

**“Enhancing Interprofessional  
Collaboration and Learning for  
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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## TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	<b>SOCIALLY ACCOUNTABLE CLINICAL EDUCATION AT A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE LEVEL AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA</b>
Type	<b>Oral Presentation</b> Community-Based Education for Health and Social Care Students
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Country	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>
Abstract N <sup>o</sup>	<b>TUFH808</b>
Content	<p>Community based education at a primary health care level provides an opportunity for both transformative learning and active citizenship, especially in communities with long standing partnerships with the University. The limitations of training students in communities during the COVID-19 pandemic put these partnerships and student community-based education at risk. Undergraduate health science student interprofessional home visits were affected by the COVID-19 lockdown with students for the most part being absent from the clinical training platform, affecting learning and service provision in the local community. Many community residents lost their employment during the COVID-19 lockdown, primary health care services were reduced, and PPE was not freely available to members of this community. For students and community to still benefit from interprofessional outreach community-based education had to be reimagined. The home-visit project was adapted to included telephonic follow up of patients with chronic or infectious diseases to assist with COVID-19 contact tracing, problem identification and support. Where possible, ‘face to face’ patient consultation was facilitated by community health workers who conducted home visits connecting students and patient using video calls. Patients could be screened for certain risk factors and virtual interprofessional discussions assisted with patient follow up, access to medication and chronic disease management planning. The challenges of virtual interprofessional home visits and patient discussions in the local community will be presented. Innovations in response to these challenges will be discussed.</p>