



**THE NETWORK**  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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

# 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>Extracting our social obligation for COVID-19 from audience concerns at a preparedness conference</b>
<b>Type</b>	Oral Presentation <i>Intersectoral Collaborations and the Social Determinants of Health</i>
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### Content

**Background** In the wake of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) at The University of the West Indies, Jamaica hosted a Preparedness Conference covering epidemiology, clinical and preparedness aspects. The conference was promoted to health professionals, students and the public, with attendance of over 2,400 mostly by video conferencing. We examine the range of questions and their potential to inform the further response of the FMS to COVID-19. **Methods** Questions from persons attending the conference were reviewed by the authors. The review started from an academic pre-structured approach looking for structural determinants and transitioned to an approach in which the audience became the "community," expressing its own needs, sharing technical and professional, but also emotional and personal questions. The pre-set structure of clusters was removed, returning to the richness and diversity of the audience's expressions. **Results** We discovered a posteriori the "hidden structures" in participants' concerns, reflecting social responsibility, responsiveness and accountability issues. Concerns went beyond the "traditional questions" (about testing, skills workshops, virus behaviour, isolation beds, labs and samples) and showed integrated care beyond technical and classic professional issues (protecting students, attention for underserved areas such as rural hospitals, inclusion of Human Resource Departments for issues related to employment and waste management aspects of the COVID-19 challenges). **Conclusion** The analysis of questions emerging from a COVID-19 preparedness conference reveals a mix of issues that can be addressed within a social obligation scale for the University of the West Indies.