



Phoenix World Burn Congress 2023

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

October 4 - 7, 2023 | National Harbor, MD

WorldBurnCongress.com

Special thanks to our Diamond Partners:



MedStar Health



About Phoenix World Burn Congress

Phoenix World Burn Congress (WBC) is a program of **Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors**, the leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people impacted by a burn injury.

Phoenix WBC began in 1985, developed by burn survivors, for burn survivors, to identify and understand the issues that impact the daily lives of those associated with burn trauma. Today, Phoenix WBC is the world's largest gathering of survivors, their families, burn care professionals and the fire service industry.

This life-changing biennial event connects attendees with support resources, educational programming, workshops, and, most importantly, each other. It is through these shared experiences that healing begins, because we have learned that nothing heals survivors like connection with other survivors.

REGISTER NOW

Register now by clicking the button above or visiting www.phoenix-society.org/register.

Program Committee

Phoenix WBC's Program Committee is responsible for identifying potential speakers and guiding the programming content offered at the conference. The committee is composed of community volunteers representing diverse voices, lived experiences, and roles in the community.

Rebekah Allely

Gretchen Carrougher

Rob Feeney

Paul Bell

Carey Cummins

Stephanie Schneider

Octavia Burney

Jane Fayer

Jason Woods

Meet each committee member and read their bios by visiting www.phoenix-society.org/committee.



National Harbor, Maryland

Phoenix WBC 2023 will be held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. From distinctive dining experiences to Instagram-worthy views from the Capital Wheel, National Harbor is a one-of-a-kind destination filled with possibilities. Located along the Potomac River on 350 acres, the waterfront development holds more than 160 shops and 40 restaurants, as well as multiple entertainment venues and options for water-focused adventures.

Conference Location & Hotel

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center

201 Waterfront Street,
National Harbor, MD, 20745

PLAN YOUR TRIP

*Plan your trip by clicking the button above
or visiting www.phoenix-society.org/trip.*

Travel Times to Nearby Attractions & Airports

- Downtown Washington D.C. — 23 Minutes
- Old Town Virginia — 13 Minutes
- Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) — 15 Minutes
- Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) — 35 Minutes

Thursday's Keynote Address

HARD SH*T, FINDING GRIT, AND KICKING A\$\$

Life is unpredictable, and hard times are inevitable. Have you ever felt defeated and helpless in these times? Has adversity robbed your ability to dream?

In the face of adversity, the human mind has an incredible ability to adapt, overcome and emerge stronger than ever. Through real-life examples, we will uncover the secrets of resilience and learn how to harness the power of the human mind through Cinematic Visualization. We will further discuss how this technique can build immense grit and belief in one's self — a prerequisite for achieving any type of goal, let alone a dream.



Meet Your Speaker: Aaron Volpatti

Setting a goal and visualizing his future kept Aaron Volpatti going when he burned 40% of his body when he was 19. Aaron's passion and love of hockey came to what he thought would be an abrupt halt in 2005, but his determination continued, ultimately leading him to a 5-year career playing professional hockey. His journeys and successes wouldn't have been possible without the extremely powerful visualization practice he developed.

Aaron has a truly inspiring story of overcoming a tremendous amount of adversity. His hockey career, post-secondary studies, and personal experiences led Aaron to develop his unique practice. Today, he is dedicated to teaching others how to find their true grit through visualization.

Friday's Mainstage Presentation

A FORUM OF FIVE — THE JOURNEY FROM LOSS TO GAIN

A panel of survivors and loved ones will share their personal struggles of loss following burn injuries. You will hear of the challenges they faced and how they moved forward through the hard work of healing, forgiveness, and growth into a more meaningful, fulfilled new life.

Meet Your Panelists



Rebekah Allely, OTR/L *(Moderator)*

Rebekah Allely is a burn occupational therapist at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. Rebekah works with patients across the continuum of care from the ICU to the outpatient setting.



Carey Cummins

Carey Cummins was injured in 1988 in the worst drunk-driving crash in U.S. history. She sustained 3rd degree burns over 55% of her body, and her right leg was amputated below the knee.



Jennifer R. Bell-De Paz, MA

Jennifer R. Bell-De Paz suffered third and fourth-degree burns to 93% of her body. She is currently pursuing her certification to become a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in trauma.



Lionel and Joanna Crowther

In 2007, a tragic fire changed the lives of the Crowther Family. Lionel and two other firefighters were caught in a flashover, where he suffered severe burns to 70% of his body. Tragically, Captain Lessard and Captain Nichols did not survive. Since that incident, Lionel, his wife Joanna & their family have epitomized the meaning of resiliency, hope, and survival.

Phoenix WBC Diamond Partners

Please join us in sincerely thanking our Phoenix WBC Diamond Partners: MedStar Health and the D.C. Firefighters Burn Foundation. Your partnership with Phoenix Society and Phoenix WBC provides valuable support to the burn community.



MedStar Health

MedStar Health is a health system dedicated to caring for people in Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region, while advancing the practice of medicine through education, innovation and research. Learn more at www.medstarhealth.org.



D.C. Firefighters Burn Foundation

The D.C. Firefighters Burn Foundation is dedicated to assisting in the recovery and rehabilitation of injured firefighters and burn survivors from the Washington metropolitan region. The foundation supports burn research, treatment, and rehabilitation programs at Washington Hospital Center and Children's National Medical Center. Learn more at www.dcffburnfoundation.org.

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VIEW THE FULL SCHEDULE

View the full schedule and meet your speakers by clicking the button above or visiting www.phoenix-society.org/schedule.



Special Events

KICK-OFF RECEPTION

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 | 6:30 - 9 PM

Join us for a fun, casual gathering to kick-off Phoenix WBC 2023 and be a part of the larger community of burn survivors, loved ones, hospital partners, first responders, and more.

TALENT SHOW

Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Showcasing the talent of the burn community in a family-friendly atmosphere, our Talent Show is a night filled with fun. There is limited space to showcase talent, and sign-ups are required. Be on the lookout for a sign-up form coming soon.

WALK OF SOLIDARITY (PREVIOUSLY WALK OF REMEMBRANCE)

Saturday, October 7, 2023 | 10 - 11 AM

As a community, we will connect to walk in unity, celebrating our journeys as survivors. This event was previously known as the Walk of Remembrance but has been enhanced to allow the opportunity to remember the losses we've experienced as well as showcase the power of our community support. We also hope this walk helps the local community understand our cause and advocate for access to quality care and burn prevention.

Join us at 8:30 AM for coffee, community, and rally sign-making. We'll leave the hotel staging area at 10:00 AM, then walk together from the Gaylord National Resort. The Walk of Solidarity will be capped off with a community celebration, closing out the conference.



Wellness Center

The Wellness Center offers restoration, tools, resources, and inspiration to support you on your healing journey. Experts across many fields will help you learn new skills and experience complementary healing methods.

Start the day with vinyasa (gentle) flow yoga, learn about sleep hygiene and relationship wellness, explore creative cosmetics, or participate in the iconic Rehearse Your Response - Social Skills workshop. Pop in throughout the week for a quiet place to meditate, relax, and reflect.

All levels are welcome; each program can be modified to your ability and comfort level.

More information coming soon!

Thank You to Our Phoenix Partners!

This life-changing program would not be possible without financial support from our Phoenix Partners and Sponsors.

LUMINARY PARTNERS



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Foundation



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INFLUENCER PARTNERS

Bio-Concepts
IAFF Foundation Burn Fund
National Association of State Fire Marshals
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Orlando Health
Vericel

Schedule of Events

All times are listed in EST.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

12:00 - 6:00 PM	Registration
4:00 - 6:00 PM	First-Time Attendee Gathering
6:30 - 9:00 PM	Kick-Off Reception

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Open Ceremony & Keynote Address: Hard Sh*T, Finding Grit, and Kicking A\$\$
10:30 - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Wellness Center Programming
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Exhibitor Hall Open
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Healing Through Our Stories - Open Mic
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Learning Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Session A: Burn Hypertrophic Scars – What We Know, What We Need to Learn, and How We Can Help!• Learning Session B: Be All You Can Be - Ways to Give Back after a Burn Injury• Learning Session C: Looking at “Play” Through the Lens of Contemplative Photography• Learning Session D: Healing Power of Laughter• Learning Session E: Trauma 101 for First Responders
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Break
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Support Groups & Meet-Up Groups
5:45 - 6:30 PM	Substance Abuse Recovery Meeting
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Talent Show

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

8:30 - 10:00 AM	Support Groups
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Exhibitor Hall Open
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Mainstage Presentation: A Forum of Five — The Journey From Loss to Gain
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Break
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Healing Through Our Stories - Open Mic
11:45 AM - 5:00 PM	Wellness Center Programming
3:45 - 5:00 PM	Learning Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Session A: It's Not in Your Head: Managing Chronic Issues After a Burn Injury• Learning Session B: Love and Relationships with a Physical Difference• Learning Session C: Coping Using Art and Mindfulness• Learning Session D: Posttraumatic stress to Posttraumatic Growth: Making Meaning• Learning Session E: Does it Get Better? Coping with Caregiver Guilt
5:15 - 6:00 PM	Substance Abuse Recovery Meeting
5:15 - 8:00 PM	Meet Up Groups, Free Time, Dinner On Your Own
8:00 - 11:00 PM	Dance Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

8:00 - 10:00 AM	Registration
8:30 - 10:00 AM	Sign-Making & Coffee Break for Walk of Solidarity
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Walk of Solidarity (WOS)
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Community Celebration
12:00 PM	Free Time

Registration

Registration is now open! We will be offering tiered pricing, which means there will be a registration price for survivors, loved ones, friends, and families and another price for Phoenix partners, healthcare professionals, and corporate teams.

Our Phoenix WBC survey results revealed that supporters are willing to pay a higher registration rate to keep the cost lower for survivors and loved ones. We are also offering early-bird pricing, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible to take advantage of the savings!

Rates & Deadlines

Early Bird Registration: April 3rd - September 1st

- Survivors \$415/per person
- Loved Ones: \$415/per person
- Supporters: \$590/per person

Regular Registration: September 2nd - October 7th

- Survivors: \$500/per person
- Loved Ones: \$500/per person
- Supporters: \$700/per person

No online registrations will be accepted from 9/25 until 10/4 as the organization prepares to travel to the conference. On-site registration will occur upon your arrival at the Gaylord and will be at the Regular Registration rate.

REGISTER NOW

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VIEW THE FULL SCHEDULE

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Travel Information

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

To help attendees plan and prepare for their trip to National Harbor, MD, we have put together an [Anticipated Expense and Planning Sheet](#). The sheet includes information on registration fees, travel tips, nearby food options, and fundraising ideas for those seeking assistance with Phoenix WBC expenses.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

We have a room block available at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. The room rate, including the daily resort fee, is \$261/night + tax, for an anticipated total of \$308/night. Three nights at the convention center, including tax, is approximately \$924/room.

[Visit our online portal to book your reservation.](#) You'll need to enter your check-in date, check-out date, number of rooms, and number of guests before selecting your room. Once your room is selected, you will need to enter your contact information and payment method.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

If you are flying to the conference, there are three nearby airports. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) is the closest and is approximately 15 minutes away (\$30-45 Rideshare or Taxi Ride) from the convention center. Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) are two other nearby airports at approximately 35 and 50 minutes away, respectively.

Please note: Phoenix Society is unable to provide complimentary transportation to/from travel centers and the hotel this year. Find more information and tips for planning your trip by visiting www.phoenix-society.org/trip.

Additional Information

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS/SPECIAL REQUESTS

Pursuant to the Americans with Disability Act, if you require specific aids or services and special room requirements (mothers' room, prayer room, etc.), please contact the organization via: info@phoenix-society.org. You must notify the organization of your needs by September 1, 2023. We cannot guarantee ADA accommodation if you do not notify us of your needs by this time.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

If you are in need of equipment (including motorized scooters or wheelchairs) when in town, please contact info@phoenix-society.org.

SPEAKERS & SCHEDULE

Although we make every effort to honor our speaker list and the event schedule, circumstances are sometimes beyond our control, and therefore, the event speakers and schedules are subject to change without notice.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Please contact Phoenix Society at (800) 888-2876 or info@phoenix-society.org if you have questions or concerns regarding Phoenix World Burn Congress.

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