

Dr. Daniel Caruso

Memorial Campaign



In 1992, Daniel Caruso, MD began his surgical residency at Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) (now known as Valleywise Health). Following residency, Dr. Caruso was accepted into a trauma/critical care fellowship at UC Davis. He then returned to Maricopa Medical Center at MIHS to begin his career as an attending surgeon in 1998, practicing at Maricopa Medical Center and the Arizona Burn Center until his untimely death following a long-fought battle with cancer in 2017.

In 2000, the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma bestowed its highest level of burn care recognition on the Arizona Burn Center, then under the leadership of Dr. Caruso. Since 2000, The Arizona Burn Center at Valleywise Health has been nationally verified by this accrediting committee six times. Under Dr. Caruso's leadership, the Arizona Burn Center grew to be one of the nation's premier burn centers treating some of the most complex and traumatic burn and wound cases. The Arizona Burn Center continues to strive for excellence in patient care.

“

One of the greatest relationships of my life and I miss him every day.”

Dr. Kevin Foster

Director Arizona Burn Center at Valleywise Health

Dr. Caruso dreamed of a new burn center at Valleywise Health, telling a newly hired Dr. Kevin Foster, nearly 25 years ago, that we'd have a new hospital and burn center in just a few years. Dr. Caruso was a humble man, yet he was passionate, loyal and had an intense drive for success. He was a compassionate advocate for his patients and his residents. His experience as a patient influenced his style of teaching and training, driving his residents to see the medical care they provided through the eyes of the patient.



From Vision to Reality

Taking care of burn patients is complicated and resource intensive. The goal is for our patients to not only survive their burns, but to thrive in their recovery, and to return to their preinjury functions – their work, their families, their hobbies and the things that bring them enjoyment. With modern and progressive facilities, our care team will be able to treat burn patients both acutely (in the hospital) and long-term, as survivors continuing their recovery.

Understanding that burn patients often require support beyond surgical and medical interventions, our team of burn care professionals also look to psychosocial care and mindfulness to support a patient's resilience. Post-traumatic stress disorder occurs frequently in burn patients and can be debilitating. The new Arizona Burn Center Wellness Center features distinct areas of care beyond the dressing changes, skin grafts and acute care, but looks to treat a burn survivors' life-long care needs.



The NEW Arizona Burn Center at Valleywise Health will be a state-of-the-art facility, the epitome of excellence in burn care, THE burn center that every burn care professional would want to have."

Dr. Kevin Foster

Our burn experts had the luxury (and privilege) of designing the new facility from both the patient's and clinician's perspective, allowing us to bring the functions and features of world-class burn care into one location. The design philosophy and physical layout of the new Arizona Burn Center fosters a sense of safety, openness, collaboration, peer support in recovery and responsiveness – which are key in addressing the trauma associated with burns, as well as a patient's long-term recovery.





The new Arizona Burn Center will feature:

- A secured pediatric unit with doors separating it from the adult treatment areas to promote safety, minimize disruptions in a child's healing process, and to reduce ongoing exposure to sights and sounds encountered during burn treatment.
- Hydrotherapy rooms where burn care is performed out of the patient's room to limit traumatic experiences within patient rooms.
- Evidence-based design – a single floor with open common space and team rooms, allowing all members of the burn care team (physicians, nurses, social workers, care managers, psychologists, pharmacy staff, nutritionists, physical therapists, etc.) to easily interact and discuss the multidisciplinary nature of burn recovery.
- Private rooms providing a safe space for recovery for all patients.
- Family support rooms.
- Child Life specialists who provide a critical role in maintaining the emotional well-being of pediatric patients in the hospital. The new burn center will have both a dedicated pediatric playroom and teen room to give young patients a safe space to interact and regain a level of normalcy during their hospitalization.
- A newly integrated outpatient burn clinic (within the new burn center) that will allow for a seamless transition from inpatient care to ongoing outpatient care utilizing the same care team, with a focus on survivorship and ongoing recovery.

Additionally, the new 75,000-square-foot Arizona Burn Center will include:

- A Welcome Center with Family Support
- Trauma and Emergency Exam Rooms
- Private ICU and Acute Care Patient Rooms
- Hyperbaric Therapy
- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Psychosocial Therapy for PTSD
- An Ambulatory Clinic and Urgent Care Areas
- A State-of-the-art Wellness Center for rehabilitation therapy and long-term survivorship care
- A Dedicated Pediatric Wing
- A Children's Room and a Teen Room
- Dedicated space for research and medical teaching



**Scan here
to support
Dr. Caruso's
Vision**

In honor of Dr. Caruso's legacy, we propose the creation of a "campaign committee" with the goal of a \$2,000,000 campaign to support the new Arizona Burn Center at Valleywise Health. The Committee would be chaired by Dr. Kevin Foster and include:

The Arizona Burn Center Team:

- Dr. Matthews
- Dr. Peck
- Dr. Sal Lettieri
- LouAnne Jones

VHF

- Betsey Bayless
- Kate Fassett
- Nate Lowrie
- Mark Dewane

Those Caruso helped train:

- Dr. Elizabeth Ferguson
- Dr. Orazion L. Amabile
- Dr. Molly Walsh
- Dr. Terry Maffi
- Dr. Gags Singh

Caruso Family

- Diane Caruso

Survivors:

- Nadine Durham
- Jason Schechterle
- Stephanie and Christian Nielson
- John Schaper

Attorneys:

- Matt Cunningham
- Brewer/Wood
- Pat McGroder

In recognition of this campaign, Valleywise Health Foundation would recommend for approval to the Valleywise Health Board of Directors a significant naming recognition within the Arizona Burn Center at Valleywise Health to honor Dr. Caruso's commitment to his patients, his residents and to exceptional burn care.