



### 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 world<sup>1</sup> & the highest in Latin America<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Farley J, Shin HR, Bray F, Forman D, Mathers C et al. (2010) GLOBCAN 2008: Cancer incidence and mortality worldwide.  
<sup>2</sup>Arossi S, Sankaranarayanan R, Parkin DM (2003) Incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in Latin America. Salud Publica Mex, 45 Suppl 3:4S- S300-14. S300-53.14. PubMed: 14746003.

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## Family Health Ministries (FHM)



### Mission:

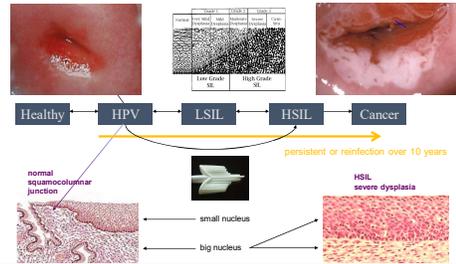
We support Haitian communities in their efforts to build and sustain healthy families by developing best health care practices to share across Haiti and other low-resource communities.

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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)



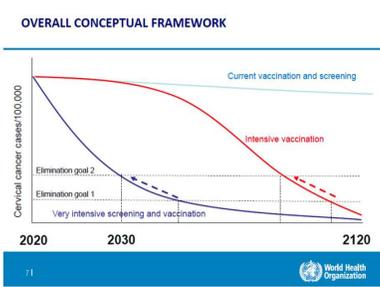


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**HPV vaccines are an important intervention but... not enough to eliminate the burden of disease in the short term.**

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



### 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

### 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



### 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

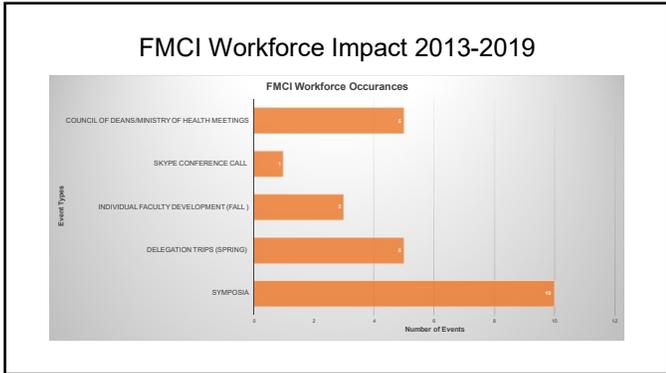
- Annual Delegation
- Faculty Development
- Partnership Development
- Advocacy



### Faculty Development

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





### 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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