

MEET YOUR PHOENIX SOAR INSTRUCTORS (1/4)



Kristen Quinn

Kristen Quinn has been a part of the burn team at the University of Utah Health since 1993, working in a wide range of roles including Child Life Specialist, Mental Health Counselor, Psychosocial Aftercare Program Manager, SOAR coordinator and instructor and Camp Director. Kristen has also been a part of world burn congress for many years. Initially, helping to build and facilitate the U Belong Youth Program and then as a part of the Emotional Support Team. Kristen is passionate about peer support and really enjoys the online format as it gives attendees the opportunity to meet other survivors from across the country.



Rebecca Garber

Rebecca Garber is a nurse practitioner for the Burn and Reconstructive Program at Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, Colorado. She has cared for burn injured patients for more than 20 years. Rebecca works closely with the SOAR peer supporters of her program. She is passionate about supporting this invaluable resource and training for future peer supporters.



Rich Caias

Rich is a trained Peer Supporter, SOAR Instructor, and Phoenix World Burn Congress volunteer! Today his mission is to be there for other burn survivors, to listen, and help guide them and their families to cope with and begin their own recovery journey. He finds participating in a Survivor's burn recovery as a trained SOAR Peer Supporter to be personally very rewarding. Peer Support gives him the opportunity to help the "newbies" as well as long-time Survivors alike to develop their own approach for a successful and productive burn recovery.

MEET YOUR PHOENIX SOAR INSTRUCTORS (2/4)



Michelle Valladares

Michelle joins us with a background in nonprofit services including community organizing, resource development, and program facilitation. Her personal and professional pursuits have always centered around the well-being of children, youth and families.

She is passionate about advocating self-love, building resilience, and cultivating confidence through community and connection. Michelle holds a close place in her heart for those who have been impacted by trauma. Her desire to offer support and create change in the world has led her to pursue a B.A. in Child Development, a Master's in Social Work, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, and to become a Certified Life Coach Practitioner. Throughout her life, Michelle has enjoyed investing her time working with organizations such as Shriner's Hospital for Children, Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, and other varying nonprofit organizations. From planning events, public speaking, and working directly with families, she is now excited to become a national SOAR trainer!



Samoana Matagi

Samoana Matagi is a burn survivor of 13 years. Before his burn accident, he studied broadcast journalism at Utah State University. He was nominated outstanding senior in broadcast journalism. Sam, short for Samoana, graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Portuguese. He then worked for a couple of years at the local news stations as a video editor. The year 2007 brought a change in career for Sam as he was accepted into the Mountain States Line Construction Apprenticeship Training program. Three years later, after nearly finishing his apprenticeship, Sam suffered fourth-degree burns from 14,400 volts of electricity which eventually led to the loss of his hands. After that traumatic injury, he reinvented himself yet again. He became a YouTuber sharing his techniques for using his prosthetic hands under the moniker of the No-Handed Bandit. This led to yet another reinvention of self as a public speaker. His story is one of resilience and the ability to adapt to change.

MEET YOUR PHOENIX SOAR INSTRUCTORS (3/4)



Jill Sproul

Jill Sproul, MS, RN has been working in burn care for the past 28 years. Currently she is the Chief Nursing Officer at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) in San Jose, California. Jill started her nursing career as a new-graduate nurse in the burn in the Burn Center at SCVMC and worked at the bedside for 6 years. She then went to work in the Burn Center at the University of California at San Diego as the assistant nurse manager. Jill returned to SCVMC in 1997 as the Burn Center Nurse Manager and was in that role for 20 years.

In addition to working clinically in burn care, Jill's passion has been outreach and aftercare. She has participated in many aftercare programs. Jill is most proud of her contributions to the Phoenix SOAR program as part of the National Advisory Committee for SOAR. She is a firm believer in peer support and did her graduate research at San Jose State University in the area of peer support and perceived benefits for burn survivors. Jill has been involved with Phoenix Society since 1994 when she served on the organizing committee for the Phoenix World Burn Congress in San Francisco and again in 2000. She has also been involved with the American Burn Association (ABA) since 1991 and has served on several committees and served on the ABA Board from 2013-2016. She has also served on the Board for the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation 2016-2018.

Jill and her husband Kevin Cook, who is also a burn survivor, have 2 teenage children together and 2 older children from Kevin's previous marriage.

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Maggie Gould

Maggie Gould is a licensed clinical social worker that has worked for the University of Colorado hospital since 2017. Maggie has spent the majority of her career within the medical social work community working in various settings including the emergency department, home health, inpatient psychiatric facilities, and the inpatient hospital setting. Maggie's longest stretch of work was as the social worker for the University of Colorado's Burn Center working with burn survivors and their families across the continuum of care from the ICU to the outpatient clinic setting. Maggie continues to lead support groups for burn survivors and their families through the Phoenix Society.

Maggie's greatest joys working in social work is around education to others around the social work profession. Maggie has had multiple social work interns throughout her career and enjoys teaching about social work in health care as an adjunct professor for graduate level social work students. She has had the opportunity to publish many posters and co-author a few publications on various topics within the social work and health care setting.

In her personal life Maggie is thankful to have most of her family locally in Denver and enjoys adventures and traveling with her husband Chad and their Western Highland Terrier, Minnie.