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THE NETWORK  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



# TUFH2020 MEXICO

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

"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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Community engagement by faculties of medicine: A scoping review of current practices and practical recommendations.</b>
<b>Type</b>	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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<b>Abstract N°</b>	TUFH326
<b>Content</b>	<p>Background: Social accountability (SA) is the responsibility of faculties of medicine (FoMs) to the communities they serve. Community engagement (CE) is a vital, but often ambiguous and inconsistent, component of SA. Practical guidance on how FoMs should engage community partners is needed. Thus, we conducted a scoping review of CE involving FoMs. Objectives: To identify articles describing how FoMs engage their communities and synthesize existing knowledge to provide practical recommendations. Methods: We searched electronic databases for articles describing projects, programs, or partnerships involving FoMs and community representatives. Descriptive information was extracted, analyzed thematically, and reviewed by content experts and community partners. Results: Forty of 1200 articles were included. Analysis revealed three overarching themes: 1) Partners (Who to Engage) – deciding who to engage, and creating space for communities to engage FoMs, establishes the bases for responsibility; 2) Partnerships (How to Engage) – fostering creative and authentic collaboration enables meaningful community contributions; and 3) Projects and Programs (What to Engage Around) – identifying opportunities for communities to have a voice in many spaces within FoMs. Under these themes were 31 practical recommendations (e.g., community partners should reflect the communities the FoM serves; partnerships should be purposeful and actively sustained; projects must be relevant to communities' needs and values). Conclusion: Practical guidance ensures meaningful commitments to communities, in accordance with TUFH principles. Despite limited published guidance on CE, the literature is rich with descriptions of community-FoM partnerships. We have identified clear recommendations for CE that are evidence-based, reflexive, and responsive.</p>