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Burn-Care Experts Sharing Solutions for All-Too-Common Injuries in Latin America

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — Severe burns are among the most common and debilitating type of injury suffered by people in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). This week, health providers from all over LAC, and the world, are meeting to advance their burn-care skills at the International Society for Burns Injuries Congress (ISBI).

Burn injuries require specialized surgeries, treatments and rehabilitation. These skills are often learned on the job, as formal training in burn care is not common. This global health conference takes place in Guadalajara this year, making it more accessible than ever for LAC healthcare professionals.

Several presenters will address challenges and provide creative solutions for burn injuries in low-income countries and rural settings. Many of these doctors, nurses, physical and occupational therapists were trained in Latin America by Physicians for Peace.

Physicians for Peace education programs not only accelerate the knowledge of medical providers serving communities in need, but help them become leaders in their area of specialty—conducting research, sharing best practices, and training fellow healthcare providers.

Research presented by Physicians for Peace-trained experts include useful guidelines and practical demonstrations on innovative burn-care techniques using materials readily available in LAC. These methods can be incorporated even in medical facilities with severely limited resources.

“Very rarely do we have access to such high-level trainings as those given by PFP,” says physical therapist Amparo Hidalgo from Guatemala City, a PFP trainee who is now an educator and presenter at ISBI. “That impact has gone much further, since we have also become trainers in our communities and in other countries.”

To get in touch with burn-care experts from LAC, either during the conference or to feature for the upcoming Latin American Burn Day on Oct. 26, please contact Eileen Loh at Physicians for Peace.

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