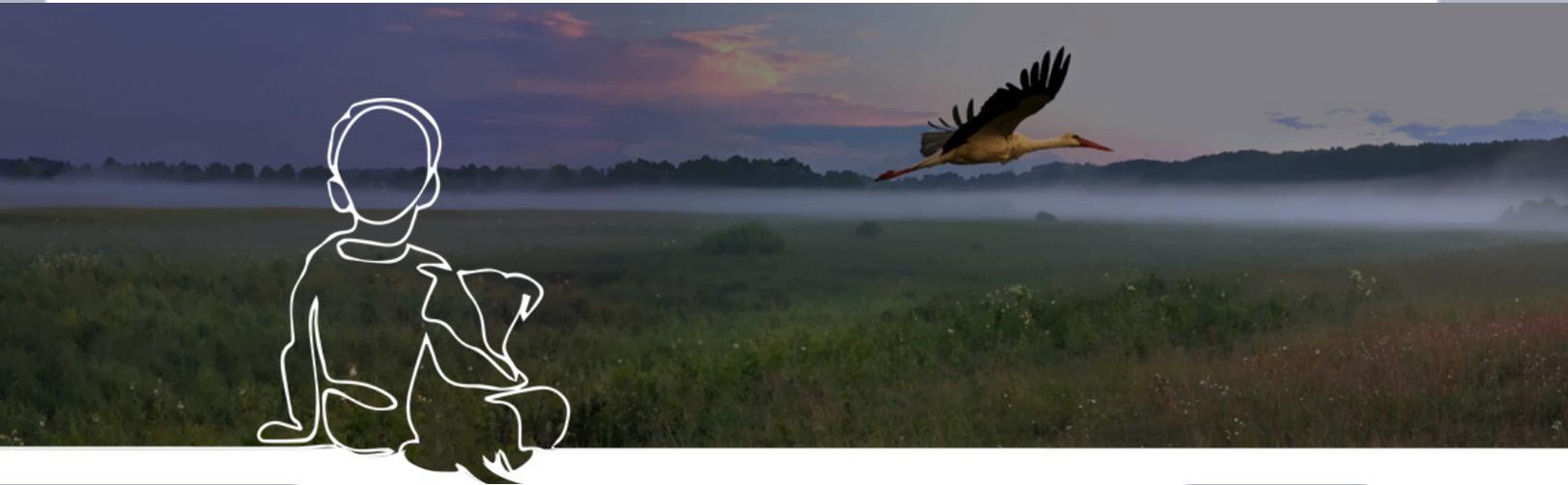


PHOENIX ZONES INITIATIVE



Using medical and public health expertise
to solve problems for people,
animals, and the planet.

PhoenixZonesInitiative.org

ABOUT PZI

Based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Phoenix Zones Initiative (PZI) is a global nonprofit that advances the interconnected rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet, enabling individuals, communities, and society to rise and thrive.

Places that enable us to thrive are “Phoenix Zones,” a term coined by PZI’s own Dr. Hope Ferdowsian. PZI also elevates what is known as the Phoenix Effect: conditions that allow individuals to ascend from the proverbial ashes, via respect for liberty and sovereignty, tolerance and justice, compassion, and a belief that each individual possesses dignity.

Phoenix Zones and the Phoenix Effect are also metaphors for how we can heal ourselves and the world around us.

AREAS OF FOCUS



Phoenix Zones Initiative (PZI) grounds our work in a Just One Health approach, placing justice, ethics, prevention, and the links between people, animals, and the planet at the heart of policy, research, and practice.

We tackle the interconnected systems and practices that harm and exploit the most vulnerable and develop meaningful solutions that address these challenges at their roots, including by

- advancing international and national policies that simultaneously help people, animals, and the planet;
- addressing publicly funded activities such as food policy, medical research, public health priorities, and international development;
- promoting sustainable development by recognizing the right to health for people and animals;
- preventing global pandemics by ending key forms of exploitation and trafficking;
- transforming medical research so that it protects and benefits people and animals;
- supporting local solutions that help people, animals, and the planet through training, mentorship, and collaboration; and
- developing economic frameworks and other tools that advance rights, health, and wellbeing for people, animals, and the planet.

FOUNDING STORY

In 2019, Dr. Hope Ferdowsian and Dr. Nik Kulkarni co-founded Phoenix Zones Initiative after two decades of global work as physicians caring for individuals and communities impacted by social and environmental injustices. Around the world, they witnessed how humans and animals suffer, and how they can heal if provided the opportunity. Dr. Ferdowsian wrote about this phenomenon and its implications for society in *Phoenix Zones*, a book named after the term “Phoenix Effect,” a transformational recovery that can occur after trauma, much like the proverbial phoenix who rises from the ashes.

ABOUT HOPE

Hope is president and CEO of Phoenix Zones Initiative. Over two decades, as a double board-certified internal medicine and preventive medicine physician, Hope has cared for individuals who have experienced displacement and violence, while she has also worked on policy to address structural inequities and human and animal exploitation.

Her work across six continents has included collaboration with the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States and the development of medical, public health, and educational resources for national and international governments and organizations, such as the World Health Organization. As a result of her work, Hope was named a Humanitarian of the Year in the American College of Physicians in 2017. Hope has authored highly cited publications and has spoken at academic institutions and through media outlets across the globe.

Many of her publications focus on ethics, global public health, and the links between human, animal, and environmental rights, health, and wellbeing.

ABOUT NIK

Nik is a board-certified anesthesiologist. He has served on several hospital committees throughout his career and has led anesthesiology teams for Operation Walk, a charitable organization that provides joint replacement surgeries for patients in the US and abroad. He has staffed free back-to-school clinics for children, and he has volunteered with an organization that helps military veterans and rescued wolves and wolf dogs work together to overcome their shared trauma.

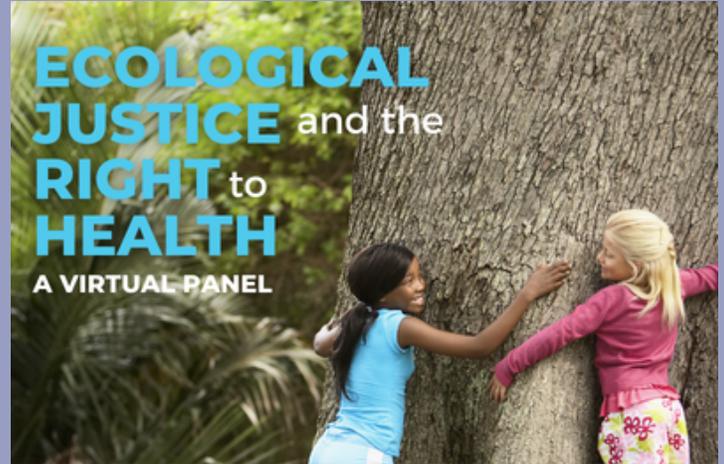
Over the years, Nik has provided philanthropic support to a number of organizations focused on human rights, animal protection, and compassionate conservation. As a result, he has become increasingly interested in the combination of grassroots action, systems-level change, and measurable impact.



PZI'S APPROACH

EDUCATION

- PZI provides free educational materials and resources for medical, public health, and other professionals, and the public.
- PZI partners across sectors, including medicine, public health, the sciences, and the law, to advance improvements in social, economic, and environmental policy.
- PZI offers training, internships, and ongoing mentorship to professionals and advocates in medicine, public health, law, ethics, and the sciences.



RESEARCH

- PZI leads in-depth research and analysis to craft solutions that promote the interdependent rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet.
- PZI offers innovative solutions to advance ethical and just social, economic, and environmental policies and practices to benefit people, animals, and the planet.
- PZI tracks various metrics of success to assess and monitor our impact, to help identify challenges and solutions, and to improve our programs and interventions.



ADVOCACY

- PZI advocates for global and local policy changes that safeguard people, animals, and the environment against exploitation.
- PZI leads efforts to ensure that global and local policies protect the rights, health, and wellbeing of the most vulnerable.
- PZI works to ensure the right to a healthy and safe home and environment for people and animals around the globe.



PZI's Vision

PZI envisions intergovernmental and government agencies, policies, positions, and funding mechanisms that advance the interdependent rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet. Our vision is grounded in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations, communities, and individuals. We strive for the widespread adoption of economic metrics and policies that emphasize the right to health and the right to a healthy and safe home and environment.

PZI's Impact

Guided by an ambitious strategic plan, PZI has met or exceeded our established benchmarks. We have built bridges across diverse disciplines to advance the rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet. Between 2019 and 2022, we have

- been featured in more than 40 prominent publications and platforms—including, international articles, editorials, webinars, videos, and art exhibits—reaching millions.
- hosted more than 40 events, educating and engaging thousands of professionals and advocates across six continents.
- partnered with Project ECHO, a revolutionary model to advance social and environmental interventions through a Just One Health approach.
- provided expertise in international forums, including the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and helped to develop the 2021 and 2022 NGO Major Group Position Papers.
- worked with our partners to influence the development of an international pandemic prevention treaty.



SOCIAL MEDIA / LINKS



[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Website](#)