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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	Global health and social accountability: An essential synergy
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Global health and social accountability: An essential synergy</i>
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Country	Canada
Abstract N°	TUFH354
Content	<p>Background: Global health and social accountability are priority areas for medical schools in the 21st century. They are often linked together because of their focus on biosocial dimensions of health. In this conceptual piece, we suggest that the introduction of these areas has been partial. A more complete implementation would draw on their respective strengths to create a powerful synergy. Approach: The social accountability of medical schools involves responding to communities' priority health needs as identified in partnership with communities themselves, as well as with other stakeholders such as health care administrators and policymakers. Community partnership at this level functions so as to make health care agents accountable to their communities, and thus is engagement that involves reflection on power, position and agency, atypical concerns from a biomedical perspective. Global health, for its part, has had to confront precisely those concerns, both from its origins in colonial medicine, and because of the power and health inequalities between the Global North and the Global South. The critical lessons learned in global health would enhance medical schools' fulfillment of their social accountability mandate. In turn, incorporation of community engagement as found in social accountability would help global health avoid the risk of being overly determined by "good intention" alone. Conclusion: Resolute focus on engagement that animates social accountability can support the practical components of community health, including global health, to make possible interaction and partnership with other institutions and communities that can truly begin to address global health inequities.</p>