



ABMDR



**Laughter
for
Life
turns
ten!**

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY 2013

Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is a simplicity that defines our work: to find life-saving donors for patients suffering from blood diseases. Yet, as it's often said, though the concept is simple, the implementation is certainly not easy. Each of you who has volunteered your time and expertise at a recruitment drive, or helped organize events to raise funds for tissue typing, well knows that striving to save lives — with precious time ticking away — is hard and stressful work.

But we do what is hard for one reason: to make it easier on the patients and their families, who bear such physical and emotional pain.

This year ABMDR has established significant new procedures to further ease the pain and anguish of those we serve. The highlight has been the facilitation of stem cell autotransplantation procedures to help patients undergoing intense chemotherapy. We have also added to our services molecular typing tests which determine patient sensitivity to chemotherapy drugs, and, lastly, we have for the first time applied immunophenotyping, a major step forward for Armenia in blood disease diagnostics, prediction, and treatment, as well as screening for breast cancer.

In July 2012, I received the St. Nerses the Graceful Medal from His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II. As Archbishop Hovnan Derderian presented me with the medal during a ceremony in Burbank, I considered this great honor as being bestowed on each volunteer, each staff member in Yerevan, each friend of ABMDR who, like myself, is humbled by the privilege of helping save the lives of others. I reflect on this moment with gratitude, and thank you all for making what we do just a little easier!

Frieda Jordan, PhD, President

Dr. Frieda Jordan receives St. Nerses Medal



[see story on page 5]

ABMDR facilitates pioneering autotransplantation procedure in Armenia



[see story on page 3]



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I have watched this organization grow from a small but mighty effort to save one little girl's life to a worldwide network of volunteers and staff who share a great passion for a cause that unites Armenians everywhere. And now we have truly harnessed the power of the Internet: when our patient Cici called out for help, fellow Armenian Kim Kardashian responded by blogging about Cici's predicament and inspiring followers from around the globe to learn how they can help. I think this is just the beginning of how we

will expand our reach, and achieve new levels of success. Everyone who helps fulfill our important mission is a true star!

Mark Geragos, Esq.
Chairman of the Board of Directors



MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

The energy and professionalism of ABMDR never cease to impress me — always seeking the best practices in the field for our patients, and for the greater medical community of Armenia. We're breaking new ground with the implementation of the country's first autotransplantation program this year, and I am confident that we will see in the future a full-spectrum bone marrow transplantation center in Armenia.

Bella Kocharian, MD
Honorary Chair, former First Lady of Armenia



**Urgent
appeal
for
patient Cici**

Kim Kardashian (right) with her cousin, Cici. See story on page 11.

This publication was made possible by generous contributions from these sponsors:





As medical professionals, we must stay ever vigilant in terms of adopting the best practices in our field. That newest procedure we implement could make the difference between someone's disease being detected early or not, between someone's body accepting or rejecting a therapy or a transplant.

Enhancing the mission of ABMDR

A conversation with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan

ABMDR has developed into a well-established registry over the last 14 years, and the statistics are impressive: working in 17 countries across four continents, you have registered thousands of potential donors, identified 2,135 patients, and facilitated 16 transplants all over the world. But it seems as though ABMDR does so much more than look for donor-patient matches.

Yes, we have come a long way since little Alique Topalian's family sought help from the Armenian community in 1999. And it's not just about an increase in the quantity of patients and potential donors, as you said. It's about the quality of the services we are providing for people in need. Each unique patient experience, each new technology that is introduced to the field, has influenced our growth and inspired us to improve upon our work.

Give us some examples of the improvements you refer to.

Well, of course, the Stem Cell Harvesting Center we established in Yerevan was the beginning of the important expansion of our mission. We knew we had to find a way to make this process more accessible — both financially and geographically — for our patients. It is a state-of-the-art laboratory that has proven to be a tremendous boon for Armenia and the Caucasus region as a whole. We have enhanced the benefits of it, too, by continuous training of staff.

That sounds like an efficient strategy for your operation. What else have you implemented?

More recently, we have purchased the equipment and provided the training for Armenia's (and the region's) first autotransplantation procedure. This is critical for patients who require high-dose chemotherapy: it helps them manage the effects with their own cells, restoring the bone marrow and fostering quicker rehabilitation.

Also related to chemotherapy management is a new test for polymorphism (mutations), which allows us to gauge a patient's sensitivity to chemotherapy drugs. This is a method of analyzing DNA that is widely used for this purpose, and also we can use it to screen for a woman's proclivity for breast cancer.

That is wonderful to hear. There is also another procedure you have added in the diagnostic sphere, correct?

Yes, it is called immunophenotyping, a methodology for diagnosing blood diseases. We have purchased the materials necessary for this procedure and have had ABMDR laboratory technologists and representatives of the Molecular Biology Institute perform quality control and method validation using normal and pathological groups to create the panel of optimal antigens. This will be a major step forward for Armenia in blood- disease diagnostics, prediction, and treatment.

It is reassuring to know that ABMDR is staying on top of the latest technologies for our patients.

Yes, it is so important that we, as medical professionals, stay ever vigilant in terms of adopting the best practices in our field. That newest procedure we implement could make the difference between someone's disease being detected early or not, between someone's body accepting or rejecting a therapy or a transplant. We are doing things never done before in Armenia, things that will save lives. I am so proud to be part of an organization that cares so much about the quality of its work, and its impact on others.



From left: Dr. Robertson Parkman and Dr. Neena Kapoor of Children's Hospital Los Angeles with Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, and Armond Mehdikhani.



ABMDR Board member Armond Mehdikhani (left) helped coordinate the training of Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan of Armenia at Children's Hospital Los Angeles in early 2013.

ABMDR helps carry out first-ever autotransplantation procedure in Armenia

In 2012, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry began a massive effort to help create the necessary infrastructure and skill base for starting to perform autologous stem cell transplantation procedures in Armenia.

This type of transplantation is used to restore blood cell production after extensive radiation and/or chemotherapy for the treatment of pediatric and adult patients alike — mainly those with cancers of the blood and marrow, but also those with malignancies such as lymphomas and solid tumors.

Given the lack of this treatment option in Armenia to date, doctors have been unable to perform intensive chemotherapy, as this would destroy a patient's bone marrow, with fatal consequences.

Throughout 2012, ABMDR's Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan launched an extensive outreach program in Armenia, whereby they contacted all hospital directors and doctors who specialize in chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy, and informed them that the Registry is set to provide the necessary technical means for facilitating autologous stem cell transplantation procedures, for the first time in Armenia.

In addition, through the efforts of ABMDR, the project has received the green light and logistical support of Armenia's Ministry of Health.

Toward the implementation of the initiative, the Registry has purchased and sent to Yerevan state-of-the-art medical equipment and supplies needed for autotransplantation procedures.

Concurrently, the Registry secured the support of Dr. Stuart E. Siegel, director of the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), for the training of a visiting physician from Armenia. CHLA agree to train the visiting physician, Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, in all necessary steps that

Photo on right:
Dr. Stuart Siegel of Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Photo on far right:
Armond Mehdikhani
and Dr. Sevak Avagyan
during the ABMDR team's
visit to the hospital in 2012.





"We in the medical community all have the responsibility and obligation of extending the advances of medicine and promoting the health of all human beings globally. In the long run this will be beneficial to everyone everywhere."

— Neena Kapoor, MD



Dr. Mshetsyan and Monika Smogorzewska, CLS specialist at Children's Hospital.

would lead to a successful autotransplantation procedure.

Earning CHLA's support for this endeavor was made possible by the efforts of ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan as well as the key coordinating role of ABMDR Board member Armond Mehdikhani. Currently the manager of Clinical Operations Laboratory Services at Providence Health and Services in Los Angeles, Armond has been instrumental in the success of ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Armenia.

As Dr. Mshetsyan underwent training at CHLA in January and February 2013, he received invaluable guidance and instruction from Dr. Neena Kapoor, a renowned specialist in pediatric oncology and pediatric hematology at the hospital; and the team of Dr. Robert Seeger, division head for Basic and Translational Research at CHLA's Saban Research Institute. Dr. Mshetsyan's hands-on training included observing Dr. Kapoor's laboratory work in stem cell harvesting, processing, and freezing.

With the skills and knowledge acquired thanks to the gracious staff of CHLA, a confident Dr. Mshetsyan returned to Armenia, fully prepared to perform the republic's maiden autotransplantation procedure.

Following Dr. Mshetsyan's training at CHLA, the Registry resolved to express its profound gratitude to the hospital, by bestowing it with the ABMDR Establishment of the Year Award.

The award will be presented officially to CHLA representatives at the Registry's 2013 Match For Life Gala, which will be held on July 14 at the Glendale Hilton, in Glendale, California.

As he was informed of this news, Dr. Siegel stated: "I will be honored to accept this award on behalf of CHLA. We have been pleased and grateful to share your successes in this amazing work that has come so far in meeting the needs of Armenian children who need hematopoietic stem cell transplants. I will look forward to this event eagerly and will await further information."



Dr. Mshetsyan on his first day at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.



Dr. Mshetsyan during his training in autotransplantation protocols.

Dr. Jordan honored with St. Nerses the Graceful Medal and Encyclical

On June 8, 2012, Dr. Frieda Jordan was honored with the St. Nerses the Graceful (St. Nerses Shnorhali) Medal, which was bestowed on her by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

The medal, accompanied by a Pontifical Encyclical, was presented to Dr. Jordan by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy at St. Leon Armenian Cathedral, in Burbank, California.

The St. Nerses the Graceful Medal was conferred on Dr. Jordan in recognition of her outstanding service to the Armenian nation since 1999, when she co-founded the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

Archbishop Derderian, who had recommended to the Catholicosate to confer the St. Nerses the Graceful Medal on Dr. Jordan, said, "Dr. Jordan, along with ABMDR's corps of selfless volunteers, has helped mobilize Armenian communities throughout the globe to advance the life-saving mission of the Registry. Moreover, thanks to Dr. Jordan's persistent efforts, the Registry was able to establish a first-of-its-kind Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan, and last year Armenia became the first country in the Caucasus Region to host an international meeting of the European Federation of

[continued on next page]



Photos on this page: scenes from the award ceremony, with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian officiating.



Scenes from the reception at the Zoroyan Hall of the Western Diocese following the award ceremony. The jubilant event was attended by ABMDR Board members and supporters. In the photo below, Dr. Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan visiting Archbishop Hovnan Derderian in his office at the Western Diocese.



ABMDR Lab in Yerevan passes European regulatory inspection with flying colors

The international scientific community once again gave high marks to the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, following the triennial inspection this month of its HLA Typing Laboratory in Yerevan.

The extensive onsite inspection, which took place on April 23, was the third to be carried out since 2006, and resulted in the renewal of ABMDR lab's accreditation by the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI). An international agency that regulates bone marrow laboratories across the world, EFI sets and maintains standards and protocols, provides various forums for scientific exchange, supports research and training, and develops relations with organizations in the field.

The ABMDR HLA Typing Lab is the first facility of its kind and the only EFI-accredited lab in the entire Caucasus region. The inspection of the lab on April 23 was conducted by EFI inspectors Dr. Ingrid Faé of Austria and Dr. Elisaveta Naumova of Bulgaria. Within the framework of the accreditation process, the inspectors examined the lab's equipment and operational standards, evaluated the skills level of the staff, and reviewed the integrity of tissue-typing, storage, and other specialized procedures. The inspectors also met with high-ranking ABMDR executives including Dr. Frieda Jordan, president; Dr. Sevak Avagyan, executive director; and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, medical director.



A meeting between ABMDR executive staff, including Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, and EFI inspectors Dr. Ingrid Faé (far left) and Dr. Elisaveta Naumova (far right), at the Registry's Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in Yerevan.

Doctors Faé and Naumova concluded their inspection with high praise for the ABMDR lab's scientific and technical excellence, thereby approving the renewal of the facility's EFI accreditation.

Dr. Jordan, who had traveled to Armenia to be on hand for the inspection of the lab, expressed great delight at ABMDR's latest milestone. "Whenever the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry is given kudos by the international scientific community, and EFI in particular, our work becomes all the more worthwhile," she said. "I thank the EFI inspectors for their conscientious effort to maintain the highest possible standards in the field of immunogenetics. I also convey my heartfelt gratitude to our outstanding staff, as well as volunteers and supporters worldwide, for making ABMDR's life-saving mission possible."



The Staff of the ABMDR Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in Yerevan, with Dr. Frieda Jordan and inspectors from the European Federation of Immunogenetics.

Dr. Aleksandr Lazaryan delivers lecture on latest hematological advances



In November 2012, Aleksandr Lazaryan, MD, MPH, PhD, delivered a highly informative lecture at the Stem Cell Harvesting Center of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, in Yerevan. Dr. Lazaryan is a researcher and assistant professor of hematology, oncology, and transplantation at the University of Minnesota Medical School. During his

lecture at the Stem Cell Harvesting Center, he discussed a range of topics which form his clinical interests, including plasma cell disorders, bone marrow transplantation, leukemia, and myelodysplastic syndromes. In the photo above, Dr. Lazaryan is flanked, from left, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Dr. Jordan, and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan.

Pop star Lilit Hovhannisyan visits the Lab, joins the ranks of the Registry



Dr. Jordan helps accreditation process at Istanbul institution



Dr. Jordan participated in the renewal of the EFI accreditation of the Istanbul University Medical Faculty, in 2012. In the photos above: Dr. Jordan and EFI colleagues review procedures with Dr. Fatma Oguz of the faculty; Dr. Jordan and EFI colleagues with faculty members. Dr. Jordan has since been appointed an EFI inspector.

State-of-the art immunotyping procedures at the ABMDR Lab



Armine Hyussyan (left) and a colleague review immunotyping results on flow cytometry equipment at the Stem Cell Harvesting Center.

ABMDR Lab team participates in Yerevan's First Spring Fair



Team members from the Stem Cell Harvesting Center at Yerevan's First Spring Fair, which was held on March 3 at the Ani Plaza Hotel.

AGBU Young Professionals delegation visits Stem Cell Harvesting Center



Dr. Sevak Avagyan familiarizes the AGBU Young Professionals delegation with the equipment and operations of the Lab. The visit took place on February 23, 2013.

patients, families, and ABMDR: a powerful alliance



Kourtney Kardashian (right) with her cousin, Cici.



Scenes from the recruitment at Glendale Memorial Hospital. (Photo on left courtesy of Nara Vard).



Please help our Cici: an urgent appeal from Kourtney Kardashian

by Kourtney Kardashian

Hi, everyone. Our family really needs your help. My cousin Cici recently found out that after 17 years of battling cancer, her body has stopped responding to the chemotherapy and she desperately needs a bone marrow stem cell transplant.

Because Cici is of Armenian descent, she needs to receive bone marrow from an Armenian donor, which means the pool of options is a lot smaller and she's having a difficult time finding a match.

We are asking that any of you who are Armenian, have Armenian friends or extended family members consider signing up as a donor with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, in hopes that we can find a match for Cici and give our beloved cousin many more years to live.

Cici explained the process to us, and it's actually not as intense as you might think. One procedure, called PBSC, is non-surgical and just like giving blood.

You can be in and out of hospital in the same day and might even be able to save a life. We urge that you at least read more about the procedure and tell your Armenian friends or family.

Because Cici is 100% Armenian, the need for an Armenian donor is the most important.

She has aligned herself with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and you can get more info here: www.abmdr.am

Recruitments for Cici

Working closely with the Kardashian family, we held two recruitment drives for Cici. The first took place on February 26, 2013, at Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center, in Glendale, California; and the second on March 3, under the auspices of the Las Vegas Armenian Apostolic Church. The latter event was held at Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Church, in Las Vegas.

While both events drew enthusiastic community support, the Las Vegas recruitment was particularly heart-warming, in no small measure thanks to the participation of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian. As ever a staunch supporter of the ABMDR cause, Archbishop Derderian conducted a special ceremony for Cici, offered prayers for her,

spoke words of encouragement and hope, and afterwards presented her with holy bread.

Cici, who at first was visibly tired due to the effects of treatment, gradually regained her energy, and her entire outlook seemed to have brightened. It all goes to show us, once again, the fundamental importance of emotional support to one's well-being and the healing process itself.

As we wish Cici all the strength and inner fortitude she can muster until a donor match is identified, we thank the Kardashian family for its support.

In early March, Kourtney Kardashian became a donor by providing a swab sample, and on March 8 the Kardashians taped a segment dedicated to Cici and ABMDR, featuring a team from the Registry. The segment might be included in a future episode of "Keeping Up With the Kardashians."



Scenes from the recruitment in Las Vegas.



Recruitment for Sarkis Sevoian

May 3, 2012, Bellaj Banquet Hall, Burbank, California



The event drew enthusiastic community support and resulted in over 150 new recruits as potential stem cell donors.



Members of the Sevoian family with organizers and volunteers of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, GIVING HOPE TO EVERY FAMILY

We have a registry of thousands. But we still do not have matched bone marrow donors for all patients. With your help, more people will receive a transplant. And more families will have a future filled with hope. How can you help? By partnering with ABMDR, you can help save a life!

- Join the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry to become a potential bone marrow donor.
- Make a financial contribution or help raise funds for tissue typing.
- Host a recruitment drive in your community or through an organization to which you belong.
- Organize an educational event within your community.

ABMDR Progress Update

- Registered over 22,000 potential donors
- Identified 2,135 patients
- Facilitated 16 bone marrow transplants
- Active in 17 countries, four continents

In 2012 and early 2013, we organized recruitment drives and presentations across the United States and in several other countries, mobilizing communities around ABMDR's life-saving mission. Our walkathons, community health-awareness events, and recruitments were made possible by the outstanding dedication of our volunteers, who helped register more than one thousand potential bone marrow stem cell donors.

To help stretch our budget and secure maximum grassroots activism, we also participated in numerous outreach events hosted by churches, schools, youth organizations, and other community institutions.



Recruitments, presentations, and community-outreach events, 2012 and early 2013

ARMENIA

January 31, 2012: Aghveran Village
February 26, 2012: St. Theresa Medical University
March 07, 2012: School #130
April 25, 2012: WorldVision Armenia Area Development Program, Aparan
August 24, 2012: Echmiadzin, for patient Sarkis Sevoian
September 11, 2012: Aparan, for patient Sarkis Sevoian
October 24, 2012: V. Sargsyan Military Institute
November 29, 2012: Republican Party of Armenia Women's Council, Arabkir
December 24, 2012: National Democratic Institute, Yerevan
January 25 and February 1, 2013: National Democratic Institute, Yerevan
February 19, 2013: MAVAS Group, Yerevan
March 4, 2013: Yerevan State Institute of Theater and Cinema

ARTSAKH

September 24-26, 2012: Artsakh State University and Stepanakert Medical College

AUSTRALIA

May 3, 2012: Edgarian Hall of Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection, Sydney

ENGLAND

June 2, 2012: Armenian Medical Association of Great Britain forum, Navasartian Centre Hall, London

GEORGIA

November 25, 2012: Hayatun Center, Tbilisi

LEBANON

January 26-29, 2012: various community centers

UNITED STATES - EAST COAST

September 22, 2012: Faire on the Square, Watertown, Massachusetts
November 11, 2012: St. Sahag's Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the late patient Richard Ambrookian

UNITED STATES - WEST COAST

February 8, 2012: St. Mary's Armenian Church, Glendale, California, for patient Vatche
March 16, 2012: AYF, Santa Ana, California - presentation
March 18, 2012: St Leon Cathedral, Burbank, California
March 25, 2012: St. Gregory Armenian Church, Pasadena, California
March 27, 2012: CSUN Armenian Student Association, Northridge, California
April 15, 2012: Western Prelacy churches in North Hollywood, Encino, and Glendale, California
April 24, 2012: Armenian Martyrs Monument, Montebello, California
May 4, 2012: Ferrahian Armenian School Spring Festival, Encino, California
May 12, 2012: Armenian Food Festival, Montebello, California
May 20, 2012: St. John Garabed Armenian Church, San Diego, California - presentation

UNITED STATES - WEST COAST [cont.]

May 26-27, 2012: ACYO Sports Weekend, Fresno, California
July 22, 2012: Holy Trinity Evangelical Church, Glendale, California
August 15, 2012: Bellaj Banquet Hall, Burbank, California, for patient Sarkis Sevoian
September 15-16, 2012: Orange County Armenian Festival, Laguna Hills, California
September 16, 2012: Armenian Independence Festival, Glendale, California
October 7, 2012: Prayer Day throughout Southern California Armenian Evangelical churches
October 22, 2012: Walk of Life 2012, Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center, Glendale, California
November 3, 2012: Glendale Health Festival, Glendale, California
November 4, 2012: Chamlian Armenian School Fair, Glendale, California
November 7, 2012: University of Irvine Armenian Student Association, Irvine, California
December 31, 2012: Glendale, California, for a patient in Iran
February 26, 2013: Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center, Glendale, California, for patient Cici
March 3, 2013: Armenian Apostolic Church (held at Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church), Las Vegas, Nevada, for patient Cici

Check our website, abmdr.am, for announcements of future recruitment drives and other community events throughout the world.

recruiting in Armenia

Yerevan State Institute of Theater and Cinema, March 4, 2013



**Republican Party of Armenia
Women's Council, Arabkir,
November 29, 2012**



**National Democratic
Institute center, Yerevan**



Close to 750 college students, faculty, and officials recruited

In the fall of 2012, ABMDR completed its most far-reaching Artsakh recruitment drive yet, registering close to 750 university and college students as potential bone marrow stem cell donors. Also recruited were several high-ranking officials and faculty members.

The campaign, the fifth of its kind to be conducted in Artsakh since the founding of ABMDR in 1999, was coordinated with Artsakh's Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Science, and comprised three separate drives in Stepanakert during September 27 and 28.

On September 27, the first recruitment was held at the Mesrop Mashtots University. In his opening remarks, ABMDR medical director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan described the mission of ABMDR, presented an informative DVD, and took questions from audience members. During the recruitment that followed, 440 students, as well as Education and Science minister Slavik Asryan and Artsakh State University rector Stephan Dadayan, registered as potential stem cell donors.

"Throughout our drive, what we witnessed among the youth of Stepanakert was a spirit of selflessness and compassion. These wonderful young men and women were eager to learn about our cause, asked intelligent questions, and felt proud to register as donors."

Dr. Frieda Jordan

The high level of enthusiasm among students and faculty was evident throughout the next day, when recruitment drives were held at the Tamara Kamalyan Stepanakert State Medical College and the Stepanakert Agricultural College. The events at these smaller campuses resulted in 300 additional ABMDR recruits, including Tamara Kamalyan Stepanakert State Medical College dean Karineh Kocharyan.

Volunteer recruiters at all three events included the family of a local patient who urgently needs a donor match for a life-saving stem cell transplantation.

Many relatives of the patient traveled from their village to Stepanakert in order to give blood for testing at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan.

The campaign received full local television and press coverage, with the media praising ABMDR for its outreach efforts and encouraging grassroots support of its activities.

On September 28, ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan and executive director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, accompanied by Zoya Lazaryan, Artsakh's minister of Health, were received by President Bako Sahakyan. The president congratulated the ABMDR leadership for advancing a life-saving mission and pledged his continued support.

The ABMDR team also met with Archbishop Pargév Martirosyan, primate of the Artsakh Diocese. A longtime advocate of the ABMDR cause, Archbishop Martirosyan commended the Registry for its accomplishments and once again gave it his blessings.





From left: Artsakh Health minister Zoya Lazaryan, Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Dr. Sevak Avagyan at the presidential palace.



Dr. Frieda Jordan with Kamalyan Stepanakert State Medical College dean Karineh Kocharyan (left).



Archbishop Pargév Martirosyan flanked by Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan.



Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan addressing the audience at the Tamara Kamalyan Stepanakert State Medical College as dean Karineh Kocharyan looks on. Hundreds of students were recruited.



inaugural recruitment in Australia



Dr. Avagyan and Dr. Jordan with representatives of the Armenian College and Davidian Girls School Ex Students Union, which made a financial contribution in support of the Registry's life-saving work.



Father Avetis Hambardzumyan was among those who joined ABMDR during the community event.

In May 2012, ABMDR welcomed the Armenian community of Australia into its worldwide family of supporters.

On May 3, Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan spoke at a community gathering in Sydney dedicated to the mission of the Registry. The event, which drew an audience of over 200, took place at the Edgarian Hall of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection.

Held under the auspices of Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Australia and New Zealand, and supported by all local Armenian organizations, including the ARS Regional Committee of Australia, the Church Council, the AGBU, and the three Armenian political parties, the gathering was coordinated by Panos Manjian, a member of Sydney's Armenian community and a longtime friend of ABMDR.

The presentations of Dr. Jordan and Dr. Avagyan included the screening of a documentary on the global mission and accomplishments of ABMDR, followed by a Q & A session. Afterwards community members, including numerous young people and Father Avetis Hambardzumyan, pastor of the church, joined the ranks of the Registry. The Australian-Armenian community's sup-



A scene from the community event in Sydney.



From left: Panos Manjian, coordinator of the event; Dr. Frieda Jordan; Mrs. Hourri Manjian; and Dr. Sevak Avagyan.



Dr. Avagyan and Dr. Jordan during their presentation.

port of ABMDR also included a donation to the Registry by the Armenian College and Davidian Girls School Ex Students Union, in the amount of U.S. \$5,352.

Dr. Jordan thanked all community institutions for their active participation and support, and expressed her special gratitude to Panos Manjian, who had also organized

a press conference preceding the May 3 gathering and featuring the ABMDR representatives.

Held with the participation of all local Armenian news publications and radio programs, the press conference resulted in substantial media coverage of ABMDR's recruitment efforts in Sydney.

inaugural recruitment in the UK

The British-Armenian community joined the worldwide ABMDR family in June 2012.

On June 2, the Armenian Medical Association of Great Britain (AMA-GB) held a forum featuring Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan.

The event, which took place at the Navasartian Centre Hall in London, was organized on the occasion of the 16th International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop and Joint Conference, in which the ABMDR delegates participated.

Following the opening remarks of Dr. Seda Boghosian, president of AMA-GB, Dr. Jordan and Dr. Avagyan took turns to speak about the accomplishments of ABMDR since its founding in 1999, as well as the Registry's ongoing goals and future projects, including the establishment of a transplantation center in Yerevan.

Subsequently the speakers and audience members had a lively discussion about various aspects of the Registry's work.

As scores of attendees, including the late Karine Kazinian, Ambassador of Armenia to the United Kingdom, joined the ranks of ABMDR, the event marked the start of the British-Armenian community's active participation in the work of the Registry, making the United Kingdom the 16th country on the list of countries where the Registry carries out its work.

In order to help expand ABMDR's operational presence in the United Kingdom, Dr. Boghosian volunteered to lead future recruitment efforts in London and beyond.

HELP US
SAVE LIVES.
SUPPORT OUR
EFFORTS TO
REACH OUT
TO ARMENIAN
COMMUNITIES
AND PATIENTS
WORLDWIDE.



From left: Dr. Seda Boghosian, president of the Armenian Medical Association of Great Britain; Dr. Frieda Jordan; Dr. Sevak Avagyan; and the late Karine Kazinian, Armenian ambassador to the UK, at the community forum in London.



From left: Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Dr. Seda Boghosian, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Armine Huyssyan of ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center with members of London's Armenian community.

inaugural recruitment in Georgia

On November 25, 2012, the Armenian community of Georgia joined the ranks of ABMDR, with a strong showing at the Registry's first-ever recruitment campaign in the country.

The event, made possible by the support of the Armenian Embassy in Georgia and the local Armenian Diocese, was hosted by the Hayatun Cultural, Educational, and Youth Center at the Armenian Diocese in Tbilisi.

Over 90 community members joined ABMDR as potential bone marrow stem cell donors.

They included Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Georgia; Hovhannes Manoukian, Armenia's ambassador in Georgia; other members of the Armenian diplomatic mission, and several representatives of NGOs and their families.



A scene from the recruitment at the Hayatun Cultural, Educational, and Youth Center.



Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan.



Ambassador Hovhannes Manoukian.

recruiting on the US West Coast

Genocide commemoration event, April 24, 2012, Armenian Martyrs Monument, Montebello, California



One Voice, One Nation event, April 15, 2012, St. Mary's Church, Glendale, California



Armenian Independence Festival, September 16, 2012, Verdugo Park, Glendale, California



our new crop of recruiters



Alina Aghajanian

I came to ABMDR with the intention of devoting my time to a cause I not only believed in but one that I felt held a great deal of importance within the Armenian community. Joining the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and its dedicated team of volunteers who help it blossom has been an amazing experience. Each meeting and recruitment is a step toward a brighter future for someone in need, and I'm happy to have found an outlet through which I can be a part of that difference.

Alina Aghajanian
Student at California
State University Northridge;
double major in Molecular Biology and
Physical Anthropology, minor in Physics;
currently working
as a microbiology technician

Talin Perroomian

In 2001 I heard a lecture in Iran by Drs. Jordan and Avagyan about the then newly formed organization, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. At that time a friend of mine was battling leukemia. Unfortunately she did not survive the illness. It was then and there that I decided to be a part of ABMDR and volunteer for its community-outreach and recruitment efforts. I joined as a volunteer two years ago, when I moved to the United States. This great cause is such a big inspiration to me and I know that I'm going to be a part of it and we're going to walk hand in hand for many more years to come.

Talin Perroomian
PharmD, pharmacist

Sharlene Gozalians

I received my Masters of Public Health in Health Education and Promotion at USC, and my Doctorate in Public Health at Loma Linda University. I currently work as the Senior Public Health Research Associate for the LA Best Babies Network, where I focus on maternal and child-health issues. Previously I worked with the LA County in an intervention that promoted healthy communities, youth empowerment, advocacy, program planning, and evaluation. I have volunteered in Tanzania, Brazil, and Armenia in public and child-health-related issues. Joining ABMDR was a natural progression for me, and is a great outlet for my love of science and my passion for helping fellow Armenians. I love all recruitment and outreach activities, and hope to do what I can to help find matches for patients whose lives have been affected.

Sharlene Gozalians
DrPH, MPH, CHES

Christina Ashjian

After graduating with my Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of the Pacific, I wanted to devote my time to volunteering. Once I heard about the unique mission of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, I knew it was unlike any other organization, and decided to volunteer for its outreach and recruitment activities. Ever since then, I have felt honored to be a part of an organization that provides life-saving services to the Armenian community all over the world.

Christina Ashjian
Clinical pharmacist,
Providence Holy Cross
Medical Center



Our young recruiters in action. On November 7, 2012, they held a presentation and recruitment at UC Irvine, at the invitation of the university's Armenian Student Association (ASA); and on February 23, 2013, they participated in the All ASA Quiz Bowl, also at UC Irvine. Both events drew the enthusiastic support of students.

First Walk of Life in New England a great success

ABMDR held its first walkathon in New England in 2012, drawing the support of the Armenian community and local organizations. Walk of Life, which took place in Watertown, Massachusetts, on September 22, raised \$10,000, including \$3,000 from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Boston, a longtime partner of ABMDR.

Over 100 participants started their walk from the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center on Nichols Avenue in Watertown, where committee member Rubina Varjabedian welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. The 2.2-mile walkathon took participants through historic thoroughfares, including Mount Auburn Street, to the town center, where they joined the ABMDR table at the Faire on the Square.

Commenting on the success of the event, Arlette Yegumians, a member of the Armenian Business Network (ABN) Executive Committee, said, "The ABN was proud to participate in the first ABMDR walk in New England, a fun and extremely well-executed event for a very worthy cause."

As noted by the organizing committee, youth participation was an important factor in the event's success. "This walkathon is a great opportunity to teach the young generation to be active in the community and to be a part of a greater good through involvement," said Armine Medzoian, principal of the Erebuni Armenian School, who led a team of 11-12-year-old students at the walk.

The walkathon program included the presentation of awards for exceptional team effort. The awards comprised specially-made teddy bears dressed in commemorative T-shirts and award ribbons.

"Our awards for the two winning teams come from the village of Berd in Armenia," said Tamar Melkonian of the ABMDR support group. "Berd Bears are handmade by the women of Berd village, as part of a wonderful program run by the Berd Women's Resource Center Foundation." Subsequently Melkonian presented the Most Funds Raised Award to the ABN Team, and the Biggest Team Award to the Belmont High School Armenian Club.



A scene from the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



The Armenian Business Network Team, which received the Most Funds Raised Award.



Support-group members, from left, Marilyn Bazarian, Artemis Melkonian, Tamar Melkonian, and Arax Badalian.



The teddy-bear awards and commemorative T-shirts.



The Erebuni Armenian School Team.

Recruitment in Saint Paul, Minnesota

On December 2, 2012, patient Richard Ambrookian lost his battle with multiple myeloma.

Only three weeks earlier, on November 11, we held a recruitment drive for him at St. Sahag's Church in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

We were also in the process of organizing a second recruitment for Richard in the Detroit area, where he had many relatives and friends.

Richard leaves behind a wife, Sue, and a teenage daughter, Tina. As requested by Richard's family, in-lieu-of-flowers donations were made to ABMDR (see page 40).

In the words of his sister, Sandra, "The fact that ABMDR was helping him find a match was very uplifting for him. My gratitude for all of its efforts is boundless, as I believe strongly in the merits of its cause."

**To help
in recruitment activities,
or start a drive in your area,
please contact ABMDR**

Yerevan Laboratory
37410-20-83-12
info@abmdr.net

Los Angeles Office
323-663-3609
info@abmdr.net

East Coast Coordinator
Joyce Gedigian
781-424-1394
joyceb1641@aol.com

Tehran Coordinator
Mariet Toumians
9821-725-645
avedisianclinic@hoornet.com



Our East Coast volunteers



ABMDR's volunteer team in Massachusetts during a brunch meeting at the home of Hasmik Sarkezians and Roupen Dechkounian. The team organized our first, and highly successful, New England Walkathon in 2012.

Laughter for Life: ten's a charm!

On November 11, 2012, the world-famous Comedy Store in Los Angeles once again reverberated with the imaginative, diabolically funny wisecracks of Sam Tripoli and a lineup of renowned comedians, all of whom went the extra mile to make the latest installment of ABMDR's Laughter for Life event the most memorable yet.

For the past ten years, Laughter for Life has been organized by Tripoli and ABMDR's Lara Yeretsian.

Both have been instrumental in mounting an annual event which features some of Los Angeles' most accomplished comedic talents while benefiting the life-saving mission of ABMDR.

We salute Sam and Lara for their wonderful dedication in ensuring the success of Laughter for Life year after year!



Comedian Sam Tripoli and ABMDR's Lara Yeretsian, organizers of the Comedy Night for the past ten years.

***Don't miss the next Laughter for Life, which will be held
on November 10, 2013, at the famous Comedy Store***



Comedy Night Committee members and supporters. Since its launch a decade ago, Laughter for Life has become one of the Los Angeles Armenian community's most celebrated annual benefit events.

11th Annual USC AGSA Dinner-Dance supports ABMDR

This year, the ever-popular USC Armenian Graduate Students' Association (AGSA) Dinner/Dance was not only one of the hottest Armenian events to be held in Los Angeles, but fulfilled a great goal by once again benefiting the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. The sold-out annual event, featuring performances by Armenchik as well as DJ Karen and DJ Sammy Flash, took place on January 26 at the Arbat Banquet Hall in Burbank, California.

Like last year, brothers Johnny and Harry Nigoghosian, president and vice-president of AGSA, respectively, were instrumental in the success of the event and the support given to the Registry.



Photos by Armen Asadorian.

Clockwise from top left: Dr. Frieda Jordan flanked by Harry (left) and Johnny Nigoghosian; the Nigoghosians with their parents, Seta and Vahe; a scene from the event, with Armenchik performing.

Well-attended ABMDR presentation and recruitment garner enthusiastic response from UC Irvine ASA

On November 7, 2012, an extremely enthusiastic audience of UC Irvine students attended an ABMDR presentation and recruitment. The well-attended event, held on campus, was organized at the invitation of the UC Irvine Armenian Student As-

sociation (ASA) Cultural Committee, which is co-chaired by Zarouhie Abrahamyan and Rafik Mughnetsyan. The ABMDR team comprised Board members Christina Ashjian, Dr. Stella Baghdasarian, and Outreach Officer Dr. Vergine Madelian. Following the presentation,

delivered by Christina Ashjian, the ABMDR team answered questions and proceeded to recruit numerous potential bone marrow stem cell donors.

As they thanked the ABMDR team for the presentation, UC Irvine ASA members expressed their eagerness to continue to organize joint events with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and encourage students to support its mission.



Members of the UC Irvine Armenian Student Association and the ABMDR team (in yellow T-shirts), including Christina Ashjian, who made the presentation, Dr. Vergine Madelian, and Dr. Stella Baghdasarian.

Walk of Life Los Angeles 2012

Thank you, Glendale Memorial Hospital, for your ongoing support of the Walkathon, and the Kaloostian family, for your generous support in memory of Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian

On October 20, 2012, hundreds of Angelenos took part in ABMDR's seventh annual Walk of Life, which took place in Glendale, California.

The highly anticipated event drew strong youth participation, with teams from several area Armenian schools, organizations, student associations, and youth clubs in attendance. Also participating were several dignitaries, including elected officials and community leaders.

The walkathon, which began at the plaza of Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center, was preceded by an energetic warm-up session led by a team from Total Woman. Subsequently the hundreds of participants embarked on the walk, looping along a city trajectory that passed by the Armenian Consulate. Consul General Grigor Hovhannisyan warmly saluted the procession.

The walk concluded at the Glendale Memorial plaza, where the community celebration, featuring food, music, and dance, continued into the afternoon. At this time, participants had the opportunity to join the ranks of ABMDR at volunteer-staffed information and recruitment tents.

The program included an awards ceremony. The Kaloostian Family Team (comprising Dr. William Kaloostian, father; and siblings and doctors Carolyn, Paul, and Shane) was awarded for having raised the most funds. The Kaloostian Family Team had joined the walkathon in memory of wife and mother Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian, who was a major ABMDR supporter as well as a member of its Board. For the second year in a row, the Chamlian School Team received a trophy for having the highest number of participants, and Glendale Memorial was awarded for being the major sponsor of Walk of Life for the past seven years. Rima Matevosian accepted the award on behalf of the hospital.



Peter, a cancer survivor, cutting the red ribbon. He is flanked by (from right to left) Dr. Frieda Jordan, David Mauss of Glendale Memorial Hospital, Glendale City Council member Laura Friedman, and Glendale mayor Frank Quintero, among other supporters and walkathon participants.



The Walkathon drew significant youth participation, with teams from several Armenian schools, student associations, and youth clubs in attendance.



Carolyn Kaloostian, MD, waving flags as she reaches the Armenian Consulate. (Photo by Raul Roa, courtesy of the *Los Angeles Times*).



Burbank Mayor Dave Golonski (third from left) showed his strong support of ABMDR by advocating for the Registry's mission and encouraging the Burbank community to participate in the Walkathon.



The Walkathon looped along a city trajectory that included the Armenian Consulate. The hundreds of participants were warmly saluted by Consul General Grigor Hovhannisyan.

Match for Life Gala 2012



The Match for Life Gala Committee with ABMDR Board members, supporters, and volunteers.

More than 400 supporters attended White Carnival: Match for Life Gala 2012, our annual benefit dinner. The festive community event, which marked several milestones, was held on July 15, 2012, at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale, California. It was attended by numerous dignitaries, elected officials, community leaders, benefactors, and volun-

teers. The major sponsor of Match for Life was Glendale Adventist Medical Center. We convey our profound gratitude to this great institution for its steadfast and generous support. The 2012 ABMDR Woman of the Year and Man of the Year Award were conferred on Salpi Mankerian and Dr. Boris Bagdasarian, respectively; the Volunteer of the Year awards

were bestowed on Ilin Boghoskhanian, Amalia Kiureghlian, and Armond Mehdikhani; and the Business of the Year Award was given to David Yeretsian of Sasoun Bakery. In addition, Dr. Jordan announced that patient Irene Hamptian Katrandjian has received the Angel of Courage Award for her efforts in support of the ABMDR mission.

Thank you, Glendale Adventist Medical Center, for being a major event sponsor!



Kevin Roberts, president and CEO of Glendale Adventist Medical Center, a major sponsor of the Gala, after being presented with ABMDR award by Glendale City Council member Laura Friedman and Dr. Frieda Jordan.



Benefactors and organizations honored with ABMDR awards included Pacific Wine and Spirits, ABMDR Lifetime Supporter Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center, the Los Angeles Cancer Network, and the Foundation Laboratory, also an ABMDR Lifetime Supporter.



Dr. Avagyan (far left) and Dr. Jordan (far right) with honorees Armond Mehdikhanian, Dr. Boris Bagdasarian, Amalia Kiureghlian, Salpi Mankerian, and Ilin Boghoskhanian.



From left: Ramella Markarian, Talin Perroomian, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Dr. Frieda Jordan, Naz Atikian, Ani Azar, and Arsineh Moghadesian with the ABMDR Angels.



Gala attendees, including ABMDR Board members, award recipients, supporters, and volunteers, with singers Andy (fifth from left) and Martik Kanian (third from right).



Members of the Yeretsian family, flanked by Laura Friedman (far left) and Dr. Frieda Jordan after being presented with the Business of the Year Award for Sasoun Bakery.



From left: Match for Life Gala Master of Ceremonies Mark Geragos, Esq., Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, and Jacob Geragos.



THE ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

PRESENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Hope Life Gala 2013

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MARK GERAGOS Esq.,

ABMDR Chairman

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2013

6:00 PM - COCKTAILS

7:00 PM - DINNER

GLENDAL HILTON

100 WEST GLENOAKS BOULEVARD,
GLENDAL, CALIFORNIA

*For more information
or tickets please call:*

Amy: 818-919-2686 Hilda: 626-695-9899 Naz: 818-399-6060
ABMDR Office: 323-663-3609 or e-mail abmdrla@sbcglobal.net

Give the Gift of Life

AWARD RECIPIENTS

AMY BOYADJIAN
Woman of the Year

PROF. EVGENI SOKURENKO, MD, PhD
University of Washington, Seattle
Man of the Year

HARMIK BAGHDASARIAN
Volunteer of the Year

HILDA GOURDIKIAN
Volunteer of the Year

ABMDR COMEDY NIGHT COMMITTEE
Team of the Year

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES
Establishment of the Year

ARMENIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL
SOCIETY (AAMS)
AND AAMS LADIES' AUXILIARY
Organization of the Year

MAJOR EVENT SPONSOR
Glendale Adventist Medical Center
Adventist Health

parties for a wonderful cause

Wine-tasting event

Hosted by Vicken and Salpi Mankerian of Mission Wine and Spirits, at their residence in Sierra Madre, California, May 18, 2012



Casino Night

Hosted by Michael and Amy Boyadjian of the Tri-Tech company at their residence in Glendale, California, September 28, 2012



Christmas Luncheon

Major sponsor: Naz Atikian of Le Papillon. Brandview Collection, Glendale, California, November 18, 2012



Christmas Party

Hosted by George Titizian
and family at their residence
in Chatsworth, California



Armenian Open Golf Tournament

Organized by the Los Angeles Chapter Trex Fraternity
and George Titizian, June 22, 2012, Pasadena, California



**SAVE
THE DATE**

The 58th Annual Armenian Open Golf Tournament

Friday, June 28, 2013

Brookside Golf Course, Pasadena, California

Fifty percent of proceeds will benefit ABMDR

Info and tickets: melshanoian@gmail.com

community outreach

**Participation in ARS Annual Gala,
April 17, 2012, Glendale, California**



**ABMDR presentation and recruitment,
United Armenian Congregational Church, Hollywood, California**



**Participation in Clark Magnet High
School Senior Science Fair, June 19,
2012, La Crescenta, California**



Visit to Armenian Consulate in Los Angeles, July 9, 2012



Registry donates science equipment to Chamlian School Science Lab, August 2012, La Crescenta, California



From left: Dr. Frieda Jordan, Vazken Madenlian, and Lida Gevorkian.

ABMDR donated a DNA Gel Electrophoresis Chamber to the Chamlian School's Science Lab, aiming to expose students to the field of molecular biology through hands-on experience. Dr. Frieda Jordan



Lida Gevorkian and ABMDR Outreach Officer Dr. Vergine Madelian.

and Dr. Vergine Madelian presented the equipment in August 2012. Chamlian's Science Department chair, Mrs. Lida Gevorkian, and principal Vazken Madenlian were on hand to accept the gift.

Armenian Independence Day Celebration, September 2012, Armenian Consulate, Glendale, Calif.



ABMDR makes donation to Armenia Fund Telethon, November 22, 2012



Prayer Day at Evangelical churches, October 7, 2012



During morning worship on Sunday, October 7, 2012, Armenian Evangelical churches throughout Southern California offered special prayers for ABMDR. The Call to Prayer was requested by Reverend Joseph D. Matossian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and a longtime supporter of the Registry's life-saving mission.

Visit to Arch. Hovnan Derderian at the Western Diocese, January 8, 2013



Visit to Arch. Moushegh Mardirossian at the Western Prelacy, Jan. 22, 2013



From left: Bob Barsam, former president of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Arpi Barsam, Diana Artunian, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Zaven Kazazian, former president of the Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club.

Meeting with new president of Glendale Memorial Hospital, March 8, 2013



Dr. Frieda Jordan flanked by Jack Ivie, president of Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center (right), and David L. Mauss, the hospital's vice-president of Business Development.

professional activities worldwide

World Marrow Donor Association Conference, May 2012, Sydney

In May 2012, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, represented by Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan, participated in the World Marrow Donor Association's Ninth International Donor Registry Conference, held in Sydney, Australia.

ABMDR has been a full member of the World Marrow Donor Association for the past 12 years. During the conference, Dr. Jordan and Dr. Avagyan exchanged insights and compared professional experiences with representatives of various registries.



International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop and Joint Conference, May-June 2012, Liverpool

A delegation of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, comprising Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, and ABMDR Laboratory supervisor Armine Huyssyan, participated in the 16th International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop and Joint Conference, held in Liverpool from May 28 to June 3, 2012. Participating in the HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop were all EFI laboratory inspectors, including Dr. Jordan. Representing the Republic of Armenia, Dr. Jordan is the first EFI inspector appointed to represent a country in the Caucasus region.



American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics meeting, October 2012, San Juan, Puerto Rico



From top:
Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Dr. Frieda Jordan at the World Marrow Donor Association Conference; Drs. Jordan and Avagyan with former EFI president Dr. Ilias Doxiadis at the International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop; Armine Huyssyan of the ABMDR Stem Cell Harvesting Center (left) with Dr. Avagyan and Ketevan Gendzekhadze, associate director of City of Hope; and Dr. Avagyan with Pam Rabinnette, manager of the National Marrow Donor Program.

National Marrow Donor Program Council meeting, November 8-10, 2012, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Glendale Health Festival, November 3, 2012, Glendale, California



European Federation of Immunogenetics Region 8 Meeting, December 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria



Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan at EFI Region 8 Meeting with colleagues.



Drs. Avagyan and Jordan with EFI president Dr. Gottfried Fischer.

lifetime supporters and loyal contributors

Ralph Yirikian, VivaCell-MTS



We thank Ralph Yirikian, general manager of VivaCell-MTS, for his outstanding support of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Mr. Yirikian was instrumental in the establishment of our Stem Cell Harvesting Center, and continues to be an inspiration to all those who champion the Registry's mission across the globe.

Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center



This year the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry reached a wonderful cornerstone as it facilitated Armenia's first-ever autotransplantation procedure. On behalf of the entire Glendale Memorial staff, we warmly congratulate the Registry on this achievement, and are honored to continue to support its life-saving cause, by



helping sponsor donor recruitments, walkathons, and other community-outreach events.

Jack Ivie, president,
and David L. Mauss, vice-president of
Business Development,
Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center

The Vartanian family, Foundation Laboratory



The Foundation Laboratory team: Stepan Vartanian (seated) and Linda Vartanian (second from left) with their daughter, Lala (far left), sons-in-law Areg Boyamyman and Dr. Zareh Baghoomian, daughter Taleen, and son Ara Vartanian.

For the past 14 years, Stepan and Linda Vartanian have donated to ABMDR the use of their Foundation Laboratory, making it the base of our US operations and enabling us to prepare US donor samples for tissue typing in Yerevan. And this year the Vartanians became a major

sponsor of the ABMDR Walkathon. Moreover, the Vartanian couple and their children, Lala, Taleen, and Ara, as well as sons-in-law Dr. Zareh Baghoomian and Areg Boyamyman, never miss a chance to be of help to our fundraising efforts. We thank them for their outstanding dedication!

Drs. Avagyan and Sokurenko



We have witnessed the continued growth of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry as an exemplary model for starting a highly honorable humanitarian idea, spreading an important message, generating broad public interest, and earning the respect and recognition of communities and peers throughout the world. So many successful projects, so many enthusiastic participants, and such excellent organization of a collective effort! There is tremendous determination among the Registry's leadership, staff, and volunteers in pursuing its goals, exercising commendable etiquette in terms of work with participants and volunteers, and methodically enhancing its capacities. We are pleased to see that, following all these accomplishments since 1999, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry is striving for even higher goals, planning to expand its services, and seeking to establish a full-fledged transplantation center.

Dr. Arpenik Avagyan
and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko

Dr. Carolann and George Najarian



Dr. Carolann and George Najarian, pictured here with their grandchildren, have been veritable pillars of the Registry. Today, as we strive to expand our services to make a difference in the lives of Armenians across the globe, we thank the Najarians for their unflinching support of our mission.

The Mankerian family, Mission Wine and Spirits



The reason we joined the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry family is that we wholeheartedly believe in its life-saving mission and feel that we can help make a dif-

ference. Just being able to help our fellow Armenians in their hour of need is the greatest gift we can bestow on a fellow human being.

The Boyadjian family, Tri-Tech company



We have been blessed with health and happiness, and strongly believe in sharing our blessings. When we learned about the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Regis-

try, we felt a strong moral obligation to be a part of an organization whose sole purpose is to save lives — a gift that is priceless.

The Kaloostian family



In the footsteps of our dearly missed Aida Shirinian Kaloostian (pictured in the top photo with her husband, Dr. William Kaloostian), the Kaloostian family continues to provide vital support to the Registry, from donating office space to making every effort to help secure the success of our walkathons and fundraising efforts. Thank you, Dr. William Kaloostian and his wonderful children, doctors Carolyn, Paul, and Shane! Here's what the family stated on the occasion of publishing the present Newsletter: "By the contributions in the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, the Kaloostians strive to do God's work of healing Armenians afflicted with bone marrow disorders and nurturing those who are succumbing to these life-threatening conditions."

Naz Atikian, Le Papillon



Naz (left)
with her sister, Dee Cholian.

Naz Atikian joined ABMDR in 2006. Initially she wanted to be of help because the daughter of a friend was struck with leukemia. Soon her involvement deepened, as she found out that only an Armenian donor could save an Armenian child, and given her lifelong devotion to children's causes. In 2006 Naz organized and sponsored a Tea Party, which has since become an annual ABMDR fundraising tradition. She has also planned Mother-and-Daughter events, and held various fundraisers in the homes of family or friends. With her extraordinary generosity and infectious enthusiasm, Naz has been a true angel for ABMDR.

Ellen Moradian solo photography exhibition, held at Glendale Hilton, benefits the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry



On December 13, 2012, an exhibition of the photography of Ellen (Alenoosh) Moradian was held at the Glendale Hilton, in Glendale, California. The event, which included a

wine-and-cheese reception, benefited the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. In the photo above: Moradian (third from left) with ABMDR Board members.

Go, Plant8ers! Our youngest community activists support our mission



The Plant8ers are a group of kids from various schools in the Los Angeles area who get together to raise money to help Armenian schools and ABMDR. They have a membership of approximately 25. The two co-presidents, Paulina Sipilian and Natalie Azar, along with members Sarine Hajjar, Clara Fermanian, and Racquel Injian, attended

ABMDR's Christmas luncheon in 2012 and presented a donation to ABMDR. We commend these wonderful teens' exemplary spirit of community activism. The photo above shows the Plant8ers who attended our Christmas luncheon: seated, from left: Clara, Sarine, and Paulina; standing, from left: Racquel and Natalie.

Armenian-American Middle Eastern Club makes contribution



During our wine-tasting event, held on May 18, 2012, Vasken Gourdikian, a sergeant with the Pasadena Police Department and chairperson of the Armenian-American Middle Eastern Club, presented a donation from the organization to the Registry. Thank you! In the photo above, Sergeant Gourdikian with Dr. Frieda Jordan and Salpi Mankerian.

Wine-tasting dinner benefits the Registry's work



Edwin Mamigonian, owner of Emaa Wine, hosted a wine-tasting dinner in support of ABMDR. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Edwin and his gracious wife, Armineh (pictured in the family photo above).

Thank You for in lieu of flowers

in memory of:

Richard Ambrookian	Bane Pirjan
Haroutioun Emirkhanian	Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
Mariana Kazarian	Arlene Titizian



Richard Ambrookian



Mariana Kazarian



Dr. Aida Shirinian
Kaloostian



Arlene Titizian

volunteers for life

Planning Retreat Day, January 27, 2013



Recruitment Workshop, February 17, 2013



a vision of leadership and service

Gala Committee



Board meeting, summer 2012



Board meeting, winter 2013



Sevart Topalian asks loved ones to make donations to ABMDR in lieu of birthday presents



On July 22, 2012, Alique Topalian and her family celebrated her grandmother Sevart Seyranian's 90th birthday. On this occasion, Sevart had requested from family and friends to not bring her any presents, but rather make contributions to the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry as well as the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio — the hospital where Alique had been treated for acute myeloid leukemia.

"Alique was the reason that ABMDR came to be," Sevart stated. "It is a very special organization to my family, and we want to support the critical work it does to save Armenian lives. My thanks to Dr. Frieda Jordan for all she does to continue to advance ABMDR's efforts."

Also in 2012, Sevart traveled with her daughter Michele, a founding member of the ABMDR Board, to California to attend the organization's Match for Life Gala. And Sam Tripoli, Sevart's great nephew, continues to play an invaluable role in the Registry's annual Laughter for Life, by both organizing the event, together with ABMDR's Lara Yeretsian, and performing at it with other comedians.

In appreciation of our Honorary Chair



The Registry bestowed a special Certificate of Recognition on Dr. Bella Kocharian, ABMDR's Honorary Chair and former First Lady of Armenia, in appreciation of her years of dedication and service to the organization.

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Mark Geragos, Esq.,
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Evelyn Baghdasraian, MD
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Salpi Mankerian
David Mauss, GMHHC
Armond Mehdikhani, CLS, MBA
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Aida Shirinian Kaloostian, MD
(deceased)
George Titizian
Lara Yeretsian, Esq.

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Walkathon Committee

ABMDR Raffle winners



Rouben Abedian (in the photo above, with Dr. Vergine Madelian) was the lucky winner of an iPad from the 2012 ABMDR Raffle. Parsekh Topjian (below) won "Noah's Ark" by Aram. As for our roundtrip-to-Miami prize, it was won by longtime ABMDR supporters Eleonore and Edward Aslanian of San Francisco. **However, the Aslanians donated their prize to ABMDR, as a way to contribute to our work. We convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Aslanians.** "I was happy that my husband and I were able to be of some help with our donation," Eleonore said. Thank you!



Mariette Keshishian
Taleen Khatchadourian
Karine Khudikian
Amalia Kiureghlian
Aleksandr Lazaryan, MD, MPH, PhD
Carmen Lukassian
Carlo Manjikian
Marina Manoukian
Rima Mardirosian
Ramela Markarian
Fimi Mekhitarian,
West Coast Recruitment Officer
Razmik Moghadesian
Mihran Nazaretyan, MD, PhD, Armenia
Nani Oskanian, MD, Armenia
Talin Peroomian
Annethe Postik
Alvart Petrossian, Armenia
Sam Tripoli
Kalust Ucar, MD
Stepan Vartanian, ASCP
Sophie Zargarian

Yerevan
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Tel: (374 10) 20 83 11
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info@abmdr.net

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY



Loop Starting from:
Glendale Memorial Hospital
1420 S. Central Ave.
Glendale, CA 91204

REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM
OPENING CEREMONY: 9:30 AM
WALK: 10:00 AM



FREE PARKING



MAJOR SPONSORS



Glendale Memorial Hospital
and Health Center.
A Dignity Health Member

WALK • VIRTUAL WALK • RUN • FOOD • MUSIC **323-663-3609**
www.abmdr.am



THE ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY
PRESENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Hope Life Gala 2013

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MARK GERAGOS ESQ.,

ABMDR Chairman

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2013

6:00 PM - COCKTAILS

7:00 PM - DINNER

GLENDALE HILTON

100 WEST GLENDALE BOULEVARD,
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

For more information
or tickets please call:

Amy: 818-919-2686 Hilda: 626-695-9899 Naz: 818-399-6060
ABMDR Office: 323-663-3609 or e-mail abmdr@aasbcglobal.net

Give the Gift of Life

HARMIK BAGHDASARIAN
Volunteer of the Year

ARMENIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL
SOCIETY (AAMS)
AND AAMS LADIES' AUXILIARY
Organization of the Year

AWARD RECIPIENTS

AMY BOYADJIAN
Woman of the Year

HILDA GOURDIKIAN
Volunteer of the Year

ABMDR COMEDY NIGHT COMMITTEE
Team of the Year

PROF. EVGENI SOKURENKO, MD, PhD
University of Washington, Seattle
Man of the Year

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES
Establishment of the Year

MAJOR EVENT SPONSOR

Glendale Adventist Medical Center
Adventist Health

Lottery tickets inside

Raffle will be drawn during
Match for Life 2013 Gala
Glendale Hilton, July 14

(Need not be present to win)

Buy your tickets in support of
ABMDR's life-saving mission

First prize:

**Two roundtrip
plane tickets
to Miami**

(donated by Sidon Travel)

Second prize:

Latest iPad

(donated by
Amalia Kiureghlian)

Third Prize:

**Noah's Ark
by Michael Aram**

(donated by Naz, Le Papillon)



The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry
invites you to a



Wine Tasting

Sponsored by Mission Wine & Spirits

Friday, May 31, 2013, 7:30 pm

at the Mankarian Residence
590 Acacia Street, Sierra Madre, California 91024

Donation: \$75

RSVP: Salpi (626) 355-3789 or Robert (626) 794-7026
robert@missionwineandspirits.com

Over fifteen California wineries will be serving
fine wines paired with hors d'oeuvres.



Save The Date to Save A Life

Annual ABMDR Casino Night Fundraiser

Friday, September 27, 2013, at 7:00 pm



Hosted by

Michael and Amy Boyadjian
2054 Erin Way, Glendale, CA 91206

Poker tournament
starts at 8:30 pm.
Good luck!

RSVP to Amy Boyadjian
(818) 565-3904
aboyad@tritechrestoration.com

\$100 per person
includes food, two drinks,
and playing chips