

To: SMA Communities Announcement 2022 12 05

Topic: New SMA Health Professions Education Special Interest Group

Hello colleagues:

We are proud to announce that the Executive Board of the Society for Medical Anthropology on November 11, approved our proposal for the Health Professions Education Special Interest Group. (SMA HPE SIG).

A formal organization within the AAA and SMA is a positive step in guiding and supporting the value of anthropology in medical education. To be inclusive, people from all countries of the world are welcome to join: students, health practitioners, university professors, and those interested in influencing health professions with anthropology perspectives, methods, and information. Members do not need to be a member of the AAA or SMA.

If you haven't already joined, you are invited to become a member in support of our mission:

"To support anthropologists in making a positive and lasting impact on medical and health professions education by creating an organizational space that nurtures healthy professional identity, promoting lifelong career advancement, and serve as a representative voice for anthropology among the health professions and the public."

To join this endeavor sign-up using this Google form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcPVhtClwz_sjKXsP6uBajFlo8IDHSQG0XQzhCTzjoudl2Ww/viewform?usp=pp_url

From the Google sign-up, we have 88 individuals from the countries of Austria, Canada, France, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the US. BA, MA and doctoral students are included, but most have PhDs., PharmD, MDs and MD/PhD. Half are in Anthropology Departments, a third in medical schools, many have joint appointments in both. The range of health professions include public health, health and human services, human sciences, psychology, pharmacy, nursing, epidemiology, environmental studies, international NGOs, nonprofits and business. Those in medical schools who identified their departments are Family Medicine, Medical Humanities, and Psychiatry. From this we can see that there is robust interest from a range of persons, countries, and health professions willing to make this a vibrant and productive Interest Group.

At our first organizational meeting at the AAA meetings on Nov 10, the mission, goals, leadership structure and critical priorities were reviewed and refined. Those in attendance in-person and via zoom made many good suggestions to help us envision our future as a new organization. Of special importance is the formation of "Working Groups," to address critical issues for the profession. This is a way for you to actively engage in pursuing priority issues and topics you are most interested in.

We are now beginning to build the organizational foundation in guiding and supporting the value of anthropology in the health professions. To facilitate our dialogs, a listserv, and communications media are being initiated.

Your interest and enthusiasm with being a part of this new endeavor to enhance the careers and influence of anthropologists in the health professions is greatly appreciated.

Dennis. Chair SMA HPE SIG

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Land Acknowledgement: "On Miccosukee and Seminole land, once of the Tequesta and Calusa."

2021. *Anthropology in Medical Education: Sustaining Engagement and Impact*. Edited by Iveris Martinez and Dennis Wiedman. Switzerland: Springer Press.

<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030622763> DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-62277-0.

Founding Chair. Society for Medical Anthropology Health Professions Education Special Interest Group.
Established Nov. 2022. A Section of the American Anthropological Association.

Founding Director. FIU Global Indigenous Forum (2013-2020) <https://indigenous.fiu.edu/>

Past-President. NAPA. National Association for the Practice of Anthropology

A Section of the American Anthropological Association. (2006-2008)

<https://www.practicinganthropology.org/>