

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



THE NETWORK  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



# TUFH2020 MEXICO

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH  
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED  
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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## TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	<b>Managing patients on drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment at South African primary health care clinics</b>
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
Presenting Author	MERCIA VIRGINIA KRAMER
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Country	South Africa
Abstract N°	TUFH383
Content	<p>Background. Drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) remains a major health risk and one of the most serious forms of TB that has emerged, and a major health threat worldwide . In South African DR-TB is a challenge to control since the decentralization of treatment. Decentralization of DR-TB refers to the management of DR-TB patients in primary health care (PHC) facilities in the community. Aim. To explore and describe the experiences of professional nurses at PHC clinics in the Nelson Mandela Bay Health District regarding the management of patients on DR-TB treatment. Setting: Primary Health Care clinics where professional nurses are working. Methods: The study employed a qualitative, exploratory, descriptive and contextual design. Involved in-depth interviews with thirteen professional nurses managing patients on DR-TB treatment, in thirteen PHC clinics in Nelson Mandela Bay Health District. Results: Thirteen professional nurses participated. The findings revealed that the participants perceived DR-TB management as labour intensive. Discussion: The study found that the professional nurses had negative experiences, work was laborious, and fear of contracting DR-TB. They expressed frustration that caring for DR-TB patients was hampered by social issues, alcohol consumption, unemployment, and no money. Conclusion: It is clear that the professional nurses felt vulnerable when caring for their patients with DR-TB. The study made a number of recommendations on how the challenges experienced by professional nurses could be mitigated despite the many social determinants that undermined their ability to care for their DR-TB patients</p>