XXXI EDUCATIONAL MEETING
November 19 – 23, 2014
Fortaleza, Brazil
www.thenetworktufh.org

Declaration of Fortaleza

Global learning guidelines for health professional’s education

XXXI Educational Meeting of The Network: Towards Unit for Health
Fortaleza – Ceará – Brazil, November 19 – 23, 2014

The student participants attending the XXXI Educational Meeting of The Network: Towards Unity For Health (The Network: TUFH) and the Student Network Organization, supported by The Network: TUFH;

AFFIRMING the promotion of equity and quality in health through community-oriented education, research and service;

AFFIRMING the search for equity, quality, relevance and cost-effectiveness in healthcare for all communities;

AFFIRMING our participation in actions for policy changes in education and health;

RECOGNIZING the differences in culture and teaching methods globally and the particularities of each health profession;

STRIVING for a shared worldwide conceptual framework on the key elements in training future health professionals.

HEREBY DECLARE THE FOLLOWING LEARNING GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL’S EDUCATION:

All students should

1. Receive training that is embedded in the community, organized in primary healthcare facilities;

2. Be encouraged and incentivized to choose a career in primary healthcare;

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3. Learn analyze where power and influence lies in health systems and management locally;
4. Understand health systems and management globally;
5. Share best practice of how to use resources efficiently;
6. Understand their role to influence health economy;
7. Develop leadership attributes and management skills;
8. Be trained towards globally standardized and locally relevant outcomes;
9. Include all determinants of health in patient care;
10. Be skilled in how to engage the community through stakeholder involvement within health objectives;
11. Realize the specific role of every health professional and the complementary role of all in a team and its impact on health;
12. Critically reflect on the importance of empowering the community to reach health equity;
13. Practice working on interprofessional teams;
14. Be trained in biopsychosocial skills;
15. Be taught preventive medicine, rather than just curative;
16. Develop research skills to design and/or implement evidence based programs;
17. Be able to promote health on the basis of the Ottawa Charter;
18. Acknowledge that success in primary healthcare depends on community involvement;
19. Be community advocates for strong local systems and optimal access to health care;
20. To become advocates as a tool to improve healthcare.

These guidelines are a product of a wide discussion between students from many countries of the world: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda and United States of America. For the complexity of the theme, the content of this declaration shall be considered as a whole and every guideline shall be analyzed in relation to the others.

Fortaleza means "strength", so besides the city's name, this nomination carries the significance of our purpose at this XXXI Educational Meeting of The Network: TUFH, that is strengthening health professionals education as a policy to improve health. Hopefully, the
Declaration of Fortaleza will be the product of our local action serving as an instrument for a global improvement.

**THEREFORE** we, the undersigned, committing with the goal of promoting a training of excellence for all health professionals and intending to make the content of this document widely publicized, signed this declaration.

**SIGNED** by the representative of the Student Network Organization, the representative of The Network TUFH, and a representative of the academic sector this November 19th, 2014.

Janaina Leitão Vilar  
**Representative of the Student Network Organization**

Jan De Maeseneer  
**Representative of The Network TUFH**

Henry Holanda Campos  
**Representative of the Academic Sector**