



ABMDR

FIRST EFI TRAINING &
EDUCATIONAL MEETING
IN ARMENIA

November 18-20, 2011
Yerevan, Armenia



details inside

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY 2012

Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

All of the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to help ABMDR fulfill its mission are not surprised to now see over 21,500 potential donors in our Registry, a thriving laboratory and stem cell harvesting center in Yerevan, and, most importantly, the facilitation of 13 transplantations. But outside of this dedicated circle of supporters, we do surprise those who are just getting to know us.

Six years ago, ABMDR welcomed two scientists from Greece and Germany to Yerevan — representatives of the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI), who came to inspect our laboratory operations. We had to demonstrate to them our worthiness for accreditation... and we did! They admitted that they were pleasantly surprised. A few months after their visit, ABMDR became the first laboratory of its kind in the Caucasus to be granted EFI accreditation. Flash forward to November 2011: we experienced another first for the Registry, and for Armenia: hosting an international training and educational meeting of the esteemed EFI in Yerevan, where we continued to "surprise" our colleagues with the quality of our work, and the progress we have made.

Just as our EFI colleagues noted six years ago, ABMDR has not only built a foundation for its own success, but it is a resource for other small registries getting started. It is no surprise to all of us who have worked so hard to achieve our goals. Thank you all!

Frieda Jordan, PhD, President



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In November 2011 I had the privilege of serving as Master of Ceremonies of the Armenian Professional Society (APS) of Los Angeles event that honored Dr. Frieda Jordan as "Professional of the Year." Frieda and ABMDR couldn't have been a better selection for the APS, which promotes professional fellowship. As Frieda noted in her remarks that evening, ABMDR does just that: among medical professionals, of course, but also among the hundreds of volunteers across the globe

who contribute their time, expertise, and passion to our success. Fellowship, in the scientific sense, is literally the common bond we all have in our DNA as Armenians, and the basis of all we do to find stem cell matches for patients in need throughout the world. My many thanks to all who help to fulfill this important mission.

Mark Geragos, Esq.

Chairman of the ABMDR Board of Directors



MESSAGE FROM THE HON. CHAIR

ABMDR has become a beacon of hope for our people to forge a resource for all who suffer from life-threatening blood-related diseases. And now it is inspiring other small countries trying to do the same. I am proud of the responsibility ABMDR has taken in saving lives for our community, and in offering its help to other nations.

Dr. Bella Kocharian

Hon. Chair of ABMDR, former First Lady of Armenia

"Only an Armenian donor can save a fellow Armenian, and it only takes 30 seconds."

In August 2011 Serj Tankian, lead singer and songwriter of the acclaimed rock band System of a Down, released a public-service video announcement in support of ABMDR. The video, which includes a sequence of shots showing ABMDR's life-saving work, features Tankian making a personal appeal to join the ranks of the Registry.

"Thirty seconds: that's how long it'll take you to watch this announcement," he states. "What if I told you that in just 30 seconds you can help someone just like yourself to live again; to love; to play; to laugh? By joining the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, you're taking a huge step toward saving an Armenian life. Once you're registered, you'll be part of a vast network of donors who have already saved lives all over the world. But we still need your help. Only an Armenian donor can save a fellow Armenian, and it only takes 30 seconds."

We salute Tankian for his dedication to humanitarian causes and being a wonderful role model for young Armenians everywhere. By delivering such a great message in his unique and compelling style, he has once again demonstrated his strong commitment to encouraging Armenian youth activism.

Tankian's video announcement can be accessed through the ABMDR website (abmdr.am) and YouTube.



Angels for Life really do appear



In the spring of 2009, when she was three years old, Charlotte was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. One of the treatments for her is a bone marrow transplant. Last year a potential donor was found through ABMDR. Read the full story on page 2.

SPONSORS

This publication was made possible by generous contributions from:





Sevak Avagyan, MD,
ABMDR Executive Director.

Angels for Life really do appear

An interview with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan

The mission of ABMDR is to help “Armenians worldwide survive life-threatening blood-related illnesses by recruiting and matching donors to those requiring bone marrow stem cell transplants.” What is the latest news on how the Registry is fulfilling this mission?

There are two ways to answer that question. As the executive director of the registry, I can relay some pretty impressive statistics: as of today, ABMDR has recruited over 21,500 donors in 14 countries across three continents, identified 2,135 patients, and facilitated 13 bone marrow transplants.

But as a doctor who comes to the profession of medicine out of a deep desire to heal the sick, I answer the question with two names: Charlotte and X.

Tell us about the significance of Charlotte and X.

They are the “Match for Life” which the ABMDR is all about. On October 22, 2011, which happened to be the day of the Los Angeles Walk of Life event, we found a match for Anushik Charlotte, a five-year-old girl who suffers from aplastic anemia. All the recruitment drives, all the efforts of her family and friends in Pennsylvania and beyond, over the course of 18 months, paid off: half way around the world, in Tehran, a young man whom we subsequently designated as X emerged in the Registry as her DNA match. He was as excited as Charlotte and her family to be a match for her.

That is wonderful news. So is X totally unrelated to Charlotte?

That is correct. Statistically, only 30% of patients in need of a stem cell transplantation will find a match in their own family. Finding an unrelated match takes time, which is why it is so critical that patients and their families work with us to start looking for a match as soon as a diagnosis is made. Even if the patient is in remission, we encourage them to use this time to their advantage, to organize as many drives as possible, and thus increase their chances of finding a match.

We must be relentless in our efforts to develop, expand, and maintain a registry with a large enough number of donors



The staff of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Yerevan lab, including Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan (far left) and Dr. Sevak Avagyan (second from left), with Dr. Frieda Jordan (center).

How is Charlotte doing now?

Charlotte is in remission. X is waiting in the wings should she need a stem cell transplant. It is a great reassurance for her family.

X is certainly one of the Angels on the Registry's Tree of Life!

Yes, that is what I hope people will think about at our 12th-Anniversary Gala this summer, when they see the Angel Tree: their support ensures that people like X are there for patients like Charlotte. There are over 2,000 patients still out there looking for their angel. We must be relentless in our efforts to develop, expand, and maintain a registry with a large enough number of unrelated donors to successfully cover the need of transplantations among ethnic Armenians now, and in the future.

major milestones



EFI conference participants including ABMDR and EFI board members, speakers, and ABMDR Yerevan lab staff.

ABMDR makes history by hosting first EFI Training and Educational Meeting in Armenia

A sense of discovery. It's what stimulates the minds of scientists, and what challenges them to persist in their work. Yerevan was the perfect venue for researchers and medical practitioners to share the excitement and challenge of their discoveries in the field of immunogenetics and bone marrow transplantation in November 2011, when they participated in the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI) Training and Educational Meeting in Armenia. And for some of the other Caucasus registries in attendance that are just getting started, it was a discovery of something else: ABMDR as a model to help them set the standards and protocols of their work.

ABMDR was selected by EFI to organize the prestigious conference — the first to be held in Armenia — which welcomed some 150 participants representing 15 countries in Europe, the CIS, and the Middle East, including Russia, the Ukraine, Iran, Georgia, and Kazakhstan. Also participating in the conference were local Armenian medical professionals and researchers.

Sessions of the conference addressed recent advances in HLA immunogenetics, stem cell and organ transplantation, and HLA-disease associations.

Responding to the interest of attendees, ABMDR provided a tour of its laboratory and Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan. This was an excellent opportunity for those just developing their registries to see first-hand the scope and quality

continued on next page



Dr. Frieda Jordan during her presentation.



Above: conference speakers. Left: Dr. Bella Kocharian addressing the attendees.

EFI meeting

continued from previous page

of the work of ABMDR, the only EFI-accredited facility of its kind in the entire region.

Providing a bridge of life for emerging registries

EFI president Dr. Ilias Doxiadis praised ABMDR for providing an international bridge between foremost immunogenetics specialists from diverse countries. Moreover, he expressed hope that the meeting would lead to new avenues of cooperation between current EFI members and other conference participants in the region.

The forum proved to be more than a venue for scientific discovery. It was also the perfect opportunity for attendees to share their discovery of the culture of Armenia.

Conference participants, many of whom were visiting Armenia for the first time, enthusiastically viewed the art, honored the history, sampled the food, and danced to the music of the republic and its people.

Among the cultural occasions that left a profound impression on the attendees was a visit to the Harutyun Kalents Museum in Yerevan.

As they enjoyed the awe-inspiring artworks on display, the visitors paid particular attention to the painting titled *Khosrovyan Reservation*, which had been reproduced on all of ABMDR's announcements and posters for the EFI conference in Yerevan (see side bar on next page).

Another memorable event was a visit to the famous Ararat Brandy Factory, where EFI leaders were treated to a tasting of world-renowned and award-winning cognacs.

In her speech at the conference, Dr. Jordan reminded the attendees that the greatest discoveries of all are finding matches for patients in need: "Each of our registries is a beacon of hope for all who suffer from life-threatening blood-related diseases," she said. "At this EFI meeting, we are gathered to share our knowledge with each other as we all work toward giving the greatest gift imaginable: life itself."



EFI president Dr. Ilias Doxiadis with Dr. Frieda Jordan during the training and educational meeting.



Conference coordinator Elsik Azizian (left) and conference secretary Gohar Malkhasyan.



A scene from the conference.



Conference participants in front of the ABMDR center.



Georgian, Russian, and Kazakhstani delegates with EFI president-elect Dr. Gottfried Fischer (far right).



Georgian delegates with ABMDR Board and staff members at the ABMDR center.



Georgian delegation.



Iranian delegation.



Delegates from Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan at the ABMDR center, with ABMDR BOD members and staff.



Dr. Gurvinder Kaur of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (left) and EFI secretary Dr. Ann-Margaret Little.



EFI guests and ABMDR Board members during cognac-tasting event at Ararat Brandy Factory, Yerevan.



EFI guests and ABMDR Board members during a dinner reception.



Joint EFI-ABMDR press conference.



ABMDR staff and volunteers preparing conference packages.

A vivid symbol of Armenian culture

Even before visiting the Harutyun Kalents Museum in Yerevan, numerous participants of the EFI conference commented on the vivid beauty of a painting titled *Khosrovyan Reservation* (seen in the announcement below).

Painted by internationally acclaimed artist Harutyun Kalents in 1960, *Khosrovyan Reservation* had been reproduced on all online and print announcements and posters of the EFI conference in Yerevan. Permission to reproduce the painting was kindly granted to ABMDR by the artist's son, Saro Kalents.

Khosrovyan Reservation, which had been selected by ABMDR for its compositional warmth and life-affirming palette, became the visual signature of the EFI conference.

"We all agreed that this wonderful painting communicated the dynamic, luminous character of Armenian culture and the people of the Armenian homeland," Dr. Frieda Jordan said.



At the Harutyun Kalents Museum with the artist's son, Saro Kalents.



ABMDR Stem Cell Harvesting Center draws visitors and supporters from throughout the world

ABMDR's state-of-the-art tissue-typing laboratory and Stem Cell Harvesting Center drew many visitors from far and wide this past year. From members of the Armenian American Medical Society of California to scientists of the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI), college students from California, and members of the ABMDR Board, the facility was toured by a variety of interested guests.

Visiting ABMDR delegates consisted of several members of the Registry's Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, including Frieda Jordan, PhD; Arpi Kestenian, representative of Glendale Memorial Hospital; Ramella Markarian, representative of Glendale Adventist Medical Center; Lara Yeretsian, Esq.; Naz Atikian; Vergine Madelian, PhD; and Taleen Peroomian, as well as Vicken Sepilian, MD, president of the Armenian American Medical Society of California.



Top photo: Visiting ABMDR Board members and supporters with Dr. Sevak Avagyan (third from left) and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan (far right).

Photo above: Stella Baghdasarian, DDS, of ABMDR's Board of Advisors (second from left) with Stem Cell Harvesting Center staff, including Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan.



Dr. Vicken Sepilian of the Armenian American Medical Society of California (right) and Dr. Avagyan.



Lara Yeretsian, Esq., of the ABMDR Board of Directors in front of the ABMDR Wall of Angels.



Mariet Tournians, ABMDR recruitment coordinator in Iran, and Dr. Frieda Jordan.



International pop sensation Avraam Russo visited the lab in April 2012, accompanied by Luxury Magazine founder Ernesto Marco (far left in the left photo). Avraam, an Armenian who lives in New York, registered as a donor, made a financial contribution, and expressed his commitment to providing further support, including being featured in a promotional video.



ABMDR IT developer Harmik Baghdasarian (seated, far right) and Dr. Stella Baghdasarian (standing, far left) with ABMDR lab staff.



Members of the Armenian Youth Cultural Organization of the Western Diocese.



From left: Taleen Peroomian, Dr. Vergine Madelian, Dr. Dikran Kazandjian of the National Cancer Institute, Larisa Naderiani of the Armenian Canadian Medical Association of Ontario, ABMDR Database Administrator Vicken Avedian, and Arpi Kestenian.

patients, families, and the Registry:

An impassioned quest for life

To learn that you or a loved one is diagnosed with a life-threatening blood-related disease is a heart-wrenching experience. What next? Who can help? We all know that a medical condition requires the expertise of healthcare professionals, but when it comes to blood diseases it also requires — and empowers — families to look to themselves and their network of friends and community members to take action. Highlighted here are some of the families who have done just that, working within their communities to organize and publicize recruitment drives, and raise funds for processing DNA samples. Together, with the guidance and support of ABMDR, we are creating partners for life.



Steve Bodozian is a 27-year-old patient suffering from AML, a life-threatening bone marrow disorder. Even though currently he is in remission, he continues his quest to find a stem cell donor match to increase his chances of survival.



Irene Hamptian Katrandjian, who has lymphoma, is currently in stable condition. Her family and friends continue to bring extraordinary support to ABMDR's life-saving mission. Irene is nominated for this year's Angel of Courage Award.



In September 2011 ABMDR organized five recruitment drives for patient **Anie Antonian Gevorgian**, who had been diagnosed with lymphoma. Recruitments were held at Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Glendale Memorial Hospital, and the Armenian Independence Festival (all in Glendale, California), as well as the AGBU-MDS School (Canoga Park, California) and the Orange County Annual Armenian Festival (Laguna Hills, California). Today Anie is doing well after receiving a cord blood transplant.

In the photo below: A scene from the recruitment for Anie, held at Glendale Adventist Medical Center. The event was organized by Ramella Markarian of the ABMDR Board of Advisors.



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.

a powerful alliance

Every little effort, from organizing a fund-raising drive among family and friends to organizing a recruitment event for a specific patient, goes a long way for the cause of finding a life-saving match. The support provided by patient families and friends is particularly appreciated, by patients and the ABMDR staff alike.



Debbi Margosian Chapman (left) and Linda Levin-Scherz have been friends for 22 years. In 2011, after Debbi was diagnosed with leukemia and was told she needed a bone marrow transplant, Linda organized a fundraiser among family and friends.

Debbi Margosian Chapman found herself unusually tired some months ago. The normally energetic full-time physical therapist and mother of two grown children played tennis a couple of times a week and walked several miles a day. She was shocked to discover that she had acute myeloid leukemia, an aggressive blood cancer.

The oncologist who spoke to her the evening of her diagnosis told her to pack a suitcase, because she was being admitted the following morning for up to six weeks of treatment. Debbi now needs a bone marrow transplant to save her life. Since Debbi is Armenian, she is much more likely to match with someone of Armenian heritage. There are many people of all heritage types looking for a marrow donor. Please join the ranks of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry today. You may save Debbi's life or that of someone like her.

HELP US SAVE LIVES.
SUPPORT OUR EFFORT
TO ESTABLISH A
BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT
CENTER IN ARMENIA.



Vatche Guluzian is a new patient. He recently approached ABMDR for assistance in finding a bone marrow donor match. The Registry responded swiftly, by organizing a recruitment event for Vatche on February 8, 2012, at Saint Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church in Glendale.

Vatche Guluzian (fourth from left) and his family during a meeting with ABMDR Recruitment Officer Fimi Mekhitarian (standing) and Dr. Karoline Rostamian (far right, seated).



Young Ninareh lost her brother to leukemia in 2007.

Recently Ninareh became a role model for children and adults alike when she organized a fundraiser among her classmates to benefit the life-saving work of ABMDR. We salute the heartwarming and exemplary activism of our youngest volunteer!



In 2011 and 2012 patient **Noubar Yigdbashian** inspired family, friends, and the Armenian community to wholeheartedly support his ongoing quest to find a life-saving bone marrow match.

On December 20, 2011, Mr. and Mrs. Kevork and Susan Papelian graciously hosted a fund-raising and donor recruitment event at their home to benefit Noubar. The evening was organized by Noubar's friends Mr. and Mrs. Hamlet and Azniv Ghazarian.

Community support also came in the form of a Kef Night, a masquerade party organized by the Saro Dance Group, which donated all proceeds from the March 31, 2012 event to ABMDR, specifically toward the effort of finding a bone marrow match for Noubar.



Clockwise from top left: Noubar Yigdbashian; Noubar's parents at the fund-raising/recruitment event; scenes from the recruitment; hosts Mr. and Mrs. Kevork and Susan Papelian with their daughters; guests at the event.

The profound rewards of helping save a life by becoming a donor

By Arpine Zohrabyan

On March 4, 2011, I received a call from City of Hope Hospital that changed my life forever. I was informed that I was a potential match for a three-year-old baby girl who was suffering from leukemia.

My first questions were: what is my next step? What do I need to do? Thanks to the coordinators at City of Hope Hospital, all of my questions were answered, and I was given an appointment for March 8, 2011, to give blood samples for further testing. I was told that it would take anywhere from four to six weeks for my blood results to arrive. I knew that the next month would be the longest four weeks for me. Ever since then, every single day, I thought of this young child, prayed, and hoped that a little part of me could help cure her tiny body.

Then, on April 8, 2011, I was contacted again by City of Hope Hospital with the great news that I was a perfect match for this child. I was excited and nervous at the same time. I was immediately asked to schedule a physical examination for April 15, 2011.

I went to the appointment with my mother. From the moment I stepped into the hospital, I was taken care of with the utmost attention



and support. After going through all the necessary physical examinations, I had the opportunity to speak to the nurse practitioner and the doctor who was actually going to be doing the marrow harvesting. I was given two choices: to donate through the peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) or bone marrow. I asked which method would most benefit the patient. The doctor and nurses agreed that the patient would likely be cured and survive through the bone marrow donation, a surgical process through which marrow would be withdrawn from the back of my pelvic bone (the bone would be completely replenished with marrow within four to six weeks).

Without hesitation, I committed to saving this child's life and signed the necessary documents to undergo the surgery as soon as possible. I donated a part of my bone marrow on May 4, 2011. I was given the chance to save a life, and I am proud and honored to have made a difference.

Ever since, I have encouraged everybody to register to become a donor. It is amazing how a small part of you can make such a difference. There is no need to be afraid: utmost care is taken to safeguard the donor's health throughout the process.

If you, your child, or someone you love needed a donor as urgently as the patient I helped, wouldn't you want everybody to register to become a donor?

Without hesitation, I committed to saving this child's life and signed the necessary documents to undergo the surgery as soon as possible.

Donor Feredrick comes through — for a second time!

In 2010, thanks to donor Feredrick of Iran, the ABMDR team performed the first stem cell harvesting procedure in the medical history of Armenia. Recently Feredrick became a true hero once more when he donated his stem cells for a patient in Belgium. Feredrick personifies a spirit of altruism which is synonymous with the mission of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.



Donor Feredrick and his family after he donated his stem cells for a patient in Belgium. Pictured with ABMDR Outreach Officer Dr. Vergine Madelian (far left).

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

Yerevan Laboratory
Los Angeles Office
Boston Coordinator Narreh Ghazarians
Tehran Coordinator Mariet Toumians

37410-20-83-12
323-663-3609
339-223-0825
9821-725-645

info@abmdr.net
info@abmdr.net
abmdr.usa@gmail.com
avedisianclinic@hoornet.com

ABMDR Progress Update

21,554 registered donors
2,135 patient requests

13 transplants
facilitated

In 2011 and 2012 the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry organized recruitment drives in 14 countries spanning three continents, from both coasts of the United States to Romania, Armenia, Iran, and Lebanon, mobilizing entire communities around the life-saving mission of the Registry.

Recruitment teams, consisting entirely of volunteers and including ABMDR Board members, made informative presentations, answered questions by community members, and registered more than 1,500 potential donors.

To help stretch its budget and secure maximum grassroots activism alike, the Registry also participated in various community events hosted by churches, educational institutions, and youth organizations.



Recruitment Workshop in February 2012, at the ABMDR headquarters in Los Angeles.

RECRUITMENTS BY COUNTRY, REGION, AND DATE

US WEST COAST, 2011

March 13, AYF, Santa Ana, California

March 31, St. Mary's Armenian Church, Costa Mesa, California — presentation and recruitment

March 31, Glendale Memorial Hospital, Glendale — drive for Steve

April 2, Homenetmen, Fresno

April 3, St. Leon Cathedral, Burbank

April 10, St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Los Angeles

April 10, St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, Pasadena

April 10, St. Kevork Church, Glendale

April 17, AYF, Glendale

April 18, California State University, Northridge

April 23, Genocide Memorial, Montebello, California

April 24, Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, San Francisco

April 24, St. Andrews Armenian Apostolic Church, San Francisco

April 24, St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, San Francisco

April 29, Western Diocese Council Meeting, Burbank

May 1, Holy Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church, Encino, California

May 1, St. Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church, Hollywood

May 1, St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, Glendale

May 14, AYF Health Fair, Glendale

May 15, Ani Studio, Glendale — drive for Steve

May 28, ACYO Sports weekend, Fresno — presentation and recruitment

May 29, St. Paul Church, Fresno

June 12, St. John Armenian Apostolic Church, Hollywood

September 7, Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Glendale — drive for Anie

US WEST COAST, 2011

September 9, AGBU-MDS, Canoga Park, California — drive for Anie

September 14, Glendale Memorial Hospital, Glendale — drive for Anie

September 17-18, Orange County Armenian Festival, Laguna Hills, California — drive for Anie

September 18, Armenian Independence Festival, Verdugo Park, Glendale — drive for Anie

September 20, Organization of Istanbul Armenians of Los Angeles, Canoga Park — drive for Anie

September 24, Fresno Armenian Fest — drive for Anie

October 15, Fresno Walk of Life

October 22, Los Angeles Walk of Life

October 23, Mr. and Mrs. Ghazarian residence, Glendale — drive for Noubar

November 5, Health Fair, Armenian American Medical Society of California, Glendale

November 8, Bank of America, Sylmar — drive for Anie

US WEST COAST, 2012

February 8, St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, Glendale — drive for Vatche

March 16, AYF, Santa Ana — presentation and recruitment

March 18, St. Leon Armenian Cathedral, Burbank

March 25, St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, Pasadena

US EAST COAST, 2011

September 10-11, Kermesse at Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, Watertown, Massachusetts

October 14-15, St. James Church Armenian Apostolic Church, Watertown

December 2, St. Sahag/Mesrob Annual Christmas Bazaar, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

US EAST COAST, 2012

March 24, Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, Watertown

ARMENIA, 2011

January 14, Blood drive at Sil Group

January 18, Maralik village (hometown of patient Liana Harutyunyan)

January 25, Gyumri Air Force Base

February 5, Igdir Union

August 23, Mkhitar Sebastatsi Educational Complex

September 13, ABMDR lab — drive for patient Marianna Balian

September 21, ABMDR lab — drive for patient Gohar Gharibyan

December 7, American University of Armenia, Yerevan, with Orange Telecom Training Team

December 22, Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute

ARMENIA, 2012

January 31, Aghveran village

LEBANON, 2012

January 26-29, recruitments in the Armenian district of Burj Hamud (Beirut) and the Armenian town of Aynjar, organized jointly with the Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon

IRAN, 2011

September 23, Tehran

ROMANIA, 2011

December, Armenian Community Center, Bucharest

Look for future recruitment drives and other community events worldwide announced on our site, abmdr.am

recruiting in Armenia



Serj Tankian, lead singer and songwriter of the acclaimed rock band System of a Down, lent his star power to support the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. In addition to issuing a video announcement which urged the worldwide Armenian community to join the ranks of ABMDR, Serj traveled to Armenia and helped the Registry's local recruitment and outreach efforts. In the photo above: Serj (second from right) with ABMDR Yerevan staff, including ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan (third from right).



On March 30 and April 1, 2012, we recruited at the Health Service and Pharmacy Expo in Yerevan. Top photo: Dr. Sevak Avagyan with ABMDR staff members. Above: a scene from the recruitment.



A scene from the recruitment in Maralik village, hometown of patient Liana Harutyunyan.



At the American University of Armenia, Yerevan.



At Mkhitar Sebastatsi Educational Complex, Yerevan.



A scene from the ABMDR recruitment at the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute. Middle row, far right: soldiers registering as potential bone marrow donors.



On March 7, 2012, the faculty and parents of Yerevan's Nayiri Zaryan (No. 130) School responded overwhelmingly to the recruitment and outreach of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. The event was held at the campus. The photo in the center of the middle row shows Armine Hovhannisyan, principal of the Nayiri Zaryan School, with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan during the successful recruitment.

recruiting in Iran and Lebanon



ABMDR Tehran Coordinator Mariet Toumians (second from left) with volunteers and staff, and a scene from the recruitment in Tehran.



Clockwise from above: Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon (ARCL) and ABMDR officials, including ARCL Chair Taline Koulbashian (second from left) and ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan; a scene from one of the recruitment events in Burj Hamud; a scene from the recruitment in Aynjar; new recruits, including an Armenian police officer, in Aynjar; Dr. Avagyan with ARCL Aynjar representatives.



recruiting in Romania

Public awareness of the ABMDR mission continues to grow in Armenian communities across the globe, including Bucharest, Romania, where we held an outreach and recruitment event in December 2011.



Clockwise from above: Dr. Sevak Avagyan during his presentation at the Armenian Community Center of Bucharest; Dr. Avagyan, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Nelly Matevosian, Consul General of Armenia in Romania; Dr. Jordan registering new recruits, including Consul General Matevosian and Archimandrite Datev Hakobian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church of Romania.



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

Yerevan Laboratory
Los Angeles Office
Boston Coordinator Narreh Ghazarians
Tehran Coordinator Mariet Toumians

37410-20-83-12
323-663-3609
339-223-0825
9821-725-645

info@abmdr.net
info@abmdr.net
abmdr.usa@gmail.com
avedisianclinic@hoornet.com

recruiting on the US West Coast

On April 24, 2011, at the Montebello Genocide Memorial, with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California State Assemblyman Mike Gatto (second photo).



Dr. Rostamian with Sanan Haroun and ABMDR volunteer Marine Khatchaturian at the AYF Health Fair, Glendale.



Recruitment at St. Mary's Church in Glendale, held for patient Vatche Guluzian (second from left).



At Organization of Istanbul Armenians of Los Angeles, with Dr. Arto Hatcherian Ersan, president.



From left: Iline Boghoskhanian, Dr. Vergine Madelian, and Kristina Ashjian at Armenian-American Medical Society of California Health Fair.



At St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, Pasadena.



A scene from the recruitment at the Organization of Istanbul Armenians of Los Angeles.



Recruitment for Anie in Orange County, California. Above right: recruitment at Glendale Adventist Medical Center, with Dr. Frieda Jordan, Razmik Moghadesian of the ABMDR Board of Advisors, and ABMDR Board member Ramella Markarian, who organized the event.



A scene from the recruitment at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.



At Glendale Memorial Hospital, with Dr. Narine Arutyunian (far right).



ABMDR volunteers and Board members at Glendale Memorial Hospital recruitment.



Dr. Karoline Rostamian and Razmik Moghadesian during the recruitment at Ani Studio, Glendale.



At Fresno Armenian Fest, with members of US Army Armenian Veterans.



ABMDR Board members at Western Diocese, with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.



At St. Garabed Church in San Diego, with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.



At St. Garabed Church in San Diego, with Deacon Micah Jendian of the Parish Council.



At AYF of Santa Ana, California: the Organizing Committee with ABMDR Board members.

recruiting on the US East Coast

Boston recruitment draws enthusiastic community support

On March 24, 2012, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry held a highly anticipated outreach and recruitment event in Boston.

Attended by a large number of supporters from the local Armenian community, the event took place at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC). The featured speakers included Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Vergine Madelian, who helped raise public awareness of the Registry's work with informative presentations, as well as ABMDR Board member Alvar Badalian.

The recruitment was organized to help the ongoing effort in finding a donor match for leukemia patient Debbi Margosian Chapman. Also attending the event was Debbi's longtime friend Linda Levin-Scherz, who in 2011 had organized a fundraiser for Debbi to cover the costs of her tissue typing.

Prior to the recruitment, Dr. Jordan and Dr. Madelian attended a private reception for the patient, her family, and supporters.

In her welcoming remarks, Alvar Badalian said that since 2001, 450 donors have been recruited from communities in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, and a working partnership has been established with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Boston in 2007.

Badalian also said that the Boston community has organized fundraising events, such as 2009's Jazz for Life Benefit Concert, and participated, as virtual walkers, in the Registry's Walk of Life. In 2011 Team Boston won the Walk of Life trophy for raising the most money. "This year we hope to organize an actual walkathon, locally," Badalian added.



From top: organizers, speakers, and volunteers at the recruitment; a scene from the event; Dr. Frieda Jordan with patient Debbi Margosian Chapman and Linda Levin-Scherz, Debbi's longtime friend and supporter.



Scenes from the outreach and recruitment event during the annual Kermesse at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center in Boston, September 2011.



Funds raised, over 300 potential donors registered thanks to young volunteers

We're fortunate to have the enthusiastic participation of many young people who give their time and energy to raise awareness of our cause and secure support for our mission.

Youth-support communities, an outgrowth of the highly successful Comedy Club and Walk of Life events, have attracted more young people to register as donors and help raise funds. In 2011 over 300 potential donors were registered and \$23,000 was raised thanks to youth involvement.

In addition, the Registry's popularity with young Armenians received a further boost when Serj Tankian, lead singer and songwriter of the iconic rock band System of a Down, issued a powerful video (posted on YouTube, the ABMDR site, and elsewhere) which appealed to Armenian youths to join the Registry and rally around its cause.

Serj also supported the Registry's life-saving mission by helping lead ABMDR's outreach and recruitment efforts in Armenia.

The following are some of the major activities through which young Armenians demonstrated their support of the Registry in 2011:

The USC Armenian Graduate Students' Association (AGSA) raised \$7,000 through a benefit dinner/dance featuring singer Armenchik. Johnny Nigoghosian, president of USC AGSA, and his brother, Harry, were instrumental in the success of the annual event.

Lara Yeretsian coordinated yet another successful installment of the Laughter for Life Comedy Night, held at the famous Comedy Store in Los Angeles, with the help of renowned comedian Sam Tripoli.

The Armenian Youth Foundation donated \$1,000.

The AGBU Young Professionals of Yerevan donated \$15,000 for much-needed laboratory equipment. The amount was raised through two extraordinary events that were held in Yerevan in 2010 (please see details on the following page).

Finally, ABMDR volunteer Aleen Mankarian continued to inspire her peers to become active in the Registry and help raise funds,



Left: Comedy Night organizers and performers Ara Basil, Tina Yeretsian, Vartui Cholakian, Lara Yeretsian, Alice Basteguan, Elo Basteguan, and Sam Tripoli. Above: ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan with System of a Down's Serj Tankian in Yerevan.



The USC AGSA Event Committee.

and her efforts earned her the Girl Scout Gold Award (see Aleen's article on the next page).



A scene from the USC AGSA dinner/dance, with Harry Nigoghosian (second from left) and Johnny Nigoghosian (far right). The Nigoghosian brothers were instrumental in the success of the event.

young activists making a difference



A scene from the AGBU Young Professionals of Yerevan's "Children Helping Children" event, held at La Bouchon Restaurant.

AGBU Young Professionals of Yerevan support the ABMDR cause

In 2011 the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) of Yerevan contributed \$15,000 to ABMDR for critically needed laboratory equipment and other items. The amount was raised through two festive events that were held in Yerevan in the spring of 2010.

The first event, "Children Helping Children," took place on March 29 at the La Bouchon Restaurant, where an exhibition and sale of works by the Gyumri Fridtjof Nansen orphanage children and Sevada Art Studio students was organized. Invited guests and passersby alike had the opportunity to get acquainted with the works of these talented children and, by buying any of them, help contribute to the ongoing effort of helping children with leukemia. The works were displayed in the restaurant until April 3.

The second fundraiser took place at the Giza Club on April 3, with the participation of Raffi Ohanyan, AGBU Yerevan Scout Council member and winner of Shant TV's "Hai Superstar-4" pan-Armenian project.

AGBU President Berge Setrakian, AGBU Council of Trustees member Karnig Yacoubian, AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian, and author Margaret Ajemian-Ahnert, who were in Yerevan during this time, also participated in the event.



Organizers and guests of the AGBU YP of Yerevan's second fundraiser, held at the Giza Club. Back row, first from left: Ashot Ghazarian, AGBU Armenian Representation Managing Committee Chairman; third from left: Ani Yacoubian, wife of AGBU Council of Trustees member Karnig Yacoubian; fourth from left: AGBU Council of Trustees member Karnig Yacoubian; fifth from left: Vera Setrakian, wife of AGBU President Berge Setrakian; sixth from left: AGBU President Berge Setrakian; and seventh from left: author Margaret Ajemian-Ahnert.

Project Awareness

By Aleen Mankerian

2012 will be a year of countless events, influential moments, and unforgettable memories. From graduating La Salle High School in Pasadena, California, to beginning my freshman year of college, it is unbelievable how much things have changed. In addition, one of the most important events of this year came when I was given the Girl Scouts of America's top prize, the Girl Scout Gold Award. I am so proud to be given this award. What makes me even prouder is the fact that I was able to work with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry to achieve it.

In order to receive the Gold Award, an 80-hour community service project is required, spanning a period of approximately five months. From the very beginning, I knew that I wanted to work with Dr. Frieda Jordan and her amazing team in giving back and educating the Armenian community.

By reaching out to the youth of my community, my project promoted awareness of the Registry and its fight against life threatening diseases. Through various presentations, I helped raise awareness at schools and organizations throughout my neighborhood, in an effort to encourage the youth to get involved in this program.

I believe that education is key to action, and, with awareness as my message, I know that I made an impact on many people. Additionally, I helped motivate a group of about 40 people, including the supportive AGBU Pasadena Scouts, to participate in the 2011 Walk of Life, which turned out to be a great success.

After months of planning and presentations, I finally completed my project in early February of 2012. I will receive the Girl Scouts award at the annual Gold Award Ceremony, which will be held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in late May 2012.

I could not have done it without the passion I have for the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

This wonderful cause has been a great source of inspiration, and I know that I will continue to walk hand in hand with the Registry for many years to come.

The Girl Scouts of America Gold Award is just the beginning of my journey with ABMDR, and there will definitely be more accomplishments and successes in the future.



Aleen and her AGBU Scouts teammates during Walk of Life 2011.



Meeting with leaders of Fresno's Armenian community.

Pre-Walkathon activities



Dr. Karoline Rostamian with Fr. Vahan Gosdanian and Nazik Arisian at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic church.



Dr. Karoline Rostamian with staff of the Hye Ooj Radio Station.



Dr. Rostamian with Fr. Avedis Abovian at St. Paul Church.

Breaking new ground in the West Coast's oldest Armenian community

On October 15, 2011, ABMDR blazed a new trail with the start of its first walkathon in Fresno. And the trail was marked by truly Armenian milestones: the event started downtown at the Statue of David of Sassoon, continued on to the Saroyan Theater, and concluded at the Eaton Plaza Amphitheater grounds, where participants enjoyed a day-long celebration featuring music and food. Supporters raised money for the cause, and new donors were registered.

Fresno is an important region for ABMDR — not only because of its large population of ethnic Armenians, but because it may face higher-than-normal health risks due to agricultural production, particularly in terms of the use of pesticides. This can be responsible for a prevalence of life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, which has already claimed the lives of many Armenians in Fresno. Walk of Life Fresno was co-chaired by ABMDR Board members Dr. Karoline Rostamian and Dr. Stella Baghdasarian.



Fr. Vahan Gosdanian cutting the ribbon during the opening ceremony.



The Walkathon's organizing team: from left, Fimi Mekhitarian, Taleen Peroomian, Dr. Karoline Rostamian, Dr. Stella Baghdasarian, and Dr. Frieda Jordan.



In front of the Statue of David of Sassoon, a landmark beloved of the Armenian community.



The team of Foundation Laboratory of Fresno, a major sponsor of the Fresno Walkathon and one of ABMDR's lifetime supporters.



In front of the Saroyan Theater. The Armenian community of Fresno, the youth in particular, enthusiastically participated in the Walkathon.



A scene from the Walkathon. Right photo: ABMDR recruitment booth on the grounds of the Eaton Plaza Amphitheater, site of the day-long community event.

Walk of Life Los Angeles

Thank you, Glendale Memorial Hospital, for your ongoing support of the Walkathon, and Karoun Dairies for being a major sponsor in 2011.

The sixth annual Walk of Life Los Angeles began on the morning of October 22, 2011, on the grounds of Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center, where the event's opening ceremony was held.

Hundreds, including elected officials and community leaders, turned up for the event.

Dignitaries attending the event included US Congressman and longtime ABMDR supporter Adam Schiff, California State Senator Carol Liu, Glendale Mayor Laura Friedman, Burbank Mayor Jess Talamantes, Glendale Unified School District Board of Education President Greg Krikorian, and Glendale Community Development Department Director Hassan Haghani.

Following the Walkathon, a day-long celebration was held at Verdugo Park. Volunteer individuals and teams were recognized at the conclusion of the event. The Boston Team, headed by ABMDR Board of Directors members Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian and Alvar Badaian, was awarded for having raised the most funds; the Chamlian School team was awarded for having the highest number of participants; and Amy Boyadjian received a trophy for having raised the most funds as an individual volunteer.

Major sponsors for Walk of Life 2011 included Karoun Dairies and Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony at Glendale Memorial Hospital, October 22, 2011. Glendale Memorial Hospital has been a major supporter of Walk of Life for the past six years.



The young generation in action.



The Chamlian team with teacher Ani Berberian (back row, third from left).



The Karoun Dairies team, major sponsors of the Walkathon.



United States Army Armenian Veterans with ABMDR Board members Dr. Stella Baghdasarian (fifth from left) and Dr. Karoline Rostamian.



Amy Boyadjian (first from left) was awarded for having raised the most funds as an individual volunteer.



USC Armenian Students' Association team with Dr. Karoline Rostamian.



A US Army Armenian veteran walking side by side with the father of a patient.



The AGBU Scouts team.



The team for patient Noubar Yigibashian.



Salad Farm proprietors and Walkathon supporters Ara and Salpi Aprahamian with Tamar Ashjian.



The Vahan and Anoush Chamlian Armenian School team, which was awarded for having the highest number of participants.



The Boston team, headed by ABMDR Board members Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian and Alvar Badalian, was awarded for raising the most funds.



Dr. Vergine Madelian (second from left) with CSUN Microbiology team: Ana Galstyan, Narine Zadori, and Hasmik Baghdasaryan.

Match for Life 2011 Gala



Our annual banquet, Match for Life 2011, took place on July 31, 2011, at the Glendale Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in Glendale, California. This jubilant community event was an occasion for celebrating ABMDR's many achievements during the past year and reaffirming worldwide support of its life-saving mission. Our new sponsor of Match for Life was Glendale Adventist Medical Center. We thank this wonderful institution for its generous support!

The ABMDR Angels with Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian and Armenian Consul General Grigor Hovhannissyan.



From left: Aleen Mankerian, Alique Topalian, and Master of Ceremonies and ABMDR Chair Mark Geragos, Esq.



ABMDR Man of the Year George Titizian (third from right) with his family.



Dr. Vergine Madelian (third from left) with her family and Dr. Frieda Jordan.



Representatives of Glendale Adventist Medical Center, the new sponsor of Match for Life, with ABMDR Board members and supporters, including the late former Mayor of Glendale, Larry Zarian.

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



AWARD RECIPIENTS

The annual ABMDR awards for outstanding service, dedication, and support were handed out by Glendale Mayor Laura Friedman and Dr. Frieda Jordan.

Top row: Woman of the Year Dr. Vergine Madelian; Man of the Year George Titizian; Kim Milstien of Glendale Adventist Medical Center accepting Major Sponsor Award for the hospital.

Middle row: Volunteers of the Year Sophie Zargarian, Ani Azar, and Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian.

Photo on left: Hampik Shahinian of 4over, Inc. accepting Business of the Year Award.



Master of Ceremonies and ABMDR Chair Mark Geragos with Lara Yeretsian and Dr. Jordan.

"Our task might be daunting sometimes, but this is the most rewarding cause I've ever been involved in."
Dr. Vergine Madelian



The 4over, Inc. team. The company received the ABMDR Business of the Year Award.



From left: Ani Azar, Arpi Kestonian, Armenchik, his wife, and Gala Chairperson Naz Atikian.

parties for a wonderful cause

Second Annual Casino Night

September 9, 2011

Hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Amy Boyadjian at their home in Glendale



Everyone is a winner at ABMDR's second annual Casino Night.



Guests and supporters. Fifth and sixth from left, standing: hosts Amy and Michael Boyadjian.



Host Amy Boyadjian with committee members Caroline Guldalian and Hilda Gourdikian.



Keep it comin', baby! Host Michael Boyadjian relishing a winning streak.

Comedy Evening with Vahe Berberian

September 18, 2011

Hosted by Mrs. Marie Basteguián and Mr. Harry Kazazian, Glendale



Hosts Marie Basteguián and Harry Kazazian with a guest.



Comedy Night performer Vahe Berberian with Marie Basteguián.



A scene from the Comedy Evening, which drew a large number of supporters and comedy aficionados.



From left: Dr. Vergine Madelian, Vartui Cholakian, and Lara Yeretsian.

Wine-tasting Event

November 13, 2011

Sponsored by Vicken and Salpi Mankerian of Mission Wine and Spirits, Hosted by Pandora on Green, Pasadena



Event sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Vicken and Salpi Mankerian of Mission Wine and Spirits.



Dr. Jordan with Garine and Vasken Haytayan and Panos and Aida Haytayan (owners of Pandora on Green and event hosts), and event sponsors Salpi and Vicken Mankerian.



From left: Hilda Gourdikian, Amy Boyadjian, and Naz Atikian enjoying wine.



From left: Christine and Garo Abajian, Vicken and Salpi Mankerian, and Nora and Vahe Tavlian.

Christmas Luncheon

December 11, 2011. Sponsored by Naz Atikian of Le Papillon. Held at Brandview Collection, Glendale



Scenes from the Christmas Luncheon. Attendees included the Christmas Luncheon Organizing Committee, shown in the middle photo in the top row — from left: Meline Rathevosian, event sponsor Naz Atikian of Le Papillon, Amy Boyadjian, Salpi Mankerian, Ani Azar, Hilda Gourdikian, Fimi Mekhitarian, and Karine Khudikian.

Christmas Party

January 13, 2012. Hosted by Mariette Keshishian at her home in Glendale



Scenes from the Christmas Party. From left: event host Mariette Keshishian and her daughter, Dr. Taleen Keshishian; Marina Manoukian, Naz Atikian, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Amalia Kiureghlian; Dr. Vergine Madelian, Karine Khudikian, Carmen Lukassian, and Susanna Avagyan.

Saro Dance Group Kef Night (masquerade party)

In honor of Noubar Yigidbashian. March 31, 2012. Sponsored by Saro and Alise Asadourian. Sepan Banquet Hall, Atwater, California



From left: Mr. and Mrs. Saro and Alise Asadourian, sponsors of the Kef Night, and scenes from the event.

community outreach



Visiting Prelate Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian at the Prelacy.



Visiting Primate Archbishop Hovnan Derderian at the Diocese.

Throughout 2011 and 2012, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry engaged in several outreach events, aiming to help raise public awareness of the ABMDR mission, maintain synergistic relationships with Armenian-community institutions, and secure grassroots support for core programs.



Visiting the Armenian Relief Society Western Region Board at the organization's Sipan Chapter in Glendale.



At Chamlian School Science Fair 2011. The judges' panel, from left: Taline Makdesian of ABMDR, Vice-chair of Armenian Science Olympiad Ojeni Sammis, Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America Engineering Project Manager Prof. Hagop Injeyan, Dr. Richard Moyer of Northrop Grumman Space Technology, Dr. Stella Baghdasarian of ABMDR, and Chamlian science teacher Lida Gevorkian.



ABMDR recruitment team with Bank of America Vice President Susan Harutyunian (third from left) at the bank's corporate headquarters in Simi Valley.



Visiting Rev. Joseph D. Matossian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, at the Union's Glendale office.



At Saint Gregory the Illuminator Church, Pasadena, where Dr. Frieda Jordan had a presentation. From left: Dr. Stella Baghdasarian, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Hilda and Berj Gourdikian. In the photo on the right: Dr. Jordan during her presentation.



The outreach event at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center in Boston, 2011. From left: Shaghig Apelian, Houry Boyamian, and Dr. Vergine Madelian.



Visiting Saint Sahag Armenian Church in Minneapolis. From left: Steve Scallen, Dr. Karoline Rostamian, Rev. Fr. Tadeos Barsheghyan, Parish Council Chairman Avo Toghramadjian, and Fimi Mekhitarian.



From left: ABMDR's Taline Makdessian, Christina Ashjian, Taleen Perroomian, and Dr. Karoline Rostamian at Saint Mary's Church in Glendale during the "One Voice, One Cause" rally, organized by AYF.



Visiting St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Catholic Church in Glendale. From left: Assistant Pastor Very Rev. Fr. Armenag Bedrosian, Dr. Karoline Rostamian, and Fimi Mekhitarian.



Prayer Day on March 18, 2012, at Saint Leon Cathedral in Burbank, with Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian (far left), Armenia Fund US Western Chair Ara Agishian, Esq., who received the Saint Nerses the Graceful Medal that day, and Archbishop Derderian.



Prayer Day on April 15, 2012 (New Sunday), at the Armenian Apostolic Church of North Hollywood, with Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian.

recognition and awards

Dr. Jordan honored with APS Professional of the Year Award

During its Annual Banquet on November 5, 2011, the Armenian Professional Society (APS) honored Dr. Frieda Jordan with its 2011 Professional of the Year Award.

Mark Geragos, Esq., Chairman of ABMDR and past APS Professional of the Year recipient, was Master of Ceremonies of the event, which took place at the Armenian Society of Los Angeles Banquet Hall in Glendale.

As he praised Dr. Jordan for her professional accomplishments, APS Board President Angelo Ghailian thanked her as well as ABMDR for their far-reaching efforts in helping save the lives of those affected by life-threatening blood-related illnesses.

After Dr. Jordan was presented with the Professional of the Year Award plaque, along with letters from dignitaries lauding her achievements, internationally acclaimed artist Yuroz took the stage to unveil a surprise gift. It was a beautiful painting in which Yuroz had captured the spirit of ABMDR's altruistic mission.

As she thanked the artist for this wonderful gesture, Dr. Jordan announced that the painting would be permanently displayed at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan.

In her remarks, Dr. Jordan spoke of ABMDR's activities and long-term goals, and thanked APS for the prestigious award.



From left: APS President Shahan Minassian and his spouse, Dr. Jordan, APS Board President-elect Angelo Ghailian, and artist Yuroz Gevorgian.



Yuroz Gevorgian presenting Dr. Jordan with a painting by him dedicated to ABMDR's spirit of service to humanity.

Dr. Jordan receives Soroptimist International Ruby Award

On March 28, 2012, when Dr. Frieda Jordan received the Ruby Award of Soroptimist International of the Verdugos, she became the first woman in the history of Soroptimist International to be bestowed with its top award two years in a row.

This year Dr. Jordan received the Ruby Award during Soroptimist International's Making a Difference for Women Awards Night and Live Your Dream Campaign, which was held in Glendale.

As stated by Soroptimist International Secretary GEM Edith M. Fuentes, the Ruby Award honors women who, through their profes-



Dr. Jordan with Soroptimist International Secretary GEM Edith M. Fuentes (to her right) and ABMDR Board members and volunteers following the award ceremony.

sional or personal efforts, are making an extraordinary difference in the lives of women or girls. Honorees are women who have worked to improve the lives of other women or girls. Their work has had a significant impact, and also inspires and encourages others.



At the Armenian Medical International Committee meeting. From left: Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Vergine Madelian, Naira Mkrtchyan, and Taleen Peroomian. In the photos below: Dr. Jordan and Dr. Madelian during their presentations at the Armenian Medical International Committee meeting.

ABMDR delegation participates in International Medical Congress of Armenia

From July 7 to 9, 2011, a delegation of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry participated in the Third International Medical Congress of Armenia, was held at the Yerevan State Medical University. The ABMDR delegation consisted of several members of the Registry's Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, including Dr. Frieda Jordan; Arpi Kestenian, representative of Glendale Memorial Hospital; Ramella Markarian, representative of Glendale Adventist Medical Center; Lara Yeretsian, Esq.; Naz Atikian; Dr. Vergine Madelian; and Taleen Peroomian, as well as Vicken Sepilian, MD, President of the Armenian American Medical Society of California.

The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry participated in the Third International Medical Congress of Armenia as a globally recognized health organization dedicated to advancing immunogenetics research, stem cell



On October 29, 2011, Dr. Frieda Jordan participated in the Inspectors Workshop of the European Federation of Immunogenetics Accreditation Program. At the conclusion of the prestigious Workshop, which took place in Leiden, Netherlands, Dr. Jordan received a certificate of completion, as an EFI Inspector representing the Republic of Armenia. In the photo above: Dr. Jordan with EFI Accreditation Committee Chair Dr. Andrea Harmer.

harvesting, and bone marrow transplantation worldwide.

At the Armenian Medical International Committee (AMIC) meeting during the conference, Dr. Vergine Madelian presented a groundbreaking research paper that has been published in the July issue of *Tissue Antigens*. The paper, which contains the results of an extensive study conducted by a team of ABMDR scientists and researchers, for the first time confirms the uniqueness of the immunogenetics of Armenian populations across the world.



Dr. Frieda Jordan was likewise a featured speaker at the conference. Addressing the Diasporan Project session of the AMIC meeting, she spoke of the pan-Armenian mission of ABMDR and familiarized attendees with the registry's future goals and activities.

**EFI Region 8 meeting
Bucharest, Romania, December 3, 2011**



Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Dr. Frieda Jordan with colleagues including EFI President Dr. Gottfried Fischer and EFI Region 8 President Chryssa Papasteriades.

**National Marrow Donor Program Council meeting
Minneapolis, November 2011**



From left: Taleen Peroomian, Dr. Karoline Rostamian, Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, Fimi Mekhitarian, and Karine Khudikian.



From left: Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Region 8 meeting organizer Dr. Ileana Constantinescu, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Dr. Gottfried Fischer.



ABMDR participants of the National Marrow Donor Program Council meeting at the post-event dinner.

**Armenian American Medical Society of California conference
Las Vegas, September 2011**



From left: ABMDR Board members Dr. Boris Baghdasarian, Dr. Vergine Madelian, Dr. Varoosh Alaverdian, and Dr. Frieda Jordan.



From left: Dr. Karoline Rostamian, ABMDR East Coast Recruitment Officer Narreh Ghazarians, and Taleen Peroomian following the meeting.

lifetime supporters and loyal contributors

Ralph Yirikian



We convey our profound gratitude to Ralph Yirikian, General Manager of the telecommunications company VivaCell-MTS, for his generous support of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. With his knowledge of issues which affect the Armenian nation and dedication to local as well as worldwide humanitarian causes, Ralph Yirikian personifies the concept of corporate social responsibility.

Eduardo Eurnekian



It is our distinct honor to welcome our newest lifetime supporter, Eduardo Eurnekian of Argentina. A globally renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist, Eurnekian is the majority owner of a consortium that operates 76 airports worldwide, including Yerevan's Zvartnots International Airport. Eurnekian has also invested millions of dollars into Armenia's agribusiness sector.

We salute our lifetime supporters for helping enable us to carry out our life-saving mission.

From the desks of Mark Meyers and David L. Mauss of Glendale Memorial Hospital, among ABMDR's most valued lifetime supporters

Recently the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry achieved a major turning point when it hosted the very first European Federation of Immunogenetics Training and Educational Meeting in Yerevan, Armenia.

As the life-saving mission of the Registry continues to garner worldwide attention for scientific excellence and maximum efficiency alike, we commend the organization's hard-working Board and volunteers, and are proud to support their far-reaching work.



Mark Meyers
President, Glendale Memorial Hospital
and Health Center

One of the greatest rewards of my work at Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center is to help realize synergistic initiatives with organizations such as the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.



This outstanding organization not only embodies an exemplary dedication to health and wellness, but knows how to mobilize entire communities around a great cause. It is an honor to support the ABMDR mission.

David L. Mauss
Vice-president, Business Development,
Glendale Memorial Hospital
and Health Center

A message from Dr. Carolann and George Najarian

ABMDR continues to grow in every way but most impressively in its scientific expertise. Winning recognition within the vigorous, and highly competitive, world of bone marrow matching is no easy accomplishment. There is no room for error, no room for cutting cor-



ners or wishful thinking in this work, as lives are at stake. The highest level of accuracy is required to make a successful match for patients. We can be proud that ABMDR meets the requisite criteria, maintaining the highest level of scientific integrity.

Thank you, Dr. Carolann and George Najarian for your ongoing and vital support!

Drs. Avagyan and Sokurenko



As medical doctors, and as ethnic Armenians, Dr. Arpenik Avagyan and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko understand the importance of ABMDR. But they also know that it takes more than good science and organization to make progress. Evgeni and Arpenik acknowledge that the energy and enthusiasm of our leadership and volunteers are what inspire communities around the world to offer their support. Such qualities are what inspired Evgeni and Arpenik to provide support for ABMDR's work with the international medical community.

lifetime supporters and loyal contributors

Foundation Laboratory



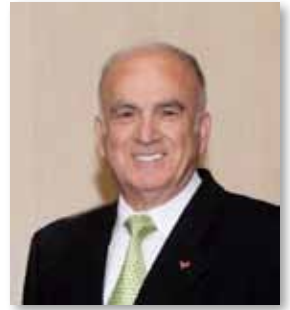
The Foundation Laboratory management team. Standing, from left: Ara Vartanian, Zareh Baghoumian, and Areg Boyamyman. Seated, from left: Lala Boyamyman, Linda Vartanian, Taleen Baghoumian, and Stepan Vartanian.

2003 ABMDR Man of the Year Stepan Vartanian and his gracious wife, Linda, continue to provide vital support for the ABMDR mission. By donating the use of their Foundation Laboratory, the Vartanians enable us to pre-

pare US donor samples for tissue typing in Yerevan. Moreover, the Vartanian couple and their children Lala, Taleen, and Ara continue to give their enthusiastic assistance to our fundraising efforts.

George Titizian

George Titizian, who was bestowed with the ABMDR Man of the Year Award at our 2011 Match for Life Gala, is among our cherished supporters. Today he continues to help the ABMDR cause through the annual Armenian Open Golf Tournament, which will take place on June 22.



SAVE THE DATE!
Los Angeles Chapter
Trex Fraternity presents
The 57th Annual
Armenian Open Golf Tournament

Friday, June 22, 2012
Brookside Golf Course
Pasadena, California

Fifty percent of proceeds
will benefit ABMDR

Info and tickets:
melshanoian@gmail.com



In memoriam: Dr. Aida Shirinian Galustian

On July 11, 2011, the ABMDR family was deeply saddened by the unexpected and untimely death of Dr. Aida Shirinian Galustian.

A founding member of ABMDR, Aida served on its Board of Directors from the very start. A firm believer in ABMDR's cause and mission, she not only acted as its Medical Advisor, always ready with her medical opinion and assessment of our patients, but also as a major benefactor. In 2005, when ABMDR was looking for a space to establish

its Los Angeles headquarters, Dr. Shirinian Galustian donated the suite of offices that became ABMDR's Mariana Kazarians Center, our headquarters in Los Angeles ever since. Aida's consistent support earned her the ABMDR Woman of the Year Award in 2005.

We will always remember Aida for her cheerful personality, profound dedication to ABMDR, and lifelong generosity.

In honor of Aida and in lieu of flowers, ABMDR has received donations from its volunteers. Thank you all!

We also thank Aida's family for their ongoing support of the Registry.

Thank You for in lieu of flowers

in memory of:
Arsham Aftandilian
Roza Avakian-Azar
Aram Ghoujournian

Anna Kosger
George Leney
Seda Khatchetourian
Souren Ter-Abrahamyan

Elize Kohar Salaria
Mariana Kazarian
Arlene Titizian
Dzhkhoun Vananian



Roza Avakian-Azar



Mariana Kazarian



Arlene Titizian



Dzhkhoun Vananian



Volunteers and Board members at the annual Planning Retreat Day, hosted by Mariette Keshishian, January 2012.



Orientation of new volunteers, with Dr. Vergine Madelian (far left), at the home of Mariette Keshishian, January 2012.

They spread the word about the Registry and mobilize community support. They organize our recruitment and outreach events and educate the public about our cause. They raise funds, help secure the success of our walk-athons and galas, and operate our information and recruitment booths. They are our volunteers — the wonderful, generous men and women who make our mission possible. The Registry and the worldwide Armenian community alike owe our volunteers a big Thank You for their hard work, unconditional dedication, and continued support.

a vision of leadership and service



2011 Match for Life Gala Committee with volunteers and supporters. July 31, 2011, Glendale Hilton.

Scenes from the banquet hosted by ABMDR Honorary Chair Dr. Bella Kocharian on July 9, 2011, in Yerevan. The event was held to celebrate the Registry's participation in the Armenian Medical International Committee meeting, as part of the Third International Medical Congress of Armenia (July 7-9, 2011).



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ABMDR offices

Los Angeles

Frieda Jordan, PhD
3111 Los Feliz Ave., #206
Los Angeles, CA 90039
Tel: (323) 663-3609
Fax: (323) 662-3648
info@abmdr.net
Frieda.Jordan@att.net
Website: abmdr.am

Yerevan

Sevak Avagyan, MD
7 H. Nersisyan St.
Yerevan 0014,
Republic of Armenia
Tel: (374 10) 20 83 11
Fax: (374 10) 20 93 12
info@abmdr.net
Website: abmdr.am



Board meeting, summer 2011, Glendale.



Board meeting, winter 2012, Glendale.



Board meeting, November 2011, Yerevan, hosted by Dr. Bella Kocharian.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry

2012 Walk of Life

Saturday October 20, 2012
3K/6K Walk
FREE T-SHIRT & MONEY for ABMDR
Have Family Fun Day

In Partnership with Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center

Loop from Glendale Memorial Hospital Central - Lexington - Brand - Back to GMH

REGISTRATION AT STARTS
7:30-8:30 AM
OPENING CEREMONIES
8:30 AM
WALK
9:00 AM
GLENDALE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FESTIVITIES
10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

For More information call: 323-663-3609
www.abmdr.am

WALK • VIRTUAL WALK • RUN • FOOD • MUSIC

MAJOR SPONSOR
Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center
A Dignity Health Member

SAVE THE DATE

THE ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY Presents

White Carnival

MATCH FOR LIFE 2012 GALA

AWARD RECIPIENTS

SALPI MANKERIAN
Woman of the Year

BORIS BAGHDASARIAN, M.D.
Man of the Year

ILIN BOGHOSKHANIAN
Volunteer of the Year

AMALIA KIUREGHILIAN
Volunteer of the Year

ARMOND MEHDIKHANI
Volunteer of the Year

SASOUN BAKERY
Business of the Year

MAJOR SPONSOR:
Glendale Adventist Medical Center
Adventist Health

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
MARK GERAGOS ESQ., ABMDR Chairman

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012
6:00 PM - COCKTAILS
7:00 PM - DINNER

GLENDALE HILTON
100 WEST GLENDALE BOULEVARD, GLENDALE

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@abmdr.org

DONATIONS: \$125.00

Help ethnic Armenians everywhere who suffer from life threatening blood diseases.
Reserve your tickets for "Match for Life 2012" Gala

Lottery tickets inside

Raffle will be drawn during
Match for Life 2012 Gala
Glendale Hilton, July 15
(Need not be present to win)

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

First prize:
The new iPad

Second prize:
Roundtrip airfare to Miami
(donated by Sidon Travel)

Third Prize:
Noah's Ark by Michael Aram
(donated by Naz, Le Papillon)

Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry

INVITES YOU TO A
Wine Tasting

Sponsored by Mission Wine & Spirits

May 18, 2012
7:30pm

at the Mankarian Residence
590 Wecia St.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

\$50 Donation

Rsvp: Salpi (626) 355-3789 - Robert (626) 794-7026
robert@missionwineandspirits

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

ABMDR

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

3111 Los Feliz Blvd., Suite 206, Los Angeles, CA 90039

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