



REEVE **SUMMIT** **2024**
WHERE CARE, CURE AND COMMUNITY CONNECT

March 6–8, 2024

Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill
525 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

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WELCOME!

From the moment we opened our doors in 2002, the National Paralysis Resource Center has been guided by the needs of our community. We've built a robust network of peer mentors for individuals and families, funded thousands of programs that expand opportunities for independence, and created an ever-growing library of free resources to support vibrant lives.

When you tell us what you need, we listen.

The 4th Annual Reeve Summit, *Where Care, Cure and Community Connect*, is designed to tackle the health, policy and social challenges central to the lives of so many community members—and plot a path toward a more inclusive future.

Health experts and disability advocates from across the country will lead conversations about today's critical issues, including the complexities of caregiving, Emergency Preparedness, and the progress fueling spinal cord injury research. Breakout sessions will encourage new connections and spotlight resources meant to be carried back home. Learn how to increase outdoor access and engagement in your community. Explore NPRC programs that help students of all ages pursue dreams of higher education. Discover ways to simplify the recruitment and management process for those hiring caregivers.

We'd like to thank the Administration for Community Living for its longtime support of our work and all of you for joining us. Make sure to introduce yourselves. Share your stories and let us know what you need. You are here for a reason—and we are here for you.

Maggie Goldberg
President & CEO



Maggie Goldberg
President & CEO
Christopher & Dana Reeve
Foundation

www.ChristopherReeve.org | [#ReeveSummit](https://twitter.com/ReeveSummit) | [@ReeveFoundation](https://twitter.com/ReeveFoundation)

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6	LOCATION	SESSION
5:45pm-7:45pm		Exhibits Open
5:45pm-7:45pm	Ballroom	Welcome and Get to Know You Activity, with Light Appetizers Troubleshooting Art: Using DIY Adaptive Aids in Art Making
THURSDAY, MARCH 7	LOCATION	SESSION
7:30am-8:45am		Morning Refreshment
8:45am-10:00am	Ballroom	Welcome and Opening remarks Keynote: Disability Inclusivity & Representation in Research with Dr. Anjali Forber-Pratt
10:00am-10:15am		Break & Exhibits
10:15am-11:00am	Springwood	Journey to Accessibility and Belonging in College and Higher Education
	Hermitage	Data-Driven Outreach and Entrepreneurship
11:00am-11:15am		Break & Exhibits
11:15am-12:00pm	Springwood	Outdoors for Everyone: Exploring Accessibility and Inclusivity in the Great Outdoors
	Hermitage	Nothing About Us Without Us: Advancing Change at the Federal & State Levels
12:00pm-1:00pm		Buffet Lunch & Exhibits Open
1:00pm-1:45pm	Ballroom	Keynote: #ThingsDisabledPeopleKnow: A Conversation with Imani Barbarin
1:45pm-2:45pm		Break & Exhibits
2:45pm-3:30pm	Springwood	Caring for Our Family Caregivers: Providing Resources and Support to Mitigate Burnout and Distress
	Hermitage	The Patient-Doctor Duo: Building a Roadmap for Healthy and Successful Pregnancy and Newborn Care for Parents with SCI
3:30pm-3:45pm		Break & Exhibits
3:45pm-4:30pm	Springwood	Supporting Gun Violence Survivors Living with Paralysis
	Hermitage	The Accessible Future of Tech and Disability
4:30pm-5:00pm		Break & Exhibits
5:30pm-7:00pm	Ballroom	Whiskey, Wine, & Wheels Reception

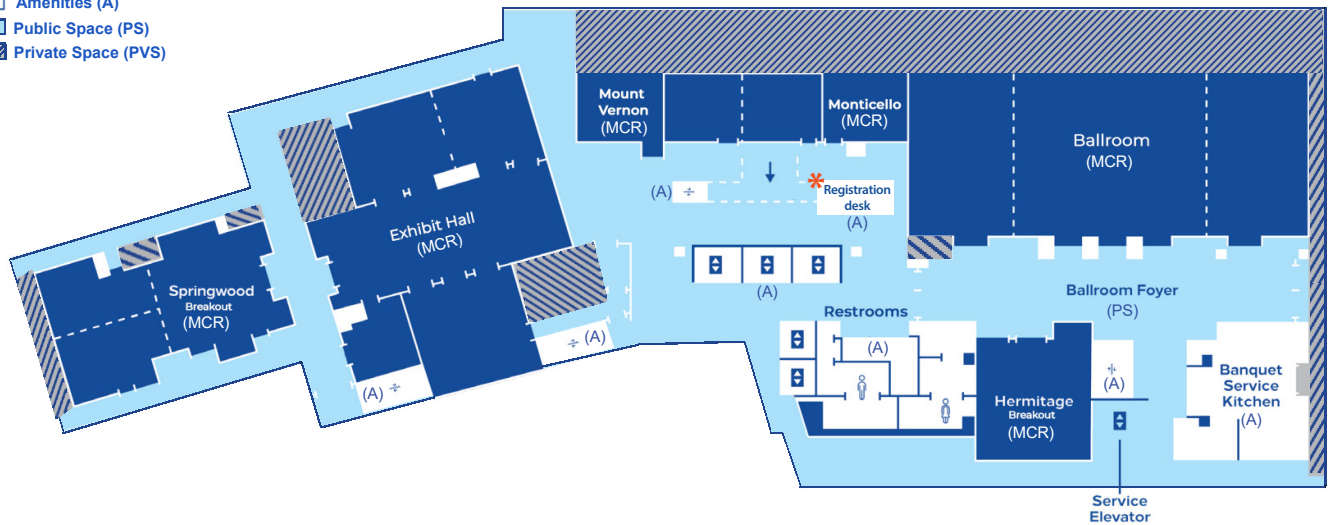
FRIDAY, MARCH 8	LOCATION	SESSION
7:30am–8:45am		Morning Refreshment
8:45am–10:00am	Ballroom	Yesterday's Recap and Opening Remarks Keynote: Walkie Talkies & Other Technoableist Dreams with Dr. Ashley Shew
10:00am–10:15am		Break & Exhibits
10:15am–11:00am	Springwood Hermitage	Combating Racism and Ableism in Healthcare Discover SCI/D & Bladder Check App: Tools to Enhance Self-Management of SCI/D
11:00am–11:15am		Break & Exhibits
11:15am–12:00pm	Springwood Hermitage	Empowering Resilience: Inclusive Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities Caregiving Crisis: From Effort to Effortless
12:00pm–12:30pm		Break & Exhibits
12:30pm–1:30pm	Ballroom	Today's Care, Tomorrow's Cure Building Health Futures Lunch Reeve Research: Translating Science into Treatments

MAP

Lower Lobby Level

FLOOR MAP KEY

- Meeting/Conference Rooms (MCR)
- Amenities (A)
- Public Space (PS)
- ▨ Private Space (PVS)



SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

5:45pm–7:45pm | Ballroom and Exhibitor Hall

Welcome “Get to Know You” with Light Appetizers and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Troubleshooting Art: Using DIY Adaptive Aids in Art Making

Kemi Yemi-Ese

This art-making session is focused on sharing tips and tricks with participants that Kemi Yemi-Ese has gathered over the years as an artist with a physical disability. Most dry art mediums are difficult to use for people with limited hand function and adaptive aids can be expensive. During this session, Kemi will guide participants as they create meaningful art pieces with media that we make accessible ourselves. With the help of artist tape and our own ingenuity, no artistic expression is beyond our reach!

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

7:30am–8:45am

Morning Refreshment

8:45am–10:00am | Ballroom

Welcome

Opening Remarks by Maggie Goldberg, President & CEO, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Keynote: Disability Inclusivity & Representation in Research

Dr. Anjali Forber-Pratt

This keynote talk will highlight the importance of disability inclusivity and representation in all aspects of SCI-related research. In particular, disability should not be an afterthought and can strengthen the research being done. Key aspects about disability from an equity framework including intersectionality and designing research with intentionality will be discussed. Information about the future directions of disability research policy will be shared.

10:00am–10:15am

Break & Exhibits

10:15am–11:00am | Springwood

Journey to Accessibility and Belonging in College and Higher Education

Kate Strickland, Christie Cyktor, Tyree Brown, Eleanor Bolton, Annie Tulkin

Navigating college and higher education can be challenging enough for all students. For students with disabilities, there are additional hurdles to jump through – classroom accommodations, accessible living quarters, managing personal care attendants, and more. However, having the right resources and a community to lean on makes a world of difference. Join current college students and recent graduates living with paralysis for a discussion charting the journey to accessibility and belonging in college and higher education, moderated by the CEO and founder of Accessible College.

10:15am–11:00am | Hermitage

Data-Driven Outreach and Entrepreneurship

Diego Mariscal, Mayumi Hairston Escalante, Adam P. Grundy

This session will explore the power of using data to understand disability and employment, particularly entrepreneurship. Representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau will share a free data tool, My Community Explorer, and how it can be utilized to gather information on community trends and needs. Diego Mariscal, the CEO and founder of 2Gether-International, will discuss the importance of entrepreneurship for people with disabilities and how data can make advocacy more powerful. Join us as we demystify data and employment!

11:00am–11:15am

Break & Exhibits

11:15am–12:00pm | Springwood

Outdoors for Everyone: Exploring Accessibility and Inclusivity in the Great Outdoors

Kris Gulden, Jeremy Buzzell, Carly Pearson, Naomi and Noah Williams

While the beauty of nature is a universal right, achieving accessibility in the great outdoors is often challenging. From unpaved paths, eroding trails, and lack of resources, people with disabilities are deterred from outdoor experiences. Our goal is to amend that. The panel experts are committed to raising awareness, addressing the preventable limitations for those impacted by paralysis, and advancing outdoor equity to create a new kind of adventure.

11:15am–12:00pm | Hermitage

Nothing About Us Without Us: Advancing Change at the Federal & State Levels

Josh Turek and Lauren DeBruicker

Join us for a powerful advocacy session where we'll delve into effective advocacy at both state and federal levels, and drafting and enforcing legislation that protects our rights. The panelists will also address how you can make a difference in advancing the rights of the disability community in your state and beyond. Don't miss this insightful discussion on driving meaningful change!

12:00pm–1:00pm

Buffet Lunch & Exhibits

1:00pm–1:45pm | Ballroom

Keynote

#ThingsDisabledPeopleKnow: A Conversation with Imani Barbarin

Named by The Root 100 as one of the most influential Black Americans, disability activist Imani Barbarin has created over a dozen trending hashtags, had work appear in places such as Forbes, Rewire, and BitchMedia, and has over 600,000 followers on TikTok. On top of this, her much-awaited memoir will be released later this year. Perhaps most impressive of all is that Imani continues to shape public discourse on media representation, intersectionality, and activism. Join Imani for a conversation delving into these topics as we explore an equitable and inclusive future for all, and the wisdom disabled people hold. This chat will be moderated by Keri Gray, the founder of the National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates.

1:45pm–2:45pm

Break & Exhibits

The Quality Quality of Life Grants Program awards financial support to nonprofit organizations that mirror the Reeve Foundation's mission. Learn more about program descriptions and grant cycle timelines online at ChristopherReeve.org/QOL.

2:45pm–3:30pm | Springwood

Caring for Our Family Caregivers: Providing Resources and Support to Mitigate Burnout and Distress

Adrienne Smith, Nicole Homerin, Naomi D. Williams

Every single one of us, if we live long enough, is likely to experience being a family caregiver, needing a family caregiver, or both. Each year, more than 53 million family caregivers provide most of the support that makes it possible for older people and people with disabilities to live in the community. When formal systems of caregiving break down or are not available in the first place, family caregivers step in—often on short notice—and cover whatever is needed and often sacrifice their own employment, health and well-being despite their best and most genuine intentions. Panelists will share about their own personal caregiver journeys, highlight the difficulties of managing without legal, federal and state support, and address how local organizations can empower caregivers to advocate for sustainable changes to tackle this ongoing crisis. Panelists will also provide practical tips and resources to caregivers to help mitigate some of the most difficult aspects of caregiving.

2:45pm–3:30pm | Hermitage

The Patient-Doctor Duo: Building a Roadmap for Healthy and Successful Pregnancy and Newborn Care for Parents with SCI

Dr. Robert Fuller and Dani Izzie

Dani Izzie, disability advocate and featured protagonist in the international award-winning 2022 documentary film, “Dani’s Twins,” and Dr. Robert Fuller, Maternal-Fetal Medicine subspecialist at the University of Virginia, interact during a Q-and-A style presentation where Dani discusses her personal experience and perspectives about pregnancy, early newborn care and parenting with SCI. A “Pregnancy Roadmap” is presented to guide individuals through various aspects of pregnancy from preconception through the trimesters of pregnancy, labor and delivery, post-partum recovery and early newborn care. Meaningful and practical advice is provided that balances the personal experience of pregnancy and becoming a parent with important medical and social considerations relevant to families living with SCI.

3:30pm–3:45pm

Break & Exhibits

Request a free *Paralysis Resource Guide*, a roadmap to living well after paralysis. Download, request or view a copy at

ChristopherReeve.org/Guide.

3:45pm–4:30pm | Springwood

Supporting Gun Violence Survivors Living with Paralysis

Namel “Tapwaterz” Norris, Chris Hilderbrant, Ralph Norman, Rahsaan “Shine” Wise

This panel will address one of the most pressing public health issues in our country today. This conversation will feature disability rights advocate and Hip-Hop Artist Namel Norris, the Executive Director of Rochester Spinal Association Chris Hilderbrant, and gun violence survivors Ralph Norman and Rahsaan “Shine” Wise. Panelists will have a candid conversation about the long-lasting emotional and physical impacts of gun violence, how they are affecting change and providing critical support to other survivors of gun violence in the spinal cord injury community.

3:45pm–4:30pm | Hermitage

The Accessible Future of Tech and Disability

Ariana Aboulafia, Henry Claypool, Chandra Smith

Algorithms, monitoring systems, websites – these are just a few examples of technology that can prove discriminatory against people with disabilities when access and inclusion are left to the wayside. Still, technology informs our future, and disabled people – like all people – need technology to survive and thrive. Join us as we discuss common technological barriers currently facing the disability community, and ways to dismantle these barriers.

4:30pm–5:00pm

Break & Exhibits

5:30pm–7:00pm | Ballroom

Whiskey, Wine, & Wheels Reception

Tribute to Judy Heumann, Ady Barkan, and other late members of the paralysis community by Alison Barkoff, Principal Deputy Administrator of the Administration for Community Living

Remarks by Alex Blaszczyk, Reeve Foundation Board Member

Adaptive violin performance by Amy Wang-Hiller

Information Specialists provide individualized support by helping families navigate the information and services critical to healthy living. Visit [ChristopherReeve.org/Ask](https://www.ChristopherReeve.org/Ask) to learn more.

7:30am–8:45am

Morning Refreshment

8:45am–10:00am | Ballroom

Yesterday’s Recap

Opening Remarks by Alexandra Reeve Givens

Keynote: Walkie Talkies & Other Technoableist Dreams, Dr. Ashley Shew

In this keynote address, Dr. Ashley Shew will highlight stories from a diverse community of disabled individuals living rich and meaningful lives despite often being viewed through a lens of “poor health” or “limited” by their physicians, or the assistive technologist that is fitting and measuring them for the latest and greatest technologies. Shew will examine how healthcare technology often fixates and favors traditional functional abilities, like walking or standing, while diminishing or ignoring crucial aspects of the disability narrative and experience, like eating or even breathing. This example of technoableism misses the wholeness that the concept of healthy living should entail, undermining human flourishing, particularly for disabled individuals. By the conclusion of this presentation, our audience should leave with a greater understanding of the definition of technoableism and a broader idea of how to tackle this form of ableism as healthcare consumers.

10:00am–10:15am

Break & Exhibits

10:15am–11:00am | Springwood

Combating Racism and Ableism in Healthcare

Tameka Citchen-Spruce, Tyra Randle, Nila Morton

This session will explore the history and present-day experiences of racism and ableism in healthcare settings in America. Through discussions of how racism and ableism results in poor health outcomes and statistics documenting systemic inequities, participants will learn strategies to combat racism and ableism and create safer healthcare settings for black and brown disabled people.

10:15am–11:00am | Hermitage

Discover SCI/D & Bladder Check App: Tools to Enhance Self-Management of SCI/D

Dr. Amanda Rounds and Dr. Suzanne Groah

Join Dr. Amanda Rounds and Dr. Suzanne Groah from MedStar Health for an overview of two digital tools individuals living with SCI/D can use to learn about their condition, better track symptoms, and assess their health. In this interactive session, participants will be given the tools to understand and monitor their own wellbeing through transformative, digital options. Be prepared to leave this presentation with much needed knowledge and a greater sense of empowerment.

11:00am–11:15am

Break & Exhibits

11:15am–12:00pm | Springwood

Empowering Resilience: Inclusive Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Mia Natalia, Robin Ramsey, Sonja Schaible, Sherman Gillums Jr.

In the face of disasters, individuals with disabilities often face unique challenges that demand special attention and support. This panel session aims to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to ensure the safety, well-being, and resilience of people with disabilities before, during, and after a disaster. In this session, we'll delve into the crucial steps required to create a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan that is inclusive of individuals with disabilities, focus on the immediate actions needed to provide safety and accessibility during the disaster, and in the aftermath of a disaster, the focus shifts to community living. Join us for an enlightening and interactive seminar that emphasizes the importance of having a self-preparedness plan, an inclusive approach to disaster preparedness response, and community building. Together, we can build resilient communities that prioritize the safety and well-being of all individuals, regardless of ability.

Our Peer & Family Support Program offers peer-to-peer mentoring and encouragement to people living with paralysis and their family members. To talk to someone who has been there, visit ChristopherReeve.org/Peer to request a mentor.

11:15am–12:00pm | Hermitage

Caregiving Crisis: From Effort to Effortless

Annie Heathcote

How many times have you felt tremendous pressure and exhaustion from the never-ending battle of finding, scheduling, and training good and reliable caregivers? Many disabled people and their loved ones know first-hand the feeling of this constant deficiency, because caregivers are necessary for their independence and survival, but difficult to attain. How much better would you feel if you were given the answers to control the narrative? Imagine having a system that not only helps solve the aches and pains of this unending process but allows you the time to focus on the joys of life. Then this session is for you! Join me in exploring 5 ways to find caregivers and simplify the hiring process amidst the caregiving crisis. Discover how to counteract and resolve this challenge effectively. The tips you'll learn will leave you feeling empowered and uplifted. Additionally, if you are considering becoming a caregiver, seize the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the potential benefits, significance, success stories, and the path to get started. Let's journey together and make your caregiving goals a success!

12:00pm–12:30pm

Break & Exhibits

12:30pm–1:30pm | Ballroom

Today's Care, Tomorrow's Cure Building Healthy Futures Lunch

Reeve Research: Translating Science into Treatments

Dr. Marco Baptista

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is on a mission to Catalyze, Energize and Educate the field. We believe that drug discovery and drug/device development is too slow, there are a lack of incentives to collaborate and openly share data that will accelerate spinal cord injury (SCI) research, and one group (academic and/or industry) will not alone be able to find a cure. This presentation will explain the process of clinical trials, outline the new research vision of the Foundation, and explain how new field enabling initiatives will bring us closer to transformative treatments via building a more robust clinical pipeline in SCI.

The Reeve Foundation's Advocacy and Public Policy Program is designed to help people advocate for themselves but also advance important issues for people living with paralysis.

Sign up to become a Reeve Foundation advocate at

ChristopherReeve.org/Advocacy.

SURVEYS

REEVE SUMMIT SESSION SURVEY

Thank you so much for attending our Reeve Summit sessions! Please use this link to fill out the survey, reflecting on the event or presentation you just attended.

[Survey for evaluating the individual sessions.](#)

OVERALL REEVE SUMMIT EVALUATION FORM

Thank you so much for your attendance at the annual Reeve Summit! We appreciated the session-specific feedback you already provided. Please use this link to fill out the survey about your overall experience at the Reeve Summit 2024.

Please only fill this survey out after you have attended the entire Summit.

With every survey completed, you provide us with valuable feedback about this event. Thank you for your time!

[Survey for evaluating the overall Summit.](#)

*Special thanks to our CART sponsor for
making this an accessible event.*



SPEAKERS



ADAM GRUNDY is an outreach specialist professional with over 14 years of experience, possessing a unique combination of technical, statistical and business expertise. Adam has written several key articles for the Census Bureau's America Counts series that have been published on the main Census website. Adam also received a U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award in 2020 for his remarkable customer service.



ADRIENNE R. SMITH is President and CEO of the New Mexico Caregivers Coalition, a statewide organization that advocates for and advances the professional development and workforce issues of New Mexico's direct caregivers. She is a former Aspen Institute Fellow (2014) and served on the Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors Advisory Council (2016). www.nmdcc.org



ALEX BLASZCZUK is a mediator and conflict resolution educator in New York City. She worked for several years as a corporate attorney after graduating from Columbia Law, and currently is a candidate at the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies. She sustained a C-5/C6 spinal cord injury in 2011 and is active in disability rights and disability justice spaces in NYC. She joined the Reeve Foundation Board in 2023.



AMY WANG-HILLER, a Shanghai-born virtuoso violinist, faces cervical myelopathy from Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Despite her spinal complications, she continues to perform and teach. She shares her adaptive journey to raise awareness for rare diseases and spinal cord injuries while pursuing her Doctorate in Violin Performance at the University of North Texas. www.amywangviolin.com



ALEXANDRA REEVE GIVENS is the CEO of the Center for Democracy & Technology, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization fighting to protect civil rights and civil liberties in the digital age. She is a frequent public commentator on ways to protect users' online privacy and access to information, and to ensure emerging technologies advance human rights and democratic values. Alex serves as Vice Chair of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. She holds a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.



ALISON BARKOFF was sworn in as Principal Deputy Administrator on January 20, 2021 and is currently performing the duties of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) Administrator and the Assistant Secretary for Aging. She provides executive leadership and coordination for ACL programs nationwide and advises the Health and Human Services Secretary on issues affecting people with disabilities and older adults.



AMANDA ROUNDS PhD, currently holds the position of Research Fellow at MedStar Health and Adjunct Instructor at Georgetown University. She serves as a principal investigator on several projects that focus on assessing user experiences in the context of neurological trauma and technology. Additionally, Dr. Rounds is the Director of Knowledge Translation for the National Capital Spinal Cord Injury Model System.



ANGEL HARDY HEINZ, is the Public Policy Manager for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. In this role Angel serves as the key liaison on behalf of the Reeve Foundation for Coalitions focused on disability policy and advocacy initiatives. Angel has been a dedicated advocate for people living with disabilities since her own diagnosis with multiple sclerosis in 2012. She serves as Chair of the National Activism Advisory Committee with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and has honed an expertise in health equity, social determinants of health and access to quality care.



ANJALI J. FORBER-PRATT, Ph.D. is a disability activist, a two-time Paralympian, Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Director of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) in the Administration for Community Living. Dr. Forber-Pratt serves as the Chair of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research. As a wheelchair-user for over 35 years, Dr. Forber-Pratt is nationally and internationally recognized as a disability leader and mentor. www.anjalifp.com



ANNIE HEATHCOTE is a business owner and lifelong disability advocate who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy. She won Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin 2023, advancing accessibility and inclusion. Her platform is, "Caring Is Caregiving" which educates the public on caregiving needs and how to become a caregiver, to collectively make progress in this critical need. www.annieheathcotedesigns.com



ANNIE TULKIN is the Founder/Director of Accessible College, as well as an author, educator, and public speaker. She is an expert in the area of college preparation and transition for students with physical disabilities and health conditions.



ARIANA ABOULAFIA is an attorney with a strong background in intersectional and community-centered public interest advocacy, with particular expertise in disability, technology, criminal law, and the First Amendment. She currently serves as the Policy Counsel for Disability Rights in Technology Policy at the Center for Disability & Technology, where she leads CDT's work in studying the ways in which certain technologies can impact disabled people, and advancing policy that protects their digital and civil rights.



ASHLEY SHEW is an associate professor of Science, Technology, and Society at Virginia Tech and author of *Against Technoableism: Rethinking Who Needs Improvement* (2023). Shew's work, funded through the National Science Foundation and Mellon Foundation, centers on disabled expertise, disabled stories about technology, and disabled-led community building and futurity.



CARLY PEARSON suffered a line of duty injury while working as a wildland firefighter. Later she became active in sports and went on to become a multi-sport national champion. Carly has two children and works for Knox County, Tennessee as the ADA Coordinator. She is passionate about improving recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.



CHANDRA SMITH, an IT engineer and 508 compliance officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency, is a remarkable individual who has defied the odds. Two years ago, she overcame triple amputations and a stroke, demonstrating her resilience and determination. Not only is she a triumphant survivor, but she also holds three master's degrees, showcasing her commitment to continuous learning and personal development. Crowned Ms. Wheelchair America 2024, Chandra fearlessly advocates for the rights of individuals with disabilities, leaving a profound impact in their fight for equality. www.mswheelchairamerica.org/mwa-titleholders/



CHRIS HILDERBRANT was paralyzed in a diving accident in 1990 and has been a professional advocate for over 25 years. He has worked in Independent Living, health care, teaching, consulting, and now heads the Rochester Spinal Association. He helped create RSA's social/support group for individuals with SCI from gun violence. www.rochesterspinalassociation.org/gun-violence-survivors



CHRISTIE CYKTOR is a student at the University of Pittsburgh in her third year of the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program who identifies as a disabled woman who was born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita and is a full-time wheelchair user. She has a passion for disability inclusion and representation in healthcare.



DANI IZZIE is a marketing professional and founder of Access Social. She holds a Master's in English with a focus on Disability Studies. As an advocate, she has worked across organizations to support disability communities. As co-producer of Dani's Twins documentary film, she continues work to amplify disabled pregnancy and parenting.



DIEGO MARISCAL is the Founder and CEO of 2Gether-International, the leading startup accelerator run by and for disabled entrepreneurs. A trailblazer at the intersection of disability advocacy and entrepreneurship, Diego has overseen strategic collaborations with governmental organizations, as well as corporate partnerships with Comcast NBCUniversal and Google, among others. He currently serves on the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission's Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee. www.2gether-international.org



ELEANOR BOLTON is a Junior at UNC Chapel Hill studying political science. She also has Type 3 Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and has used a wheelchair, other mobility aids and personal care for her entire life. She is currently interning at the Department of Justice, focusing on disability rights cases. She is excited to discuss what she has learned through the trials and tribulations of going to college, entering the workforce, and living independently as a disabled person!



GERARD ARNUM joined the Reeve Foundation in 2022 as the Grassroots Advocacy Manager. In his role, Gerard manages the Regional Champions Program and assists with educating advocates and legislators on issues impacting the paralysis community. Before joining Reeve, Gerard worked in media on Capitol Hill covering legislative hearings and events.



HENRY CLAYPOOL currently serves as the Technology Policy Consultant for the American Association for People with Disabilities, where he was formerly the Executive Vice President. He is the former Director of the Health and Human Services Office on Disability and a founding Principal Deputy Administrator of the Administration for Community Living. He also served as a presidentially-appointed member of the Federal Commission on Long-Term Care, advising Congress on how long-term care can be better provided and financed for the nation's older adults and people with disabilities.



IMANI BARBARIN is a disability rights and inclusion activist and speaker who uses her voice and social media platforms to create conversations engaging the disability community. Born with cerebral palsy, Imani often writes and uses her platform to speak from the perspective of a disabled Black woman. In the last few years she has created over a dozen trending hashtags that allow disabled folk the opportunity to have their perspectives heard while forcing the world to take notice. #PatientsAreNotFaking, #ThingsDisabledPeopleKnow, #AbleDsAreWeird and others each provide a window into disabled life while forming community. Imani's published works include those in Forbes, Rewire, Healthline, BitchMedia and more. She runs the blog [CrutchesAndSpice.com](https://www.crutchesandspice.com) and a podcast of the same name.



JEREMY BUZZELL began his career as a special education teacher until being hired by the U.S. Department of Education. He spent a close to a decade supporting education, employment, and community living for individuals with disabilities, including working on disability legislation for the Senate, before becoming the manager of Disability Policy for the Transportation Security Administration. Since 2014, Jeremy has managed a program that assists all national parks to be more accessible.



REP. JOSH TUREK is a state representative from Iowa. He is the first permanently disabled member of the Iowa legislature. A member of HHS budget & policy, he is focusing on Medicaid reform and improvements to employment & health care for the disabled. He was a 4x Paralympian and 2x gold medalist in wheelchair basketball. He is a disability advocate having worked in the for-profit space assessing and providing mobility devices. For over 15 years he served as a director for the Ryan Martin Foundation focusing on access to adaptive sports for disabled kids. www.turek4iowa.com



KATE STRICKLAND is a disability advocate and peer mentor passionate about ensuring individuals with disabilities can pursue education and achieve fulfilling careers. Becoming quadriplegic during undergrad, Kate ultimately received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 2024. She will begin her legal career in Washington, D.C., this fall.



KATHERINE MAGNOLI has uniquely viewed the world from her wheelchair for forty years. She is a children’s book author, speaker, and advocate passionate about disability inclusion. Over the last 15 years, Katherine has worked to bring awareness of the need for accessibility and disability etiquette training to those in the medical, educational, and government sectors. www.katgirlandfriends.com



KEMI YEMI-ESE is a Nigerian-American therapist and visual artist who became paralyzed at the cervical level of her spinal cord in 2006, and uses a wheelchair for mobility. Kemi is focused on growing in her dual careers as an artist and therapist and her current work blends dynamic and contemplative portraits with cultural exploration. www.kemisart.com



KERI GRAY is a cancer survivor, entrepreneur, speaker, and facilitator. She is the CEO of the Keri Gray Consulting Group, LLC, where they strive to create professional communities of understanding through disability and racial justice education. She is also founder of the National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates (the NAMED Advocates).



KIM BEER is the Senior Director of Public Policy at the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. She works to advance the Foundation’s legislative and advocacy agenda on Capitol Hill and federal agencies. Kim’s work focuses on increasing awareness of paralysis issues, advocating for federal funding for the National Paralysis Resource Center; and ensuring access to care for those impacted by paralysis.



KRIS GULDEN has supported Reeve Foundation initiatives for over 20 years. A former police officer and high school teacher, she enjoys exploring open spaces and photographing nature. As accessibility advisor to the Friends of Mason Neck State Park, Kris is working to improve conditions in Virginia’s state parks.



LAUREN DEBRUICKER is an Assistant U.S. Attorney and Deputy Civil Chief for Civil Rights for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Based in Philadelphia, Lauren helps coordinate the U.S. Department of Justice’s enforcement of federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Engage with us on social media!
#ReeveSummit2024



MAGGIE GOLDBERG is the President and CEO of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Maggie has served with the Foundation for more than 20 years, helping drive its mission to cure spinal cord injury by advancing innovative research and improving the quality of life for individuals and families impacted by paralysis. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Maggie joined the Reeve Foundation in 2000 and has held numerous leadership roles during her tenure.



DR. MARCO BAPTISTA is the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation’s Chief Scientific Officer, a role in which he leads the Foundation’s mission to advance cures for spinal cord injury and paralysis. He provides oversight of our research portfolio and a collaborative approach to accelerating the field toward meaningful treatments. Prior to joining the Reeve Foundation, Dr. Baptista served as Vice President, Research Programs at the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research. Previously, Dr. Baptista was an Associate Principal Scientist at Merck.



MARK BOGOSIAN serves as the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation’s Director of Engagement. In this role he develops and implements strategies to engage and build relationships both externally and across the Foundation and leads the Public Impact Panel, and the Ambassador and Volunteer Programs. He was also the Director of the Foundation’s Quality of Life Grants Program for five years.



MAYUMI ESCALANTE currently serves as the Partner Liaison and Branch Chief for the U.S. Census Bureau. Before joining the Census Bureau’s Office of Strategic Alliances, Mayumi spent over 20 years as an expert in international trade data. She earned the U.S. Department of Commerce Silver Medal for Meritorious Federal Service. Mayumi is a University of Maryland graduate and certified in project management by the George Washington University.



MIA NATALIA, a former Firefighter/EMT, Serial Entrepreneur and Founder of APS, is a motivational speaker committed to guiding clients to success. With expertise in varied learning methods, she enables individuals with disabilities and caregivers to achieve personal objectives. Mia’s approach cultivates competence, earning her acclaim as a sought-after speaker. www.mianatalia.com



NAMEL “TAPWATERZ” NORRIS, a Bronx NY-based paraplegic hip-hop artist and disability rights advocate, employs music to address social injustices and uplift individuals. His impactful journey includes addresses at the White House, performances at the United Nations, collaborations with Snoop Dogg & Stevie Wonder, as well as leadership roles in 4 Wheel City and RAMP’D. www.4wheelcity.com/pages



NAOMI D. WILLIAMS is a Life Doula, supporting parents and family caregivers as they navigate the complex systems that come with a life altering medical diagnosis. As the mother of a micro-preemie given a poor prognosis, Naomi models what a good quality of life looks like despite paralysis and medical complexities. She enjoys getting lost in nature, and taking long deep breaths on her yoga mat.



NICOLE HOMERIN, M.ED. (she/her) is an educator, disability advocate, writer, and longtime caregiver. She is the founder and owner of Homerin Educational Services, LLC, a small business that strives to provide accessible education and support to individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers, schools, community organizations, and the general public. She has served as a personal caregiver from a young age for her father and grandmother who both experienced paralysis as a result of multiple strokes. She also served as a professional caregiver in her role as special education teacher to students with a variety of disabilities leading to paralysis.



NILA MORTON, 25 years old, is a wheelchair user who is currently attending Howard University to pursue a master's degree in social work. Her goal is to become a therapist and eventually earn a Ph.D. She's passionate about advocating for both the Black and disabled communities with the intent to make change.



NOAH S. WILLIAMS is an accomplished abstract artist and endurance athlete who lives with spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy. Noah is the main character of the Adventures in Noahland™ children's book series. He is an avid lover of school. When not showing off his educational prowess, you can find him exploring nature and earning National Park Service Junior Ranger badges.



RAHSAAN "SHINE" WISE was living in Philadelphia in 2021 when he was shot and paralyzed. He has gone quickly from depending on family members to traveling the country on his own and visiting his rehabilitation center to train therapists and patients on life with SCI.



RALPH NORMAN was 17 when he was in the car with friends and gunfire broke out from opposite sides of the street. A bullet struck Ralph in the neck. He's now an avid gamer, living in his own apartment and managing his aide services. Ralph uses his years of experience to connect others with SCI to resources that can help.



REGINA BLYE, Chief Program and Policy Officer, oversees operations of the National Paralysis Resource Center by developing and delivering programs that provide the critical services and resources that help people build healthy, independent lives. Regina sustained a C6-C7 spinal cord injury at the age of 10. She brings over two decades of disability policy and advocacy experience, making the move to Reeve to work more directly with people living with spinal cord injury and paralysis. Prior to starting with Reeve, she led the Independent Living Services program at the Administration for Community Living (ACL), monitoring compliance with the Rehabilitation Act and overseeing 155 federal grantees.



DR. ROBERT FULLER is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine subspecialist practicing medicine and training medical professionals as an Associate Professor at the University of Virginia. He holds M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois and has clinical interests in the management of complex, high-risk maternal conditions and complications of pregnancy.



ROBIN RAMSEY, F.R.E.E. Executive Director/COO, realizes barriers to accessing assistive devices for successful independent living. Ramsey is a healthcare professional (30+ years), a pioneer in medical equipment reuse, and wrote the book on DME reuse replication. Ramsey is a mom and home educator of her daughter living with medical and learning challenges. www.free-foundation.org



SHERMAN GILLUMS JR. serves as FEMA's disability coordinator and the Director of its Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC). In his role, Sherman works to ensure the agency meets its commitment to equity in emergency management for people with disabilities, including older adults and others with access and functional needs.



SONJA SCHAIBLE is the Assistive Technology Acquisition and Aging Coordinator for the Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS). Sonja has worked in the disability services field for 30+ years and has considerable experience presenting on mobility related reused assistive technology services and best practices at the local, state, and national level. www.vats.virginia.gov



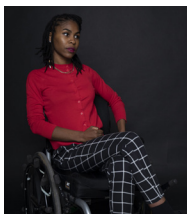
DR. SUZANNE GROAH is Director of the SCI Rehabilitation and Recovery Program and Director of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research at MedStar NRH, and Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at Georgetown University. She served on the Board of Directors of the American Spinal Injury Association from 2010-2016, was from 2017 has served as an Officer of the organization.



TAMEKA CITCHEN-SPRUCE is a Disability Justice Activist, Independent Film Producer and Speaker. She works for the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC), a statewide 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization that instills disability pride within disabilities communities. In addition to MDRC, she specializes in creating authentic media representation and speaking nationally on issues that impact race, gender and disability. www.tamekacitchenspruce.com



TYRA RANDLE Her advocacy work includes involvement with the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, United Spinal Cord Association, North Kansas City Hospital, Disabled but Not Really, as well as trips to Capitol Hill. She is the founder of Diamond in the Rough KC, which works to address issues related to disability and domestic violence.



TYREE BROWN is a Christian visual artist. In 2015, she was in a car accident that rendered her quadriplegic. She is a Video Editor and a Lived Experience Researcher for the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University.

SPONSORS



International Center for Spinal Cord Injury at Kennedy Krieger Institute

The International Center for Spinal Cord Injury at Kennedy Krieger Institute was founded on the philosophy that there is always hope for individuals with paralysis to recover sensation, function, mobility and independence—months or even years after injury. The center offers intensive, individualized, patient-centered medical and therapy programs emphasizing activity-based restorative therapies that focus on restoring function—rather than teaching people to compensate for their loss of functioning. Therapists and physicians emphasize the return to near-normal levels of activity to optimize the nervous system for recovery and offset the rapid aging and chronic complications people with paralysis experience. One of the first programs of its kind, it treats both children and adults—even those with chronic paralysis—and combines innovative research with restoration and rehabilitation. Offering a full continuum of care, including pediatric inpatient services, as well as pediatric and adult outpatient services at three convenient locations, the Center also provides a myriad of specialty services such as aquatic therapy, psychosocial programs, adaptive sporting and recreational programs, wellness and personal training programs, and a full-service seating and mobility clinic. The Center's comprehensive interdisciplinary approach is geared towards improving each patient's health and quality of life to enable engaged participation at home and in the community.

[SpinalCordRecovery.org](https://www.spinalcordrecovery.org)



A miracle delayed is even more miraculous.

Conventional wisdom holds that recovery from spinal cord injury ceases after two years. We're not conventional, and we never say never. Our groundbreaking activity-based restorative therapies help children and adults with chronic paralysis regain sensation, function, mobility and independence, even many years after injury. Don't lose hope, learn more.

Visit **[SpinalCordRecovery.org](https://www.spinalcordrecovery.org)**.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER
FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY
at Kennedy Krieger Institute



Special thanks to our CART sponsor.

VERBIT

Verbit's mission is to make all verbal and visual information accessible, discoverable, and insightful.



NATIONAL ART SUPPLY

Staying true to the legacy of its past and its founder, Don Cohn, Commercial Art Supply's mission statement maintains the legacy of our brand while successfully moving it into the future: "We strive to create and distribute the very best in fine art supplies that fulfill their primary functions, but also inspire emotion, surprise, creativity and wonder by focusing on innovation, emerging technology, and good old fashioned whimsy. Supporting the arts and arts education in every way we can!"



LIFEWARD

Introducing Lifeward, previously ReWalk Robotics. Our mission at Lifeward is to relentlessly drive innovation to change the lives of individuals with physical limitations or disabilities. We are committed to delivering groundbreaking solutions that empower individuals to do what they love.



HELP HOPE LIVE **ALSO AN EXHIBITOR*

Help Hope Live supports community-based fundraising for people with unmet medical expenses and related costs due to cell and organ transplants or catastrophic injuries and illnesses.



NATIONAL MOBILITY EQUIPMENT DEALERS ASSOCIATION (NMEDA) **ALSO AN EXHIBITOR*

We provide education & training to our members and partners, and advocate for our industry before Congress, state legislatures and federal regulatory agencies. The members of NMEDA are dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities to safely drive or be transported in vehicles modified with mobility equipment to fit their specific needs.



PERMOBIL

Our purpose is to innovate for individuals; to create advanced assistive solutions that make the lives of people living with disabilities more enriching.



CENTER FOR MEDICARE ADVOCACY

The Center for Medicare Advocacy's mission is to advance access to comprehensive Medicare coverage, health equity, and quality health care for older people and people with disabilities by providing exceptional legal analysis, education, and advocacy.



THE LURIE INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY POLICY

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University's Heller School conducts multidisciplinary research on the needs, experiences, and policy priorities of people with disabilities. Our work covers a wide range of topics, including the experiences of parents with disabilities; policies addressing long-term services and supports for people with disabilities; and health and healthcare outcomes. Moreover, the Lurie Institute houses four major federally funded programs of research: the National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities, the Community Living Policy Center, the National Center for Disability and Pregnancy Research, and the Community Living Equity Center. These programs focus on salient issues affecting people with disabilities and the communities around them to ensure the full integration of people with disabilities into society at large.

EXHIBITORS

COLOPLAST

Coloplast develops ostomy, continence, wound & skin, interventional urology and voice & respiratory care products and services that make life easier for people with intimate healthcare needs.

FOUNDATION FOR REHABILITATION EQUIPMENT AND ENDOWMENT (F.R.E.E.)

The Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment (F.R.E.E.) acquires and provides mobility-related rehabilitation equipment to maximize functional independence and improve quality of life. We envision a Virginia where every need for mobility-related rehabilitation equipment is fulfilled. F.R.E.E. is a statewide non-profit organization based in Virginia. We collect, sanitize, and gift a wide-range of durable medical rehabilitation equipment to low-income uninsured or under-insured adults in Virginia to fill this service gap and provide a health safety-net to individuals, who can not acquire it on their own.

FINALLY, PHYLLIS LLC

Promoting Awareness...Compassion...Education

LAKESHORE FOUNDATION

Our Mission is to provide opportunity for individuals with a disability to live a healthy lifestyle through physical activity, research, advocacy and health promotion.

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND RESEARCH, COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS (MUSC) THE NATIONAL CENTER OF NEUROMODULATION FOR REHABILITATION (NC NM4R)

The National Center of Neuromodulation for Rehabilitation (NC NM4R) works to develop the emerging science of neuromodulation, focusing this knowledge on enhancing rehabilitation. To that end, the Center offers a range learning opportunities, such as workshops, conferences, and webinars. We invite researchers to visit the Center and make use of our extensive facilities to conduct research or to consult or collaborate with our faculty. We also provide several funding opportunities to support work in neuromodulation for rehabilitation.

MEDSTAR NATIONAL REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

To serve our patients, those who care for them, and our communities.

MOBIUS

Mobius Mobility manufactures the next generation iBOT® Personal Mobility Device (the "iBOT® PMD"). With advanced electronics, sensors, battery technology, and software, the world opens up to you in an iBOT®. Traverse sand, snow, mud, curbs, and inclines with terrain following 4-Wheel Mode. Family day at the beach or hiking trail with friends? You're in. No curb cut? No problem.

MOMENTUM AGENCIES

Momentum Refresh is the first-ever universal design mobile restroom resource in the U.S. that provides dignity, full inclusion, and accessibility with quality restrooms in the community.

ONWARD

ONWARD is a medical technology company creating therapies to restore movement, function, and independence in people with spinal cord injury and movement disabilities. Building on more than a decade of research from leading neuroscience laboratories, the Company received nine Breakthrough Device Designations from the FDA for its ARC Therapy™ platform.

PAJUNK

PAJUNK® provides pain management and therapeutic technology solutions for hospitals and rehabilitation facilities. We've created innovative products for neuraxial, nerve block, chronic pain, and neurorehabilitation procedures that have unique technical features that simplify the daily challenges for Regional Anesthesiologists and Rehabilitative Specialists. Explore our booth to learn more about our latest innovation Stim2Go; a powerful Neurostimulation System developed for non-invasive FES, NMES, and TENS. This wearable, lightweight, and compact device is an upgrade for Neuromuscular Re-education during mobility activities. If you don't get a chance to connect with us during the show, we're available at info@pajunk-usa.com or (888) 972-5865. Learn more about our product innovations at pajunkusa.com.

RARE PATIENT VOICE

Rare Patient Voice empowers patients and family caregivers to share their voices with researchers and companies developing products, devices, and treatments to improve lives.

WHEEL OF THE WORLD

WTW is an online travel marketplace offering hotels, activities and transportation options exclusively for people who have accessibility needs. Whether its an adventure to Greece or just an overnight in D.C., WTW's specialized travel plans reduce stress and increase confidence for their customers, knowing they will get the exact experience they need. Accessibility needs differ so much from person to person, and because of that, a room that is accessible for one person, may not be good for another. Wheel the World gathers detailed information that allows the traveler to make an informed decision based on their own specific needs.

Learn about our educational training, seminars and web-based learning opportunities at ChristopherReeve.org/Events

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The REEVE SUMMIT 2024 is made possible in part by funding from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) through its cooperative agreement with the National Paralysis Resource Center (NPRC).

The Reeve Foundation's mission is deeply aligned with ACL's goal of empowering people with disabilities to live independently and actively participate in their communities. This evolving collaboration enables us to reach and assist an even wider network and further improve the lives of people living with paralysis across the United States.