

"Enhancing Interprofessional Collaboration and Learning for Strengthening Primary Health Care"

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Title	VOLUNTEERISM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Community-Based Education for Health and Social Care Students</i>
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Abstract N ^o	TUFH578
Content	An extraordinary number of University of Cape Town students and faculty members stepped forward as volunteers in both waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students joined case and contact tracing teams, took long shifts on the call centre hotline, and helped in screening teams. Many signed up for electives over the holidays, often having to juggle home circumstances where family and neighbours around them sickened and some died. Senior students joined faculty members on the 'frontline' as part of clinical teams, despite the risk to themselves and their families. Volunteers came from many different levels and career trajectories, demonstrating great interprofessional collaboration. Students reported a deeper understanding of the COVID-19 response; sharpened skills in telephonic counselling; and experienced excellent teamwork and supervision. This presentation explores volunteerism with the lens of social justice, contrasting the extracurricular student experience with that circumscribed by the curriculum. What lessons can we take from the responses to COVID-19, into a 'new normal' for health sciences education? How can intra- and extra-curricular learning experiences complement one another more intentionally? A framework will be presented for the interaction of volunteerism and curriculum, with a focus on effects such as intrinsic motivation, interprofessional learning, community immersion, and teamwork.