



Achieving Equity Through Workforce Development and Healthcare Delivery Partnerships in Haiti

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Health Equity

- **Equity** is the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically.
- **Health inequities** therefore involve more than inequality with respect to health determinants, access to the resources needed to improve and maintain health or health outcomes. They also entail a failure to avoid or overcome inequalities that infringe on fairness and human rights norms.

World Health Organization: Health Systems: Health systems topics: Equity. Last accessed 9/3/2019 at <https://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/equity/en/>.

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Disclosures

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Addressing Health Inequities

"...interventions that aim to redress inequities must typically go beyond remedying a particular health inequality and also help empower the group in question through systemic changes, such as law reform or changes in economic or social relationships."

World Health Organization: Health Systems: Health systems topics: Equity. Last accessed 9/3/2019 at <https://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/equity/en/>.

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Objectives

- Define Health Equity
- Describe the impact of cervical cancer on health equity
- Identify ways to address health equity with global partnerships and workforce capacity building
- Describe workforce capacity building and global partnerships in Haiti with Family Medicine Cares International, Family Health Ministries, and Haitian Family Medicine residencies

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Addressing Health Inequities

- Workforce capacity building
 - Faculty development
 - Development of professional societies
- Partnership development
 - Relationships built on equity and sustainability
- Research and Innovation
 - equity in research leading to change



Equity through Research and Innovation

- Family Health Ministries addressing cervical cancer mortality through partnership and research with local Haitians, Ministry of Health, NGOs and manufacturing.

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The Burden – Cervical cancer is preventable yet:

Annual incidence (93/100,000)

- 40% of all female cancers in Haiti
- Among the women screened by FHM
 - 16-25% have HPV
 - 0.5% of HPV-infected women have high-grade lesions
 - 2.5% of HPV-infected women had invasive cancer

Mortality (61/100,000)

- If you have cervical cancer in Haiti, you are probably going to die a painful death FROM your disease
- The burden of cervical cancer in Haiti is among the highest in the world¹ & the highest in Latin America²



¹Farley J, Shin HR, Bray F, Forman D, Mathers C et al. (2010) GLOBCAN 2008: Cancer incidence and mortality worldwide.

²Arrossi S, Sankaranarayanan R, Parkin DM (2003) Incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in Latin America. Salud Publica Mex, 45 Suppl 3-4S: S300-14. S300-5314 PubMed: 14746023.

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Family Health Ministries (FHM)



Mission:

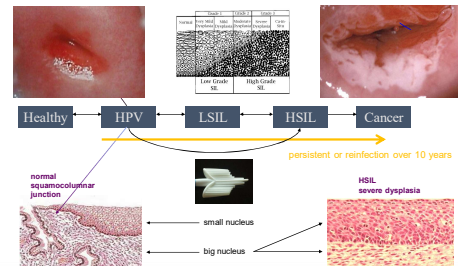
We support Haitian communities in their efforts to build and sustain healthy families by developing best health care practices to share across Haiti and other low-resource communities.

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The natural history of cervical dysplasia

10-year window to identify & treat pre-invasive disease before it leads to invasive cancer



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Blanchard Clinic

Blanchard Clinic in Port-au-Prince was opened in 2006 and provides women's health services to a community considered a part of Cite Soleil.

–Nearly 30,000 women have been screened for cervical cancer.

–Expanding to full primary care.



Introduction of Family Health Ministries

06/1993 → today (26 years)

FHM's primary focus has been on cervical cancer prevention and all of FHM's research is conducted locally by Haitian health care providers.

Mission:

Supporting Haitian communities in their efforts to build and sustain healthy families

Method of support:

- make friends!
- Haitians identify local health care priorities
- FHM supports priorities where FHM resources compliment community interest
- proposed activities undergo an ethics review in the US and in Haiti
- gather and analyze data from supported programs
- revise strategy based on data analysis -> start over with data collection
- short term goal: identify best practices
- long term goal: partner to scale up services

Goal:

- Improve health care delivery in low resource settings



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FHM's contribution to cervical cancer prevention in Haiti: 1993 - 2019

Challenges in diagnosis and treatment

FHM's research has demonstrated that:

1. Pap smears are not a good primary screen - cervical cytology misses 85% of high-grade dysplasia due to cervical inflammation in Haitian women (i.e. visualizing the cervix with colposcopy is superior to cervical cytology)
2. Colposcopy is better but it misses high-grade disease picked up by HPV testing (i.e. HPV is the best primary screen test)
3. Women can self-collect vaginal swabs and accurately detect HPV (i.e. Health care providers are not needed for testing).



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FHM's contribution to cervical cancer prevention in Haiti: 1993 – 2019

It also led to:

- the formation of Haiti sans Cervical Cancer, a consortium of 35 NGOs working together & with the Haitian Ministry of Health to reduce the burden of cervical cancer in Haiti
- HsCC supported research into the efficacy of thermoablation of the cervix, which doesn't require nitrous gas; and
- the development of a national cloud-based cervix registry using RedCap



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FHM's contribution to cervical cancer prevention in Haiti: 1993 - 2019

Challenges in diagnosis and treatment

4. There aren't enough pathologists in Haiti to support a national cervical cancer prevention program with accurate diagnoses (i.e. screen AND treat may be the best option). FHM introduced digital pathology to Haiti, which may be the long-term solution to the pathology dilemma
5. There isn't enough nitrous gas for cervical freezing to support a national cervical cancer prevention program.



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FHM's Health Care Facilities



FHM's Learning Laboratories



Why is it important to support global cervical cancer prevention programs?

The World Health Organization says that:

1. Current vaccination & screening efforts are having a minimal impact
2. Intensive vaccine programs can eliminate cervical cancer in 100 years
3. Intensive vaccine & screening programs can eliminate cervical cancer in 20 years

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FHM's contribution to cervical cancer prevention in Haiti: 1993 – 2019

FHM assisted Digene / Qiagen in the development of a low-cost HPV assay for the developing world – CareHPV

FHM's research led to:

- the invention of a portable, hands-free, battery-powered colposcope (seen to the right)
- the opening of the first HPV laboratory in Haiti & screening of over 30,000 women; (16-25% HPV+, 5% w/ high grade curable lesions, 2.5% w/ cancer)
- the identification of the genotypes of HPV most prevalent in Haiti (HPV 16, 35, 52, 31 & 18)



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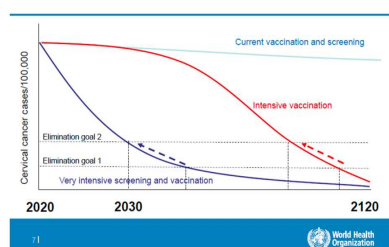
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HPV vaccines are an important intervention but...
not enough to eliminate the burden of disease in the short term.

Dr. Tedros - Secretary General, WHO

OVERALL CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



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What is next?

Expanding Haiti sans Cervical Cancer

Creating a partnership of NGOs to unite cervical cancer prevention efforts in Haiti will:

- Establish a single national cervix/cancer registry that will
 - record screening & treatment efforts
 - record HPV vaccination efforts
- Compete with other countries for resources
- Assist colleagues to establish new screening programs
- Establish best practices for screening & treatment to prevent cancer for:
 - screening & treatment to prevent cancer
 - data collection
 - treatment of cancer
- Build capacity for a national program
- Continue basic science & clinical research

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Symposia

- Full day, CME-type conference
- Topics/themes recommended by Haitian faculty (e.g. Women's Health, Mental Health, Adolescent Care)
- Presented in Cap Haitien and Port au Prince
- Speakers are both *FMCI* and Haitian faculty
- In French and English
- 30-50 participants at each location

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Equity through Workforce Capacity Building

• Family Medicine Cares International

– Humanitarian program created to provide sustainable and accessible health care to underserved populations around the world.

– Provides patient care, delivers education and training in Family Medicine, and works to improve the health and quality of life of people in Haiti.

– Focuses on family medicine workforce capacity and sustainable partnership development.



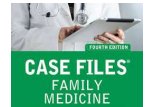
Faculty Development: Program Philosophy and History

• Philosophy

- Mission work is important but not enough
- Need committed, well-trained, local medical community

• History

- Started with a request for a book...
- Led to a meeting at the PAP airport...
- Spurred discussion with the Foundation



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Family Medicine Cares International

Program Components

- Patient Care
- Medical Education and Training
- Children and Youth Service Projects
- Medical Equipment and Supplies

Work is Accomplished Through

- Annual Delegation
- Faculty Development
- Partnership Development
- Advocacy



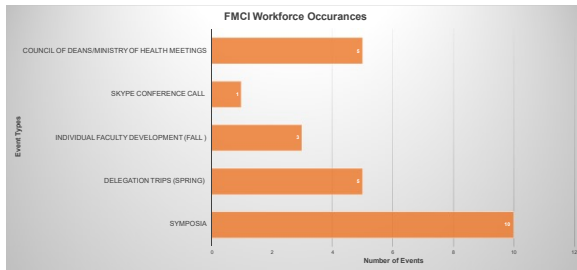
Faculty Development

- Designed curriculum specific to the needs of each program
- Delegation and additional faculty development trips
- Additional mentoring with grant applications, leadership development



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FMCI Workforce Impact 2013-2019



Patient Care Delivery Partnerships



Heart To Heart (partnership in Haiti 2013-2017)

- Partner for over 25 years in Physicians with Heart and Haiti Disaster Relief
- Credibility with the Ministry of Health
- Working with Haitian physicians and staff

Family Health Ministries (2018-present)

- 25 year presence in Haiti with ongoing commitment
- Commitment to patient care in underserved areas
- Working with Haitian physicians and staff
- Working with schools and children in Haiti

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FMCI Workforce Impact 2013-2019

- 350+ Number of residents/physicians that participated in the Symposia and Faculty Development
- 84 Number of graduating residents (approximately 6 per year per residency program)
- 80% Of residents graduating from Saint Marc and Cap Haitien Residents continue to work in Haiti

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Residency Partnerships

• Cap Haitien Family Medicine Residency

- Founded 1992
- Publicly funded and supported through grants (PEPFAR) and the University of Miami
- Residency champions: Drs. Andre Vulcain, Michael Dodard and Wilner Genna

• Saint Marc Family Medicine Residency

- Founded 2012
- Supported by Partners in Health
- Staffed by faculty graduating from Cap Haitien Family Medicine Residency
- Residency Champions: Drs. Israel Kerling and Rodney Destiny



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Equity through Partnership Development

- Heart-to-Heart International
- Family Health Ministries
- Cap Haitien Family Medicine Residency
- Saint Marc Family Medicine Residency
- Council of Deans
- Ministry of Health

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