



# WHAT IS TUFH?

## UNDERSTANDING OUR NETWORK AND CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

The Network: Towards Unity For Health (TUFH) is a global network that brings together universities, organizations, health systems, communities, and students to improve health through social accountability, learning, and collaboration. We support our members through certification, global learning opportunities, and practical tools that strengthen local health systems and improve health outcomes worldwide.

TUFH is an international NGO and a Non-State Actor in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO).





# TUFH VALUES

## HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHT

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We believe that quality and equitable health is a fundamental human right and the foundation of sustainable societies.

## SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IMPACT

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We advance social accountability by promoting quality, equity, relevance, cost-effectiveness, and bioethics as guiding principles for health education, policy, and practice.

## COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SYSTEM CHANGE

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We work collaboratively across governments, institutions, professions, and civil society to drive transformative change at global, regional, national, and institutional levels—today and for the future.



# HISTORY

Founded in 1979, The Network: Towards Unity For Health (TUFH) grew from World Health Organization-supported initiatives focused on community-oriented health education and collaboration. Today, TUFH is a global network connecting institutions and leaders committed to strengthening health systems and improving health outcomes worldwide.

## PHILOSOPHY

TUFH is based on relationships between organizations, people, and those collaborating around common interests. These relationships are not static, but rather grow and develop from new members and future generations. TUFH is not an insular organization, but an ever-evolving and inclusive network that embraces other organizations that strive to create educational practices, community health approaches, and partner on research to develop the evidence for what works. TUFH aspires to serve as a catalyst to promote positive change in local systems and actors.

TUFH's model addresses problems by looking for what is working and why. This accelerates the process of positive change by occupying people with doing rather than dwelling on why it can't be done.



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# GLOBAL HEALTH ROLES

## CERTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

Certify and evaluate institutions and individuals based upon globally driven and accepted standards of principles of practice. TUFH does this through certifying and evaluating institutions on Social Accountability and Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care Standards; and certifying and evaluating virtual courses on knowledge acquisition and practice application.

## GLOBAL LEARNING

Provide the platform for students, faculty, and leadership, both in academic institutions and in practice, with the knowledge, skills, and competencies to build capacity and lead change within their own communities. TUFH does this through providing a virtual platform to host communities of practice, hosting a global conference, hosting exchanges and publishing research and practices for learning and replication in other communities.

## LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPACT

Partner with national training and/or health delivery institutions to strengthen the national infrastructure for the adoption and implementation of global health recommendations. TUFH does this through licensing its technical tools and products through its Centers of Excellence, and hosting global fellowship programs.



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# CERTIFICATION AND EVALUATION



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TUFH supports institutions in strengthening Social Accountability and Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care through the Institutional Self-Assessment Tool (ISAT). ISAT enables institutions to reflect on how well their education, research, and service activities respond to the current and future health needs of the people and communities they serve. The verification process demonstrates a commitment to socially accountable practice and continuous improvement.

Through a structured and collaborative self-assessment, ISAT engages leadership, faculty, students, and community stakeholders to assess institutional readiness, identify strengths, and define priorities for improvement. The key domains and areas assessed through ISAT are illustrated below, highlighting how institutions can align their work with population health needs, strengthen training relevance, and improve health service delivery.

Students

IPE & Collaborative Practice

Faculty Recruitment

Community-based Research

Faculty Development

Governance

Curriculum: Content

Stakeholder Engagement

Learning Methods

School Outcomes

Types/Location of Education

Societal Impact





# GLOBAL LEARNING

TUFH hosts an annual international conference that brings together participants from health, education, and community sectors worldwide. The conference provides opportunities to network, learn, teach, and share practice through interactive sessions.



## Education for Health

The Journal of The Network: Towards Unity for Health

Education for Health is a peer-reviewed, MEDLINE-indexed journal that disseminates work aligned with the mission of TUFH. It focuses on advancing health professions education and health system integration, with an emphasis on preparing the health workforce to respond to the needs of the communities they serve.

TUFH's Global Communities of Practice (CoP) are collaborative spaces that bring together health professionals, faculty, researchers, students, community partners, and institutions from around the world. Through shared learning and collaboration, participants exchange knowledge, develop skills, and co-create solutions to strengthen education and practice for communities most in need. The thematic focus areas of the Communities of Practice are listed below, and all those committed to learning, collaboration, and impact are welcome to join.

Indigenous

Autism

Migrant and Refugee

Women

Remote and Rural

Integrated Care

Ageing

Intellectual Developmental  
Disabilities



## Communities of Practice - Partners

Woods System of Care

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
**RURAL HEALTH**  
PROFESSIONS

Rural  
**Wonca**  
The WONCA Working Party  
on Rural Practice

**Atmashakti**  
TRUST



**Wonca**  
WONCA Special Interest Group: Ageing  
and Health



**Rural Coordination  
Centre**  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**RURAL DOCTORS NETWORK**



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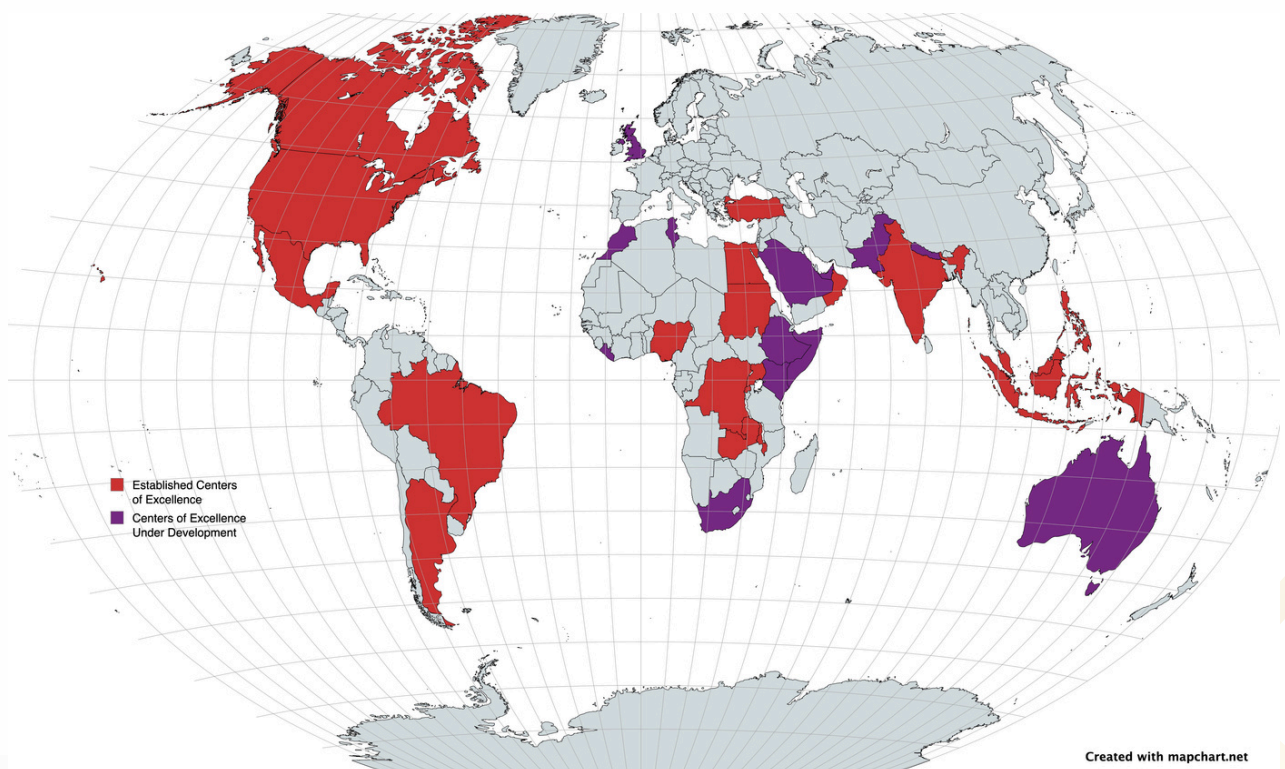


# LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPACT

TUFH Centers of Excellence (CoEs) are designated units within universities, health institutions, and training organizations that serve as national hubs for expertise, learning, and collaboration. As TUFH chapters, CoEs play a key role in advancing social accountability, interprofessional education and collaborative care, and the development of a responsive health workforce.

CoEs contribute to research, innovation, and the development of practical tools and guidance, while supporting national and regional capacity building. They bring together national institutions, leadership, educators, practitioners, students, policymakers, and communities to share knowledge, and translate global principles into locally relevant action. Through collaboration with other Centers of Excellence, CoEs strengthen TUFH's global network and amplify collective impact.

Institutions that join a TUFH Center of Excellence gain access to global learning opportunities, TUFH Online Community, technical tools, Social Accountability Fellowship, Teaching Fellowship, Communities of Practice, and international collaboration, while leading locally driven initiatives that respond to the health priorities of their region. Becoming a CoE offers institutions the opportunity to shape global conversations, contribute to evidence and policy, and be part of a growing network committed to improving health systems through education, collaboration, and shared responsibility.





# STUDENT NETWORK ORGANIZATION

## **Students shaping the future of global health**

The Student Network Organization (SNO) is the student arm of TUFH, dedicated to fostering global student engagement in health education, social accountability, and public health initiatives. SNO connects students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, providing them with a platform to develop their leadership, advocacy, and research skills. As an active part of the global TUFH community, SNO plays a critical role in shaping the future of healthcare by promoting student-led solutions to some of the world's most pressing health challenges.

## **SNO Leadership Institute**

A global leadership program for SNO leaders focused on innovation, collaboration, and real-world impact. Helps students establish SNO chapters.

## **Global Student Exchange**

Students can join the International Student Training and Exchange Program (iSTEP), a virtual 6 month global exchange connecting students across disciplines to address global health priorities.

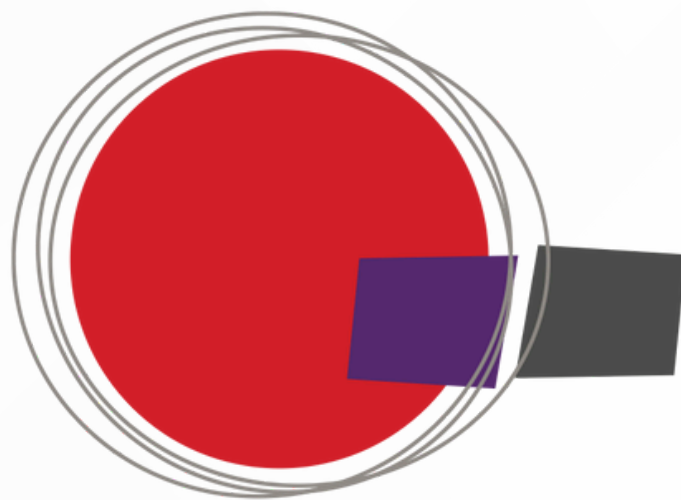
Prior to the annual conference, TUFH/SNO also host the annual SNO Exchange for one lucky student.

## **Mentorship**

Through TUFH and SNO, we connect students and mentors across the globe and over sectors across research and collaboration.







# THE NETWORK

TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH

## WELCOME TO THE NETWORK OF NETWORKS

Established in 1979

<https://thenetworktufh.org>

