

*Globally, mental health professionals are challenged to provide services to an ever-changing demographic and culturally diverse client base. In the United States, rural populations are often multi-cultural due to the variety of career opportunities inviting international applicants. In Scotland, rural and remote populations are changing due to migration and career based variables. This presentation will focus on the importance and significance of international collaboration for local providers across the world. In September of 2016, a group of researchers from a variety of academic fields from Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) and the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) in Inverness, Scotland met in Inverness at the request of and with the support of the Texas A&M University (TAMU) system. Among these researchers were Dr. Steve Bain at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Dr. Sarah-Anne Munoz at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness, Scotland. They had similar research interests in the mental health needs of rural, remote, and isolated communities. Dr. Sarah-Anne Munoz's research with Scottish rural and remote communities (2016) found mental health services were the most common service gap and The Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH, 2015) cited high rates of rural male suicide. Dr. Steve Bain's research in rural South Texas communities (2011, 2012, & 2013) also demonstrated a critical lack of mental health resources and called for a contemporary approach to understanding these rural populations he termed neo rustico (new rural).*