

Health Equity Initiative (HEI)

Newly formed in 2006, the Health Equity Initiative (HEI) has been diligently striving to put more global health content into the medical school curriculum. The HEI is a student-run initiative comprised of 2 members from each medical class. The HEI aims to promote the dignity of all people accessing health care services by educating caregivers about the health issues and the challenges facing diverse, under-served and marginalized populations. Our work focuses on three categories of health issues: inner city and immigrant health, indigenous peoples' health and global health.

Along with key supporters in the faculty such as Dr. Zakus and our faculty coordinator Dr. Philip Berger, we have been assessing the quality and quantity of health equity content in the medical curriculum. We are developing new tools to measure and assess the content relating to major health equity themes. We are then taking our results and working to develop new materials to enhance the curriculum by drawing on a broad array of experts and resources. Although we have found some areas of strength in the University of Toronto medical curriculum a lot needs to change before the curriculum more closely reflects the major concerns of marginalized and underserved populations in Canada and across the globe.



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