



ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY 2019 NEWSLETTER

★ ABMDR ★ th



THANK YOU, OUR DONORS, FOR HELPING SAVE LIVES





DR. NUBAR BOGHOSSIAN

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AFTER DIAGNOSIS AND
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THE DOCTORS AND STAFF OF THE
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DR. BORIS BAGDASARIAN



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Twenty years of bringing the gift of hope



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we celebrate the milestone of our 20th anniversary, I think about the amazing road we have traveled. We certainly have had our obstacles along the way: unlike many other registries, ABMDR was launched without any major donor or governmental financial support to build an infrastructure of staff, facilities, communication, or IT capabilities. The realities of starting and running a nonprofit were simply a foreign concept to former Soviet states. But like other registries, we have faced – and continue to face – the challenge of communicating the concept of joining and supporting a registry as an insurance policy; preparedness for a future crisis by taking action

well before that crisis arises is something people too often put off doing. It is a credit to our volunteer leadership, our laboratory staff, and the passion of the Armenian people that we have overcome so many of these obstacles. Today, ABMDR stands with over 30,000 potential bone marrow stem cell donors in the registry. In the two decades since its launch, ABMDR has received over 9,000 requests and facilitated 32 transplants. And not only have we overcome, we have excelled, receiving international accolades as a model for other registries and laboratories. In Armenia, we have made major strides in introducing new approaches and technologies to the medical field, and continue to provide tissue-typing free of charge to patients and siblings. Yes, we have much to be proud of, and much to celebrate this year. Thank you for traveling this long and sometimes-difficult road with us. The challenges are well worth the rewards of saving the lives of others.

Frieda Jordan, PhD, President



On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, our heartfelt gratitude goes to our legions of volunteers, our 30,000 donors in 31 countries, including Armenia and Artsakh, and our loyal and devoted supporters, from Los Angeles and Boston to Yerevan, Tehran, and beyond, for turning our cherished vision of saving lives into a most wonderful reality. Together, we can move mountains!



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I have heard it said, “Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.” And I can say there is not a single person involved in ABMDR that cannot claim to have helped win victories for Armenians and non-Armenians alike. I reflect on those early days when this organization was just a vision – look where we are now! It is such a privilege to have watched Frieda and the ABMDR team persevere all these years. Congratulations on 20 years of bringing so much hope and help to so many!

Mark Geragos, Esq.
Chairman of the Board of Directors

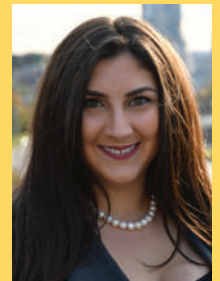


MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

So much has been accomplished by the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry in the last 20 years! What a joy it has been to have witnessed its growth from a small start-up organization to a highly respected and impactful presence in Armenia, the entire Caucasus region, and well beyond. I am especially proud of the fact that ABMDR is now a model for other registries across the world – this wonderful organization is truly an inspiration.

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

It is so hard to believe that it has already been 20 years since the launch of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Since that time, Dr. Jordan and a loyal group of ABMDR volunteers, including my mom, Michele Seyranian, have grown the organization beyond anyone's wildest dreams. It is said that good things can happen out of difficult times. I was very lucky to have survived acute myeloid leukemia, a very rare cancer in children. The hospital that treated me often refers to me as one of their miracles, as only 20% of those diagnosed at that time survived. It was through the search for my donor that we realized the great need that existed for Armenians requiring bone marrow transplants. We were never able to find my donor; I went into remission on chemotherapy alone. However, thanks to ABMDR, tens of thousands of Armenians have registered as potential bone marrow stem cell donors, and matches have been found for people around the world. Today, I am working on my PhD at the University of Cincinnati, having earned my master's in public health. This May, I will visit, for the first time, our ABMDR laboratory in Armenia. I will be forever grateful to Dr. Jordan and to everyone who has helped advance the efforts of ABMDR. May what was started 20 years ago continue to grow and to help those fighting to survive life-threatening illnesses.



Alique Topalian

Interview with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan

Q: ABMDR appears to be gaining quite an international reputation, far beyond Armenia and the Armenian diaspora. What is it that you are doing that is attracting so much interest?

A: Yes, it's very exciting – and humbling – to see this affirmation of our efforts and success. Most recently, we have been nominated to host the annual European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) Region 8 meeting in Yerevan – a great honor. I believe the interest lies primarily in seeing ABMDR as a model of professionalism and best practices for existing bone marrow registries, and an example, a template, to follow for registries just getting started – much like we were doing only 20 years ago.



Q: Tell us more about this conference and why it's so significant.

A: We will be providing a forum for scientists from Europe and around the world to gain further expertise in the field of immunogenetics. Some of the countries attending the forthcoming conference in Yerevan do not have accredited laboratories. The conference will function as an opportunity to help them in this regard. In fact, ABMDR has been specifically asked to share its expertise in establishing a bone marrow donor registry and a tissue-typing laboratory. For this, we have already held two workshops in the past, under the umbrella of EFI and with its approval. This year, we will have our third workshop, but what's special is that this third workshop will take place *in addition* to an EFI Regional meeting in Yerevan. The regional meeting is quite a significant event for us.

Q: How so?

A: Typically, a workshop is initiated and run by the host country; it usually gets somewhere between 100 and 150 participants, and is focused on a specific subject within the field. The host country of an EFI Regional Conference, in contrast, is nominated by the EFI Regional Committee and must be approved by the EFI Executive Board. It gets twice as many participants and has a much wider range of cutting-edge topics in the field of immunogenetics and transplantation.

Q: You mentioned that there will be scientists from around the world. Isn't this a regional conference?

A: It is, technically, for the EFI-designated region comprised of Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro. But given its geographic position, Armenia will attract other laboratories and registries beyond this scope. Many neighboring countries in the region, such as Iran, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and the Ukraine – to name just a few – which are not even affiliated with EFI, send their scientists to learn from representatives of leading laboratories in the field. And through our established relationships, we have secured speakers from the United States, Germany, England, Italy, Austria, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, and elsewhere.

Q: It's so impressive to see ABMDR in this role of mentoring others and fostering growth for professionals in the field. What would *you* like to learn from the conference to benefit ABMDR at this stage of its development?

A: It is great to have reached this level of success. You know, it was 14 years ago that we earned our accreditation from EFI. And here we are now, hosting an EFI regional conference. Moreover, Dr. Jordan is an EFI inspector! We've come a long way, but we still have more to learn and more to accomplish. I'm looking forward to the work of our team at the conference, in terms of reinforcing professional expertise and advancing international cooperation with our colleagues. In addition, I'm sure our Armenian colleagues at the Hematology Center, in Yerevan, will have a chance to meet their counterparts from established transplant centers, and learn how to optimize operations and practices at Armenia's new transplant center.



Country representatives, lecturers, and ABMDR executive staff at the EFI conferences of 2011 (above) and 2014 (below), both organized and hosted by ABMDR in Yerevan.





EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR IMMUNOGENETICS



JOINT MEETING OF
EFI REGION 8 BALKAN EPT AND
3RD HISTOCOMPATIBILITY WORKSHOP
October 25-27, 2019
MARRIOTT HOTEL.YEREVAN, ARMENIA



Stem-cell donation in Yerevan leads to ABMDR's 31st transplant



From left: ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan; Dr. Georgi Iloyan, who donated stem cells for a leukemia patient in Iran; and ABMDR's Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, who performed the stem cell harvesting procedure.



From left: Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, the international courier who delivered the harvested stem cells to Tehran, Dr. Georgi Iloyan, and Dr. Sevak Avagyan.



Dr. Georgi Iloyan with his wife (center) and lab staff member Knarik Pashanyan.

The donor, an Armenian physician, helps save the life of a patient in Iran

On April 10, 2018, stem cells donated by Dr. Georgi Iloyan, of Yerevan, were dispatched to Iran, to be used for a life-saving transplant. The person for whom the stem cells were donated is a young patient in Tehran who suffers from leukemia. The patient's only hope for survival was to undergo bone marrow stem cell transplantation. The procedure, which was performed successfully, is the 31st transplant facilitated by ABMDR.

Dr. Georgi Iloyan is an acclaimed pulmonary surgeon and director of the Tashir Medical Center, in Yerevan. In 2001, while a student at the Yerevan State Medical University, he registered as a potential bone marrow donor with ABMDR, during a donor recruitment held at the university.

In 2018, Dr. Iloyan was identified as a potential match for the young patient in Iran. When Dr. Iloyan was notified of this development, he at once gave his consent to undergo additional testing for a clean bill of health, and was subsequently identified as a perfect match for the patient. On April 10, stem cells were harvested

“As a physician, I try to help people on a daily basis. Therefore, I consider donating my own stem cells both a duty and a privilege. I’m deeply gratified for having the chance to help save the life of a cancer patient.” - Dr. Georgi Iloyan

from Dr. Iloyan at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan. The safe, non-invasive procedure was performed by Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan. Afterwards the donated stem cells were rushed via a special international courier to the Shariati Hospital in Tehran, to be utilized for the life-saving transplant.

Dr. Iloyan does not know the name of the patient in Iran. “I wouldn't want to know, because it doesn't matter,” he said. “As a physician, I try to help people on a daily basis. Therefore, I consider donating my own stem cells both a duty and a privilege, and the identity of the patient who has received the transplant makes absolutely no difference. I'm just deeply gratified for having the chance to help save the life of a cancer patient.”

Following the stem cell harvesting procedure, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, the Executive Director of ABMDR, said, “This is what our work comes down to: giving the hope of survival to a patient struck by a life-threatening blood-related illness. And the more potential donors we have in our worldwide registry, the better our chances are for saving the lives of Armenians and non-Armenians alike. I'd like to convey our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Georgi Iloyan. He is a true inspiration!”

ABMDR's 32nd harvesting is the first in its 20th-anniversary year

We often try to convey to people the importance of registering as a donor using the metaphor of an insurance policy: when you give us your cheek swab, you are essentially “paying a premium” for your family’s future, for that possibility of addressing a life-threatening illness down the road. Being involved with ABMDR is an investment in your family, and in our extended Armenian family.

Recently, a Yerevan resident experienced just how profound that investment can be. On January 23, 2019, stem cells were harvested from Christina, a registered donor with ABMDR. Following the safe, painless procedure, performed at ABMDR’s Stem Cell Harvesting Center, her stem cells were flown to Barcelona, Spain, to be used for a potentially life-saving transplantation.

Christina had joined ABMDR in 2015, with hopes of being of help to a young leukemia patient who needed a donor. In 2018, Christina’s own nephew, Areni, was diagnosed with leukemia. Desperate to save Areni’s life, his family moved to Spain for a chance to provide a transplant for their child. Subsequently the Spanish transplant center where Areni had been undergoing treatment sent an urgent request to ABMDR to find a donor for the seven-year-old boy. ABMDR searched its global database, and a perfect match was located. The donor turned out to be none other than Areni’s aunt, Christina.

Christina had joined the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry out of a selfless desire to help save someone’s life. And, as fate would have it, that someone happened to be her own nephew. What a poignant beginning to the start of our 20th-anniversary year!



Stem cell donor Christina, with her daughter standing beside her, at ABMDR’s Stem Cell Harvesting Center.



Christina with Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan (above); and with Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Dr. Frieda Jordan (below).



From left: ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan; Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, who performed the harvesting procedure at ABMDR’s Stem Cell Harvesting Center; ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan; the international courier who delivered the harvested stem cells to Barcelona; and ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan.

Supporters visit ABMDR's HLA Typing Lab, gain first-hand knowledge of activities



The Lab's many visitors included ABMDR Board member Armond Mehdikhani (second from far right) and his family.



Stepan Vartanian and Dr. Albert Bakhtanian.



The Assadoorian family, who also made a donation during their visit.



Katherine Kaloostian (third from left).



The Khachatourian family.



Taline Vartanian (fifth from left) and friends.



Dr. Samuel Danielyan (second from left), the recently-appointed director of Yerevan's Bone Marrow Stem Cell Transplantation Center, a partner organization of ABMDR.



Students from Yerevan State University, all of whom registered as ABMDR donors.

Advanced Prometheus training in Prague



In September 2018, ABMDR Senior Lab Technician and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan attended the Prometheus User Group meeting, held in Prague, Czech Republic. The two-day training and continuing-education event was hosted by the Steiner SRO company, a major medical-software developer.

In the course of the meeting, the Steiner team introduced new and advanced features of the Prometheus platform, which provides access to up-to-the-minute global registry databases and streamlines donor-match searches. ABMDR's HLA Typing Lab, in Yerevan, adopted the Prometheus system in 2017.

During the Prometheus User Group meeting in Prague, participants learned about Prometheus Light, a Web-based tool for small and startup registries; and the Prometheus Search Service, which makes it easier than ever to search for donors through the Prometheus platform.

Participants also learned about two new software systems: Orpheus, an information-management program for immunogenetics laboratories and tissue-immunogenetics departments; and the Cryus program, developed for cord-blood banks, donor centers, stem-cell collection centers, biotech laboratories, and tissue banks.



ABMDR's Alina Sirunyan (center) with members of the Steiner team.

ABMDR Lab's EFI license renewed for fifth time

For the fifth consecutive time, the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) renewed the operating license of the HLA Typing Lab of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, in Yerevan. The renewal of the license, which was announced on the heels of an extensive on-site inspection of the Lab, was announced on July 6, 2018. The EFI inspection is held on a triennial basis, to make certain that EFI-affiliated facilities, such as the ABMDR Lab, continue to comply with EFI standards in terms of technical operations, staff skills and knowledge, and equipment quality.

The 2018 inspection at ABMDR's HLA Typing Lab was conducted by two EFI-designated inspectors, Prof. Maria Guadalupe of Spain, and Prof. Theodora Keramitsoghlu of Greece.

EFI's prestigious endorsement of the ABMDR Lab is of enormous importance to our work, as it will allow us to continue to conduct pioneering medical research and help save lives across the globe.

Professors Guadalupe and Keramitsoghlu implemented an extensive examination of the Lab. They inspected methodologies and protocols, technical documents, procedures pertaining to HLA-typing for patients as well as related and unrelated donors, and research with regard to the connection between certain HLA antigens and a wide range of medical conditions. The inspectors also examined the integrity and accuracy of all medical equipment and instruments utilized at the lab.

Following the examination, Professors Guadalupe and Keramitsoghlu unreservedly approved the relicensing of the ABMDR Lab, stating that the institution remains on par with the very best labs in Europe and throughout the world. Both inspectors also had high praise for the staff of the Lab, commending their extraordinary level of expertise and professionalism as well as their courteousness and congeniality.

The ABMDR Lab is the only facility of its type in not only Armenia but the entire Caucasus region. The renewal of the Lab's EFI license will enable the facility to continue its collaboration with laboratories and transplant centers worldwide and help save the lives of patients struck by life-threatening blood-related illnesses.



EFI inspectors Prof. Maria Guadalupe and Prof. Theodora Keramitsoghlu (fourth and fifth from left) with ABMDR Lab staff and executives, including Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan and Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan (second and third from left).



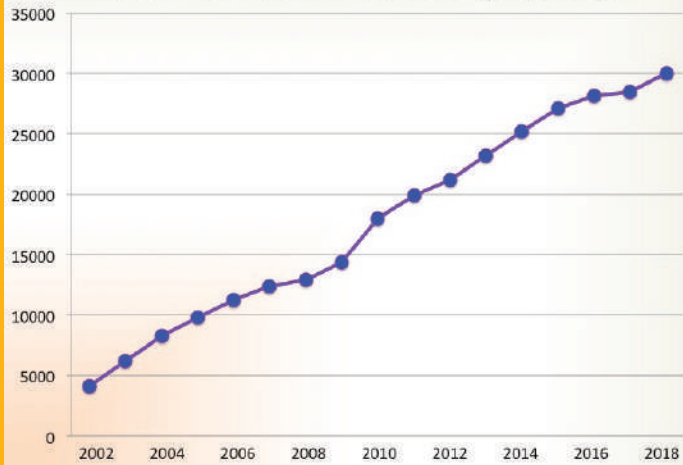
EFI inspectors Prof. Theodora Keramitsoghlu and Prof. Maria Guadalupe with members of the ABMDR Lab staff.



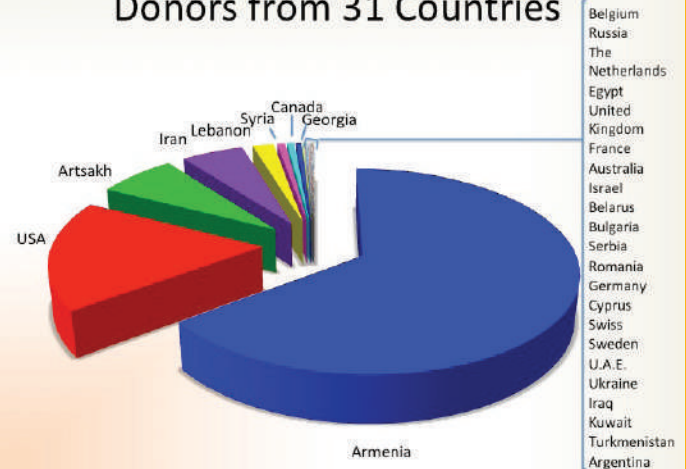
ABMDR as it enters its 20th year



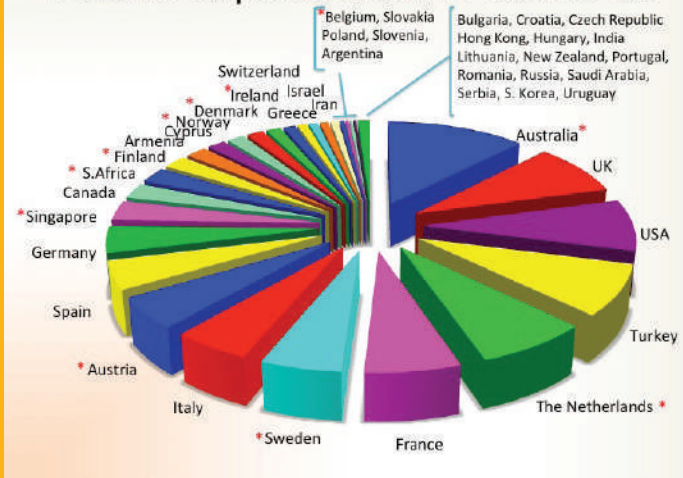
Total number of donors (30,000)



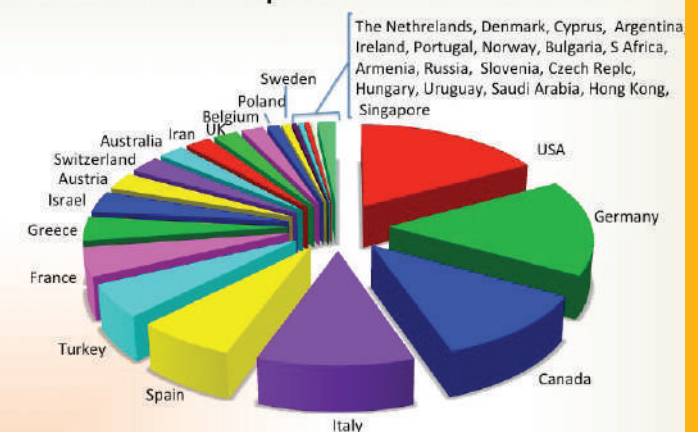
Donors from 31 Countries



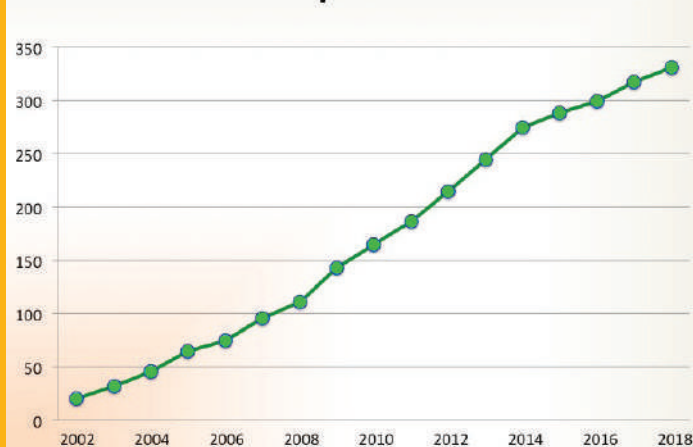
Patient requests from 44 countries



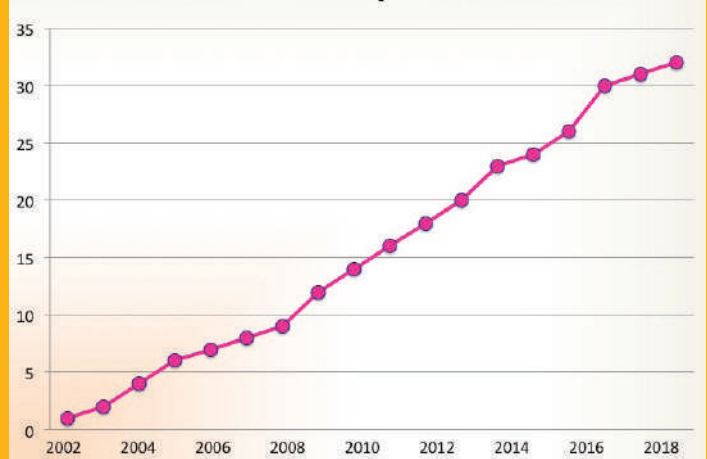
2613 CT+HR requests from 35 countries



331 Patient requests from Armenia



32 Transplants



2019 ABMDR STATS

- Registered 30,000 donors worldwide
- Identified over 9,000 patients
- Facilitated 32 bone marrow transplants
- Active in 31 countries across four continents



Outreach and recruitment events, February 2018 through January 2019

ARMENIA

February 27, 2018: recruitment at P. Terlemezyan Yerevan State College of Arts.
April 11, 2018: recruitment at Yerevan State University, Department of Biology.
September 14, 2018: recruitment at Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute.
October 8, 2018: recruitment at Ingo Armenia, Yerevan.
November 19-20, 2018: recruitment at Yerevan State Medical University.
December 4, 2018: recruitment at State University of Economics.
December 21, 2018: recruitment at Shirak State University.
January 22, 2019: recruitment at Megerian Carpet Museum.

ARTSAKH

March 26-27, 2018: organized under the auspices of Artsakh's Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Narine Aghabalyan and Minister of Health Karine Atayan, recruitments at Artsakh State University, Mesrop Mashtots University, Grigor Narekatsi University, and Artsakh State Medical Center, all in Stepanakert; and recruitment at the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Soseh Kindergarten, in Stepanakert, hosted by ARS of Artsakh.

CANADA

April 22, 2018: outreach and recruitment during Genocide commemoration at Mountain View Celebration Hall, Vancouver. Organized by the United Armenian Committee of British Columbia.

IRAN

February 5, February 15, and February 22, 2018: recruitments in Tehran. Organized by ABMDR's Tehran team, led by Mariet Toumians.
March 22-23, 2018: recruitments during the annual Pan-Armenian Games in New Julfa, Isfahan. Organized by ABMDR's Tehran team, led by Mariet Toumians.

ISRAEL

November 23, 2018: outreach and recruitment at Armenian Community Center of Jerusalem. Organized by Noyemi Nalbandian, a member of the Armenian National Committee of Jerusalem as well as a representative of the city's Armenian Relief Society and Homenetmen chapters.

UNITED STATES, WEST COAST

April 24, 2018: outreach and recruitment at Armenian Martyrs' Monument rally, Montebello, California
November 3, 2018: outreach and recruitment at ninth annual Glendale Health Festival, in Glendale, California. The Glendale Health Festival is a community service of the Armenian-American Medical Society.

UNITED STATES, EAST COAST

May 19, 2018: recruitment, led by the ABMDR New England Group, during the ACYO banquet, in Watertown, Massachusetts.
May 25-28, 2018: outreach and recruitment, led by the ABMDR New England Group, during the ACYO General Assembly and Sports Weekend in New York.
September 21, 2018: outreach and recruitment at the Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, in Watertown, Massachusetts. Organized by Fr. Arakel Aljalian, Pastor of St. James Armenian Church, as well as the ABMDR New England Group.
November 12-13, 2018: outreach and recruitment at St. Stephen's Bazaar, Watertown, Massachusetts. Organized by the ABMDR New England Group.
November 30, 2018: outreach and recruitment at Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Organized by the ABMDR New England Group.

P. Terlemezyan Yerevan State College of Arts: over 100 join ranks of ABMDR



World Marrow Donor Day, Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute

In what has become a globally-celebrated tradition, ABMDR marked World Marrow Donor Day by holding a recruitment drive on September 14, 2018, at the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute, in Yerevan. Prior to the recruitment, ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan made a presentation on the life-saving mission of the Registry, speaking in the auditorium of the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute. During the subsequent recruitment, administered by a team from ABMDR's Yerevan Lab, a large number of soldiers and Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute staff joined the ranks of the Registry as potential bone marrow stem cell donors. The Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute is a longtime supporter of the ABMDR cause.



Corporations in support of the ABMDR mission: recruitment at INGO Armenia



State University of Economics: students and faculty members join ABMDR



ABMDR recruits 300 new donors at Yerevan Medical University

On November 19 and 20, 2018, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry held major outreach and recruitment events at Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU), with the dual purpose of raising awareness of its life-saving mission and recruiting donors. Hundreds of supporters, comprising medical students and members of the university's faculty and administration, including YSMU Rector and former Minister of Health of Armenia Dr. Armen Muradyan, attended the events. Among the highlights of the outreach effort was a comprehensive presentation on the mission and world-wide activities of ABMDR, delivered by Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, the Registry's Medical Director. By the conclusion of the outreach and recruitment events, on November 20, a total of 300 students, teachers, and members of the university's administrative staff had joined the ranks of ABMDR as potential bone marrow donors.



In a powerful show of grassroots support, 400 Artsakh youths join the ranks of ABMDR



During an unprecedented series of recruitments held on March 26 and 27, 2018, in Artsakh, a total of 400 youths, including university students and faculty members, joined the ranks of ABMDR. The recruitments, organized under the auspices of Narine Aghabalyan, Artsakh's Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs; and Karine Atayan, Minister of Healthcare, were held at Artsakh State University, Mesrop Mashtots University, Grigor Narekatsi University, and Artsakh State Medical Center, all in Stepanakert; as well as at Shushi University of Technology. Also participating in the recruitment effort was the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) of Artsakh, which hosted a recruitment at the newly-renovated ARS Soseh Kindergarten, in Stepanakert.



First recruitment and outreach in **VANCOUVER**

On April 22, 2018, Dr. Frieda Jordan, President of ABMDR, delivered a keynote address at the Genocide commemoration held in Vancouver, Canada, organized by the United Armenian Committee of British Columbia. Attended by over 200 supporters, the event took place at the Mountain View Celebration Hall.

Dr. Jordan was accompanied to the event by Iline Boghoskhanian, a member of the ABMDR Board of Advisors. Their visit to Vancouver was facilitated by Arto Tavukciyan and his family. Tavukciyan's sister, Tamar, has been diagnosed with a life-threatening blood-related illness, and currently the family is searching for a matched bone marrow donor to save Tamar's life through a transplant. Following Dr. Jordan's address, 21 young men and women joined the ranks of ABMDR as potential bone marrow stem cell donors.



Dr. Frieda Jordan with the Tavukciyan family. Photos below: Dr. Jordan with members of the United Armenian Committee of British Columbia; and scenes from the event, which took place at the Mountain View Celebration Hall.



First recruitment and outreach in **JERUSALEM**



From left: Dr. Frieda Jordan, Jerusalem Armenian-community leader Noyemi Nalbandian, and Dr. Sevak Avagyan. Photos at left: Dr. Avagyan during his presentation; and scenes from the recruitment.

With its first-ever public event held in Jerusalem in 2018, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry expanded its mission to Israel, making it the 30th country in the global network of countries where ABMDR actively advances its mission, in close collaboration with local communities.

On November 23, 2018, ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan held an outreach and recruitment event at the Armenian Community Center of Jerusalem. The groundbreaking event, attended by scores of supporters, was organized by Noyemi Nalbandian, a member of the Armenian National Committee of Jerusalem as well as a representative of the city's Armenian Relief Society and Homenetmen chapters.

In her opening remarks, Nalbandian welcomed Doctors Avagyan and Jordan and praised the work



of ABMDR, urging members of the Jerusalem Armenian community to join the organization as potential bone marrow stem cell donors. Subsequently Dr. Avagyan delivered a comprehensive presentation on ABMDR's worldwide activities and goals, and stressed the vital importance of maintaining a large, international registry of donors for the chance to save lives.

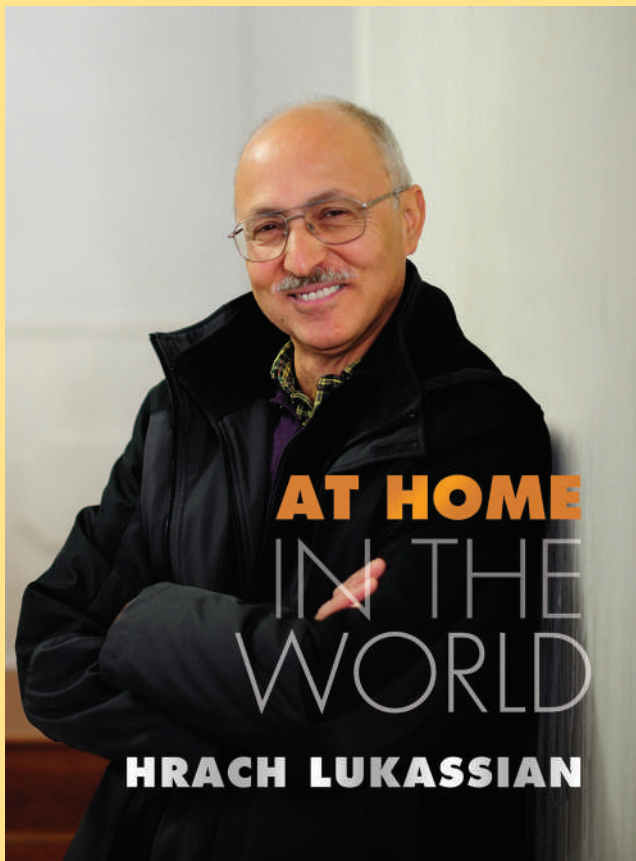
Following Dr. Avagyan's presentation, numerous attendees joined the ranks of ABMDR. On her part, Mrs. Nalbandian announced that she will soon organize additional ABMDR outreach and recruitment events in other Armenian communities in Israel, with the full support of the institutions she represents.



Over 100 supporters join the ranks of ABMDR at recruitments in Isfahan



On March 21 and 22, 2018, during the annual Pan-Armenian (Hamahaykakan) Games that took place in New Julfa, Isfahan, Iran, 109 supporters joined the ranks of ABMDR. Our heartfelt thanks go to Mariet Toumians, our recruitment officer in Iran, and her team of dedicated volunteers, for organizing these great grassroots events.



Hrach Lukassian was an ABMDR donor and one of our organization's staunchest supporters. *At Home in the World*, a book dedicated to his photographic and artistic legacy, is now part of the British Library's prestigious Armenian Special Collections Section, in London.

Own an extraordinary volume while supporting our mission

At Home in the World is a wonderful volume of photographs, artworks, and memories, published in celebration of Hrach Lukassian's life and multifaceted achievements. In addition to being a highly accomplished photographer, painter, craftsman, and mountain climber, Lukassian was a lifelong supporter of ABMDR, always generous with his talent and time for the advancement of the Registry's mission. A large-format, full-color book printed on high-quality stock, *At Home in the World* includes a dazzling selection of Lukassian's photographs and paintings, as well as reproductions of his hand-made backgammon sets and other wood creations. The book also includes chapters devoted to Lukassian's mountain-climbing expeditions and travels across the globe.



Order your copy today with a tax-deductible donation of \$50 (plus \$7 for shipping). Please send your check to:
ABMDR
347 West Stocker Street, #208, Glendale, CA 91202.
All proceeds will benefit ABMDR's life-saving mission.

April 24 commemoration, Montebello, California



ACYO Weekend, New York



Meet Maral Der Torossian, our new East Coast Recruitment Officer



Born in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1970, Maral received a bachelor's degree in biology from Haigazian University. In 1995, she moved to the US, and currently lives in Boston with her husband and two sons. Maral has taught biology, science, and social studies at the middle- and high-school levels, both in Lebanon and Lexington, Massachusetts. She has volunteered and worked at the Armenian Sisters Academy in Massachusetts for over ten years, first as a parent, then as a teacher, and later on as assistant principal.

"Ever since the mid-2000s, I have been volunteering and/or serving on the boards of many local organizations and committees," Maral says. "They include the Amaras Art Alliance, Tekeyan Cultural Association, Union of Marash Armenians, April 24 Genocide Commemoration Committee of Massachusetts, Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church (Ladies Guild Chairwoman), Armenian Independent Broadcasting of Boston, and, most dearest to my heart, the ABMDR New England Group." In addition, Maral was recently elected to the Board of the Heritage Park Foundation.

NEW ENGLAND EVENTS DRAW STRONG YOUTH PARTICIPATION

St. James, Watertown



St. Stephens, Watertown



Holy Trinity, Cambridge



Training workshop, Watertown, led by Dr. Vergine Madelian



Glendale Health Festival

ABMDR participated in the ninth annual Glendale Health Festival, which took place on November 3, 2018, in Glendale, California. Throughout the daylong festival, ABMDR volunteers provided visitors with information regarding the mission of the Registry and recruited potential bone marrow stem cell donors. The Glendale Health Festival is a community service of the Armenian-American Medical Society, in collaboration with the City of Glendale, Glendale Community Services and Parks Department, Office of State Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Office of California State Assembly member Laura Friedman, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, ARTN-Shant TV, Northwest Glendale Lions Club, and the Armenian-American Nurses' Association. Sponsors also include Adventist Health Glendale, Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital, and USC Verdugo Hills Hospital.



CONGRATULATIONS, 2018 ABMDR LOTTERY WINNERS!



First
Prize
Winner

**Mr. & Mrs.
Hamlet Melikian**

Two round-trip tickets
donated by Sidon Travel



Second
Prize
Winner

**Laris
Hayrapetian**

iPad
donated by
Amalia Kiureghlian



Third
Prize
Winner

**Hrair
Aslanian**

Apple TV
donated by Sona
and Levon Ashjian



Proud to support ABMDR



Foundation Laboratory's involvement with ABMDR began more than two decades ago. At that time, the idea of having such a successful organization with a unique mission to solve a rather complex health crisis for the Armenian people was merely a mirage. It was simply a thought, a dream. However, thanks to Dr. Frieda Jordan and all the hard working and exceptional folks — from principals and management to technicians, volunteers, and, most importantly, the Registry's 30,000 donors — this grand thought, this dream of helping people in dire need of bone marrow transplantation to save lives, came to reality. In the last 20 years, we have witnessed this amazing organization expand its donor footprint to more

than 30 countries. We have witnessed close to 10,000 patients requesting a match from 44 countries, with more than 30 individuals receiving bone marrow transplants to save their lives. ABMDR's list of accomplishments is long and continues to grow. It's been a great honor and privilege for Foundation Laboratory to be able to support ABMDR from day one. In addition, it's been truly amazing to have Dr. Jordan oversee our company's Molecular Department for the past two decades while at the same time being the spire for ABMDR. On behalf of the Vartanian family and all principals at Foundation Laboratory, we congratulate ABMDR on its 20th anniversary and wish for continued success.



About Foundation Laboratory

Foundation Laboratory is an advanced, accredited, and certified clinical diagnostic laboratory successfully serving medical clinics, multi-specialty groups, hospitals, laboratories, and State and Federal institutions throughout California. Ranked in the top five privately-held clinical laboratories servicing Central and Southern California and headquartered in Pomona, California, Foundation Laboratory utilizes world-class, state-of-the-art instrumentation to provide accurate and clinically significant diagnostic information to more than 3,000 clients and over 8,000 providers. To provide the highest-quality and personal service to its clientele since 1966, Foundation Laboratory has been a dynamic and expanding organization, always acquiring the latest technology available in the clinical-laboratory field. Foundation Laboratory has an

extensive network of more than 80 Patient Service Centers, expanding regularly to provide streamlined, efficient care to its patients throughout California. Foundation Laboratory employs more than 300 dedicated personnel, a workforce consisting of medical directors and pathologists, professional and experienced clinical-laboratory scientists, med techs, phlebotomists, and sales executives. In 2018, Foundation Laboratory proudly launched its Direct to Consumer genetic-testing division, called Viazoi. Please visit www.foundationlaboratory.com and www.viazo.com for more details.



Laughter for Life

Our 16th annual Laughter for Life was a wonderful success, thanks to performances by a stellar line-up of comedians, and over 350 supporters in attendance. The sold-out event, which benefited ABMDR's life-saving mission, was held on November 11, 2018, at the world-famous Comedy Store, in West Hollywood.

The night's comedians included Steve Rannazzisi, Bryan Callen, Tamer Kattan, Johnny Sanchez, Kvon, Chris Spencer, and Moses Shakarian.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our Comedy Night Committee, including Chairwoman Lara Yeretsian and Sam Tripoli, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work. Lara and Sam are also the co-founders of Laughter for Life.

Also a big Thank-you to all of the event's sponsors, including The Comedy Store, Hungry Nomad, Yeretsian Law, the SB Company, Dilanchian Chiropractic, Daglian Law Group, Law Offices of Meline Mkrtichian, Paulette Malekian, Sam Tripoli, and California Gourmet Nuts.



TOGETHER, WE'VE MADE HISTORY



1999

Alique Topalian inspires the launch of ABMDR.

ABMDR established in Yerevan.

2000

ABMDR registered in the US as a nonprofit organization.

First major donation received, from Carolann and George Najarian.

ABMDR HLA-typing Lab opens in Yerevan.

2001

First fundraisers, sponsored by Houry and Frank Melkonian, Dalida and Mike Keuroghlian, and Arthur Zakarian.

Recruitment begins. First donor registered.

ABMDR Board formed.

Foundation Lab becomes hub for ABMDR testing in the US. Premises donated by Vartanian family.

ABMDR partners with Glendale Memorial Hospital.

Major recruitments in Armenia and Montebello, California.

2002

Major recruitments in Artsakh, Iran, New York, and New Jersey.

First ABMDR comedy night, Laughter for Life, takes place in Los Angeles. Co-founded by Lara Yeretsian and Sam Tripoli

Registered donors: 4,106.
First-time donors: 4,106.
Patient requests: 142.

2003

ABMDR joins Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide and Bone Marrow Donor Association.

Recruitments in Fresno and L.A.

Registered donors: 6,176.

First-time donors: 2,070.

PS requests: 51.

High-resolution requests: 5.

First bone marrow stem cell transplant.

2004

Recruitments in Lebanon and Boston.

Registered donors: 8,254.

First-time donors: 2,078.

PS requests: 180.

HR requests: 69.

CT-sample requests: 19.

Second, third, and fourth transplants.

2005

Recruitment in Canada.

ABMDR opens Los Angeles headquarters, the Mariana Kazarians Center.

Space donated by Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian.

Registered donors: 9,803.

First-time donors: 1,549.

PS requests: 210.

HR requests: 116.

CT-sample requests: 32.

Fifth and sixth transplants.

2006

ABMDR Lab granted EFI accreditation.

First ABMDR walkathon held, in Pasadena, California.

2006

Registered donors: 11,202.

First-time donors: 1,399.

PS requests: 197.

HR requests: 92.

CT-sample requests: 36.

Seventh transplant.

2007

ABMDR partners with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Recruitments in Bulgaria, the UK, and France.

ABMDR partners with Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

First ABMDR Christmas Boutique Luncheon in Los Angeles, organized by Naz Atikian / Le Papillon.

Registered donors: 12,321.

First-time donors: 1,119.

PS requests: 245.

HR requests: 88.

CT-sample requests: 42.

Eighth transplant.

2008

ABMDR holds Telethon in Los Angeles for launching a Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan.

ABMDR becomes a co-op member of "Be the Match" (National Marrow Donor Program Cooperative Registries).

Recruitments in Jordan, ten regions of Armenia, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Arizona, Florida, and Nevada.

First Armenian Open Golf Tournament benefiting ABMDR. Made possible by George Titizian Trex Fraternity L.A.

Registered donors: 12,957.

2008

First-time donors: 636.

PS requests: 289.

HR requests: 103.

CT-sample requests: 35.

Ninth transplant.

2009

ABMDR Stem Cell Harvesting Center opens in Yerevan.

Registered donors: 14,346.

First-time donors: 1,389.

PS requests: 323.

HR requests: 88.

CT-sample requests: 38.

Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth transplants.

2010

ABMDR Yerevan Lab conducts HLA-disease association and kidney transplant compatibility tests, and performs first stem cell harvest.

First ABMDR Casino Night, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Koko and Nectar Kalajian; subsequently hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Amy Boyadjian of the Tri-Tech Company.

First ABMDR Wine-tasting event. Fundraiser hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Viken and Salpi Mankerian of Mission Wine and Spirits.

Concert in Artsakh marks start of tenth-anniversary events.

Registered donors: 17,999.

First-time donors: 3,653.

PS requests: 289.

HR requests: 132.

CT-sample requests: 70.

HLA-disease association: 134.





2010

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 10

Thirteenth and fourteenth transplants.

2011

ABMDR hosts first EFI Educational Meeting and Workshop, in Yerevan.

Registered donors: 19,861.

First-time donors: 1,862.

PS requests: 311.

HR requests: 130.

CT-sample requests: 53.

HLA-disease association: 115.

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 15

Fifteenth and sixteenth transplants.

2012

First walkathon in Watertown.

ABMDR Lab begins immunophenotyping.

Registered donors: 21,151.

First-time donors: 1,290.

PS requests: 285.

HR requests: 183.

CT-sample requests: 37.

HLA-disease association: 150.

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 14.

Immunophenotyping: 10

Seventeen and eighteenth transplants.

2013

First recruitment in Georgia.

Registered donors: 23,192.

First-time donors: 2,041.

PS requests: 316.

2013

HR requests: 155.

CT-sample requests: 38.

HLA-disease association: 200.

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 15.

Immunophenotyping: 8

Nineteenth and twentieth transplants.

2014

ABMDR Lab begins platelet-rich plasma, cord-blood banking.

ABMDR hosts second EFI Educational Meeting and Workshop, in Yerevan.

Registered donors: 25,169.

First-time donors: 1,977.

PS requests: 482.

HR requests: 192.

CT-sample requests: 58.

HLA-disease association: 273.

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 14.

Immunophenotyping: 11.

PRP: 127.

Cord-blood banking: 2.

Twenty-first, twenty-second, and twenty-third transplants.

2015

Recruitments in ten regions of Armenia, in collaboration with Ministry of Emergency Situations.

ABMDR celebrates first-ever World Marrow Donor Day.

Registered donors: 27,089.

First-time donors: 1,920.

PS requests: 425.

HR requests: 187.

CT-sample requests: 44.

HLA-disease association: 352.

2015

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 5.

Immunophenotyping: 14.

PRP: 82.

Cord-blood banking: 14.

Twenty-fourth transplant.

2016

ABMDR holds Cancer Awareness Symposium, in Los Angeles.

Registered donors: 28,134.

First-time donors: 1,045.

PS requests: 344.

HR requests: 160.

CT-sample requests: 18.

HLA-disease association: 258.

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 9.

Immunophenotyping: 11.

PRP: 36.

Cord-blood banking: 26.

ABMDR enters into partnership with Armenia's first-ever Bone Marrow Transplantation Center.

Twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth transplants.

2017

Recruitments in Javakhk, Georgia.

ABMDR joins the European Marrow Donor Information System software program, gaining access to Group of European Medium Size Registries.

ABMDR Lab expands IT infrastructure by adopting Prometheus platform, which provides up-to-the-minute access to global registry databases and streamlines donor-match searches.

Registered donors: 28,481.

First-time donors: 1,117.

2017

PS requests: 395.

HR requests: 141.

CT-sample requests: 28.

HLA-disease association: 237.

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 7.

Immunophenotyping: 14.

PRP: 22.

Cord-blood banking: 8.

Twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, and thirtieth transplants.

2018

Outreach and recruitment in Canada.

Registered donors: 29,650.

First-time donors: 1,060.

PS requests: 5,001.

HR requests: 178.

CT-sample requests: 40.

HLA-disease association: 247.

Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 29.

Immunophenotyping: 15.

PRP: 36.

Cord-blood banking: 53.

Thirty-first transplant.

2019

Thirty-second transplant.





Walk of Life Los Angeles



Our 13th annual walkathon in Los Angeles, held on October 6, 2018, was a great success, drawing the participation of close to 300 avid supporters: from elected officials and community leaders to numerous teams representing schools, universities, community organizations, and families. They all converged at the plaza of Glendale City Hall to walk and raise funds for the life-saving mission of ABMDR, in a marvelous community atmosphere that featured lively music and food. We thank all of our dedicated participants and volunteers, as well as our generous sponsors, for their heartwarming support!





**Thank you,
the Viazoi company,
for being a major
sponsor of our Los
Angeles walkathon!**





Thank you, our sponsors, for your invaluable support of Walk of Life: American Tire Depot, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Soft-line Solutions, ARTN-Shant TV, Paulette Malekian of Dilbeck Real Estate, P.H. Solutions, Dr. Peter H. Ashjian, Epic Auto Leasing and Sales, Alco Printing, Porto's Bakery & Café, Tamara Ice Cream, Prolase, and Providence High School.





Board meeting, November 2018.



Walkathon Committee.



Gala Committee.

Mobilizing community support



On October 2, 2018, a team from our Walkathon Committee attended the Glendale Unified School District meeting, with the purpose of encouraging students and teachers to participate in ABMDR's Walk of Life.



A scene from the Glendale Unified School District meeting.

Walk of Life New England

On September 22, 2018, the Armenian community of New England joined forces in support of Walk of Life, ABMDR's seventh annual walkathon in the Boston area. The beloved pan-Armenian event, which took place in Watertown, drew avid youth participation, with large numbers of students from area schools and colleges, as well as the support of numerous community organizations.

Once again, Walk of Life received major corporate sponsorship from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Other sponsors and supporters included the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association, PROMETRIKA LLC of Cambridge, Watertown Savings Bank, several other local businesses, the Armenian Tree Project, and the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC).

At the walkathon's opening ceremony, which was held on the grounds of ACEC, lead marshal and Armenian Business Network (ABN) President Jack Antounian, as well as Michael Demirchian of the ABMDR New England Group delivered welcome remarks.

Next, Demirchian introduced the day's guest speaker, ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan. "In the fight to restore one's health and vitality, nothing is more important than hope — and the confidence that there are people who genuinely care for us," Dr. Jordan said. "Let us walk today in powerful solidarity with our patients, as we want them to know that they're not alone in their struggle... that we, all of us, will literally go that extra mile for them."

Subsequently the throngs of supporters began the 2.2-mile walk, led by the ABN marshals. Walk of Life concluded at Watertown Square, where participants enjoyed great music, dancing, and food, along with thousands of people attending the annual Faire on the Square festival.

In his remarks during the closing ceremony, Shant Der Torossian of the New England Walk of Life Committee thanked ACEC for generously functioning as the home base of the walkathon from the start, and praised the walkathon participants and supporting organizations for their continued commitment. Following Der Torossian's remarks, Walk of Life Committee member Tamar Melkonian announced the winners of the walk. The YerazArt Foundation team was recognized for having raised the most funds; Knar Krafian and Alex Sirakian tied as the individuals who had raised the most funds; and the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association team was recognized for having the highest number of participants.

Special thanks were extended to the Armenia Tree Project for planting commemorative trees in Armenia in honor of the walkathon winners for six consecutive years, as part of the #Living Century Initiative; and to Domino's of Watertown for providing a Pizza Party Gift Certificate to the team that raised most funds for ABMDR during the seventh New England Walk of Life.





Thank you, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, for being a major sponsor of Walk of Life New England



The 19th anniversary of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry was celebrated at its annual Match for Life Gala on the evening of September 16, 2018. The jubilant event, held at the Taglyan Cultural Center, in Los Angeles, was attended by over 350 supporters, including elected officials, community leaders, and representatives of numerous organizations. The Gala was made possible by the major sponsorship of Adventist Health Glendale and the Persian-American Cancer Institute. The event also comprised an awards ceremony, during which various individuals and institutions were honored for their outstanding volunteer work and generous support of the Registry's life-saving mission worldwide.



MATCH FOR LIFE GALA



Thank you, Adventist Health Glendale and Persian-American Cancer Institute, our major sponsors!





Congratulations, our 2018 award recipients!



ABMDR 20th ANNIVERSARY

gala BANQUET

2019
MATCH FOR LIFE

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 25, 2019

TAGLYAN COMPLEX

1201 VINE ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90038
5:00 pm Cocktails - 6:00 pm Dinner



ABMDR Woman of the Year Rubina Matevosyan (first photo, second from left); and Man of the Year Melik Kumjian.



Appreciation Awards: Adventist Health Glendale (accepted by Ramella Markarian) and Persian-Am. Cancer Institute.



Appreciation Award recipient Armenian Spiritual Cultural Foundation (award accepted by Foundation President Vrouyr Demirjian); and Organization of the Year Award recipient Armenian Relief Society (accepted by Silva Poladian).



Business of the Year Award recipient Hungry Nomad; and Volunteer of the Year award recipient Dr. Christina Ashjian.



ABMDR Volunteers of the Year Paulette Malekian and Tatevik Manukyan accepting their awards.



Sossy Yogurtian receiving the ABMDR Volunteers of the Year Award on behalf of the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association; and ABMDR Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and longtime supporter Dr. Varoosh Alaverdian.



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Real Estate related questions you may have in mind.

I am also a proud member of ABMDR, who helps organize their Walkathon and Comedy Night.

After donating my Bone Marrow to a young boy overseas four years ago,

I decided to join ABMDR to share my story and encourage others to join.

Paulette

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32nd European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference, Venice, Italy



ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan participated in the 32nd European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference, which took place from May 9 to 12, 2018, in Venice, Italy. The conference was organized by the European Federation for Immunogenetics. In the photo below: Dr. Jordan with event participants, including Dr. Katerina Tarassi (middle), Director of the Immunology-Histocompatibility Dept. at Evangelismos Hospital, Athens, Greece.



12th International Donor Registry Conference and WMDA Working Group Meetings, Munich



ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan and Senior Lab Technician and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan (photo above) participated in the 12th International Donor Registry Conference and World Marrow Donor Association Working Group Meetings, which took place in Munich, Germany, from June 26 to 30, 2018.



Annual EFI Region 8 and Balkan EPT Meeting, Budapest, Romania, January 2019



ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan participated in the Annual Region 8 and Balkan EPT Meeting, which took place in Budapest, Romania, on January 26 and 27, 2019.



ABMDR set to host two EFI global conferences in Yerevan this year

It's official: this year, ABMDR will host not only the EFI Educational Meeting and Workshop (for the third time since 2011), but also the EFI Region 8 and Balkan EPT Meeting. Both of these prestigious global events will be organized and jointly held in Yerevan by ABMDR, from October 25 to 27.

The joint conferences and workshops will be attended by hundreds of participants from across the world, and will feature an outstanding roster of internationally-renowned speakers. Participants will include scientists and doctors from Armenia, neighboring countries, and the Armenian diaspora; as well as representatives of an unprecedented number of national bone marrow transplant centers and registries from the Caucasus, the Middle East, Europe, the United States, and elsewhere.

EFI's decision to partner with ABMDR and have it host the joint conferences in Yerevan was based once again on ABMDR's extraordinary achievements and track record as a highly-regarded national bone marrow donor registry.



Casino Night

Hosted by Mr. and Mrs.
Michael and Amy Boyadjian.
November 9, 2018,
Phoenicia Restaurant,
Glendale, California.

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Christmas party

December 16, 2018,
Fresco Banquet Hall,
Glendale, California



Prayer Day at Western Diocese



Prayer Day at Western Prelacy



Reclaim Conference at Western Diocese



Michink Dinner at Western Diocese



Arm.-American Medical Society of California Gala



International Women's Day Celebration



Pilavjian Preschool event



Armenian Relief Society Western Region visit



“Business Life” mixer



Dr. Frieda Jordan receives AAMS Award



Adventist Mission Armenia banquet



Megerian Carpet Museum, Yerevan



AYF kids making a difference



July 2018: young professionals of the ABMDR New England Group educating their peers about the life-saving mission of ABMDR, during AYF's outing at Camp Haiastan (Franklin, Massachusetts). We commend their spirit of activism, and salute Camp Haiastan for creating an environment that encourages community involvement.



Outreach and public-awareness events in Southern California, led by Dr. Madelian



Dr. Vergine Madelian during her presentation at Adventist Health Glendale.



Armenian-American Nurses' Association Board members, organizers of the event at Adventist Health, with Dr. Madelian and supporters.



Photo above left: Dr. Madelian with members of the Armenian Relief Society's "Karni" and "Sevan" chapters, organizers of the presentation at the Orange County Armenian Center, with supporters. Above right: Dr. Madelian during her presentation at the Orange County Armenian Center. Photo below: Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate, and Dr. Madelian flanked by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Prelacy, organizers of the presentation at the Prelacy.

ABMDR Outreach and Education: raising public awareness of our work

ABMDR's Outreach and Education Team is in charge of introducing our Registry to the public and explaining its role. The lack of understanding with regard to bone marrow stem cell transplantation, the fact that it is the last hope for patients with blood illnesses, and how easy and safe it is to become a donor is the biggest obstacle that keeps young and healthy individuals from joining the Registry in droves. This is also the reason that so many patients and their loved ones wait till the last minute (often with tragic outcomes) to find an appropriate donor to save their life. Explaining these points clearly and thoroughly is the task of ABMDR's Outreach Team.



Through formal lectures or informal sessions with small groups or patient families, we educate the community in two main areas. First, we lay out the process of becoming a donor in a clear, step-by-step fashion, answering any and all questions and concerns of volunteers ready to join the Registry, and making it possible for them to enlist with confidence and the knowledge that becoming a donor is a safe, non-invasive, painless, and easy process. Second, we introduce ABMDR as a valuable resource to patient families and the public at large. Accordingly, we teach the community about various types of blood-related illnesses, steps to be taken upon diagnosis, treatment options (including bone marrow stem cell transplants), and the readiness of ABMDR to guide the family through its journey.

Dr. Vergine Madelian, ABMDR Outreach and Education Officer



Archbishops Derderian and Mardirossian pledge continued support for ABMDR mission

In February 2019, delegations from the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, comprising several Board members, visited His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate, at the Western Prelacy; and His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, at the Western Diocese.

During the visits, which took place on February 12 and 14, respectively, members of the delegations thanked both Archbishops for their leadership in supporting the life-saving mission of ABMDR. Delegation members also presented the Archbishops with an overview of the Registry's activities and achievements in the course of the past year, and discussed plans and prospects for expanding the organization's work.

On their part, Archbishops Derderian and Mardirossian conveyed their congratulations on the 20th anniversary of the founding of ABMDR, an occasion that will be celebrated throughout 2019. As the Archbishops praised ABMDR's accomplishments in the course of the past two decades, they reaffirmed their strong support of the Registry's mission, and reiterated their commitment to helping ensure its continued success.

To this end, Archbishops Derderian and Mardirossian announced that, as in the past several years, they have each designated a special day of prayer for 2019, during which prayers will be offered at churches across Southern California for ABMDR patients and their families, as well as ABMDR volunteers. As importantly, both Archbishops reaffirmed their commitment to supporting a wide range of ABMDR outreach activities within their respective congregations.

"It is so very wonderful to enjoy the support of our church leaders in advancing our life-saving mission," said Dr. Frieda Jordan, President of ABMDR, and continued, "The strong advocacy demonstrated by Archbishops Derderian and Mardirossian is all the more noteworthy this year, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of ABMDR."



Ramella and Dr. Norik Markarian



Ramella Markarian has had a key role in ABMDR's partnership with Adventist Health Glendale. Ramella is Adventist's Business Development Executive and a member of its Civic Advisory Board. She is also a devoted member of the ABMDR Board. Thanks to her efforts, Adventist Health Glendale provides ABMDR with considerable support, including major sponsorship of our annual Gala. We thank Ramella for her wonderful dedication.

Dr. Carolann and George Najarian



Mr. and Mrs. George and Dr. Carolann Najarian are two of the earliest and most avid supporters of ABMDR's life-saving mission. Year after year, the Najarians spare no effort to champion our cause, by spreading the word about our work and encouraging others to bring their support. We thank Mr. and Mrs. George and Dr. Carolann Najarian for their enthusiastic advocacy of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

Lara Yeretsian & Hratch Manuelian



It's all about the healing power of laughter, community togetherness, and solidarity for a great cause. Lara Yeretsian is the co-founder (with Sam Tripoli) of Laughter for Life, as well as the longtime Chairwoman of our Comedy Night Committee. As such, she has been instrumental in making the annual Laughter for Life one of our most popular and successful events. Lara is also a highly dedicated member of the ABMDR Board.

Amy and Michael Boyadjian



The ABMDR Casino Night, one of our most beloved fundraising events, is made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Amy Boyadjian, of the Tri-Tech company. Year after year, the Boyadjians graciously organize and host the event, to the delight of our supporters. Moreover, as an ABMDR Board member, Amy Boyadjian continues to bring her unique touch and exemplary dedication to all of our community and benefit events.

Viken and Salpi Mankerian



Mr. and Mrs. Viken and Salpi Mankerian, of Mission Wine and Spirits, are the driving force behind our Wine-tasting event. By generously organizing and hosting this annual fundraiser, Mr. and Mrs. Mankerian delight our wine-aficionado supporters while helping advance our life-saving mission. In addition, as an ABMDR Board member, Salpi Mankerian brings her wonderful dedication to all our benefit events and organizational work.

Naz Atikian, Le Papillon

Naz Atikian, proprietor of Le Papillon, in Los Angeles, has always had a dynamic role in helping contribute to the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry's life-saving mission. She has done so by hosting various fundraising events, chairing our Gala Committee several times, and initiating the Angels ceremony at the Gala. A devoted member of the ABMDR Board of Directors, Atikian also supports the mission of our organization by donating valuable items to our Gala and other fundraising events, as well as to our annual Lottery. We convey our heartfelt gratitude to Naz Atikian for her extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm, and generosity.



Alvart Badalian



As the head of the ABMDR New England Support Group, Alvart Badalian has had a pivotal role in the growth of our organization throughout the East Coast. Alvart remains the driving force behind our annual New England walkathon and a range of outreach and fundraising events, ensuring broad community and corporate support, as well as dynamic youth participation, for the advancement of ABMDR's life-saving mission.

The 4over, Inc. team



Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian, the proprietors of 4over, Inc., in Los Angeles, are outstanding exemplars of the spirit of community give-back. Today, they continue to bring their extraordinary support to the work of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry by generously donating 4over's printing services for the publication of our annual Newsletter. We thank Tina and Zarik for being there for ABMDR year after year.

Drs. Avagyan and Sokurenko



Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko and Dr. Arpenik Avagyan are among the Registry's most cherished and longtime supporters. As scientists and doctors, they share a profound appreciation for the continued growth of ABMDR and for the advancement of its mission. And as individuals who are passionate about humanitarian causes, they continue to be invaluable advocates of the life-saving mission of the Registry.

Stepan and Linda Vartanian



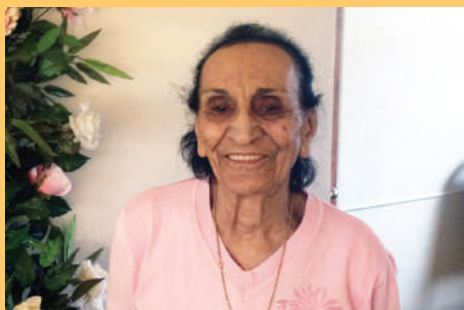
Mr. and Mrs. Stepan and Linda Vartanian continue to be sources of strength and inspiration for ABMDR. Ever since 2001, they have graciously donated to us the use of their Foundation Laboratory, as our US operational hub. Moreover, the Vartanians support ABMDR through their major sponsorship of our walkathon in Los Angeles, and through their volunteer work to help ensure the success of our many outreach and fundraising events.

Assadoorian family



Some years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Narbeh and Bianca Assadoorian donated all monetary presents for the christening of their son to ABMDR. In 2018, they once again supported the Registry by donating to it all monetary gifts received for the christening of their daughter. We thank the Assadoorians for their thoughtful generosity.

Anahit Janoyan



An enthusiastic supporter of ABMDR's life-saving mission and a sponsor of a room at our Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan, Anahit Janoyan continues to inspire all of us with her marvelous enthusiasm.

Armenian Spiritual Cultural Foundation fundraising event, Los Angeles



In August 2018, during a Los Angeles fundraiser of the Armenian Spiritual Cultural Foundation, attendees and supporters were also familiarized with the life-saving mission of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Subsequently the Armenian Spiritual Cultural

Foundation donated a portion of the event's proceeds to ABMDR. Our heartfelt thanks go to the leadership of the Foundation, including Mr. Voury Demirjian, and members who were present at the event, for their gracious gesture and exemplary support of our mission.



Thank you for in lieu of flowers

In loving memory of

- Mariana Kazarian
- Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
- Arlene Titizian
- Hrach Lukassian
- Adda Andonian
- Nora Antonian
- Alice Arzoomanian
- Chris Azizian
- Krikor Barsamian



Mariana Kazarian



Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian



Arlene Titizian



Hrach Lukassian



Adda Andonian



Nora Antonian



Alice Arzoomanian



Krikor Barsamian

New ABMDR schedule of activities outlined at annual planning retreat



The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry's latest annual planning retreat was held on February 24, 2019, in Los Angeles. In the first portion of the event, ABMDR Board members presented comprehensive reports on various aspects of the organization's work. Subsequently they

mapped out a schedule of activities for 2019, comprising a broad range of community-outreach, public-awareness, and fundraising events. The attendees also discussed various measures to continue to ensure the impact of the ABMDR mission and expand its footprint across the globe.



Congratulations

Tatevman

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TATEV MANUKYAN

Thank you, Tatev Manukyan, for your beautiful designs, including the ABMDR 20th-anniversary logo and our Newsletter's cover page, as well as the announcements for our Los Angeles walkathon, Gala, and EFI conferences in Yerevan.

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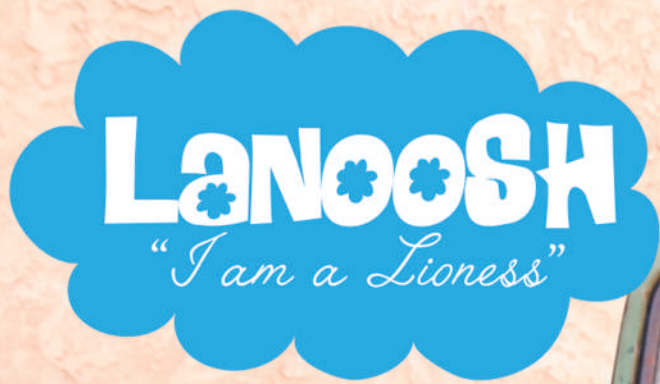
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