227 graduates sampled, 188 responded and out of 45 employers sampled, 39 responded giving a response rate of 82.1% and 86.7% respectively. Most graduates 142 (75.5%) reported that their training formed the basis of their current jobs and 72 (38.3%) of them reported competency challenges at their work place. However, 131(69.7%) graduates reported not to have acquired adequate skills to match their work performance. Consequently 27 (69.2%) employers recommended the need for additional capacity building to boost graduates' competencies at their place of work. Conclusion: Employers recommended additional capacity building training to public health graduates to match work expectations and leadership. Key words: Building capacity, Public health graduates, Competency and Leadership</p>