

January, 2023

What is your favorite meal? Are you a good cook?

Macaroni and cheese – I've loved that since I was a kid my mum used to make it for us during special occasions and to make us feel better so it's very sentimental for me- lately my aunt sent me recipes for my grandmother's food and I am really excited to try it as soon as possible – I don't consider myself a foodie person but I really enjoy cooking food that reminds me with home and the time I grow up.

Can you explain in simple terms the field of Anthropology?

I used to teach introduction to anthropology to undergraduate students at New Mexico State and I always used to say that anthropology is a huge field and as an anthropologist you study everything that has to do with people like how people live and interact with each other in any place\time\context – some people would associate anthropology with the study of culture well it's thinking about culture in a very broad sense you think about all the ways people create their life in a community with each other. As a medical anthropologist, I focus on understanding the cultural, social, and structural context of healing systems – in my case allopathic medicine in the United States.



Where did you study?

I did my undergraduate degree in Women's Studies at Duke University in the USA and my master's and Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Kentucky, USA.

You studied women's studies as an undergraduate, so have you ever been a part of any women's rights or human rights movement? Tell us more about this.

Press on the video icon to know more.



Meet your fellow TUFH community member of the month

Individual member of the month for January 2023



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I'm Mary Alice Scott, and I live in Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA.

I am a medical anthropologist and I have been working in graduate medical education in the US-Mexico border region for about 8 years. A lot of my friends shorten my name to my initials - MAS which means 'more' in Spanish as the majority of people in New Mexico speak Spanish.

I enjoy running long-distance relay races with friends and colleagues, it gives me the opportunity to explore my country and discover different parts of the USA, and I have participated in a run across the country during high school. but most of the time I do it for fun. At the international and national levels, I would love to participate in the international 10K run that starts in Texas, USA and ends in Mexico.

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Can medical doctors or any other healthcare providers study Anthropology or is it just for certain specialties?

It is very common in the USA for medical doctors to study anthropology, it's a very unique combination.

Tell us about your contributions to the health sector as a medical anthropologist.

Press on the video icon to know more



When did you join The Network: Towards Unity For Health?

It was about 4 years ago. I have heard about it from Dr. Arthur Kaufman who connected me and other colleagues with TUFH.



TUFH 2022 Group Picture
Mary Alice Scott was an attendee

Have you ever been enrolled in any TUFH activities? Tell us about your experience.

I've attended two conferences – one virtual and one in person in Vancouver. I also participated in developing a curriculum for migrant and refugee health. I've loved participating in TUFH activities. My work is focused on the US, so meeting other TUFH participants from all around the world who are working the same kind of work in different contexts broadened my perspective. There's so much we can all learn from each other, and that's been really inspiring.

Is there anything that you are currently working on? Does that need collaboration? Discussions?

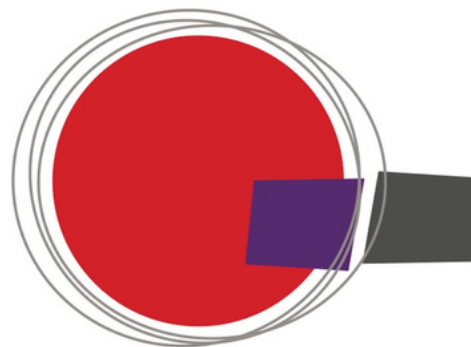
One of the main projects I'm working on now is scaling up our health equity curriculum to be accessible and usable for primary care residency programs across New Mexico. I love working in teams and really value bringing different perspectives together. I would welcome anyone who is interested to collaborate and join our team.

Press on the video icon to know more



Why would you recommend others to join The Network: Towards Unity For Health?

As I noted above, TUFH has been a great place to learn and broaden my perspective. There are Incredible people who are doing amazing work around the world and being part of TUFH allows me to learn from those people. The community that I've been part of with TUFH is also really committed to health equity, and it's wonderful to be able to spend time with others who have similar goals and share ideas and support each other's work. The other thing that I appreciate and like about TUFH, and I consider it pretty unique is their emphasis on students not only mentoring and training them but also seeing students as leaders and innovators and recognizing the value that student brings to their communities.



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