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FOR HEALTH & FACULTAD DE MEDICINA,  
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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

<b>Title</b>	<b>A global perspective on the role of medical students during the COVID-19 pandemic</b>
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### Content

Background During the current COVID-19 pandemic, institutions have been forced to make rapid decisions on how to most appropriately utilize medical students. Currently, there is a lack of literature on previous roles students have played in pandemics and their effectiveness, preventing institutions from making evidence-based decisions on involving medical students. Methods A global quantitative survey was conducted during April, targeting medical students from all over the world. A questionnaire was designed to assess the different roles students play during the pandemic as well as their attitudes towards these roles. Data analysis was performed using SPSS and excel. Results 279 responses from medical students from 101 different countries and 209 different universities were received. Medical students played many different roles; raising awareness (n=150), medical assistance (n=105), and helplines (n=97) being reported most often. 70% of respondents reported that medical students providing medical assistance did so on a voluntary basis, whilst 21% were mandatory. In total, 49% of responses reported that they received payment for providing medical assistance, whilst 21% received academic recognition. Of all respondents, 19% had been asked to perform a task for which they had not been trained. 18% of medical students reported that their well-being was negatively or very negatively impacted by the role that they played. Conclusions Our results show that medical students contribute to the pandemic in many different roles. There needs to be a strong ethical consideration of well-being and safety when designing students' roles during pandemics.