

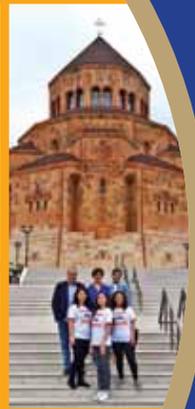
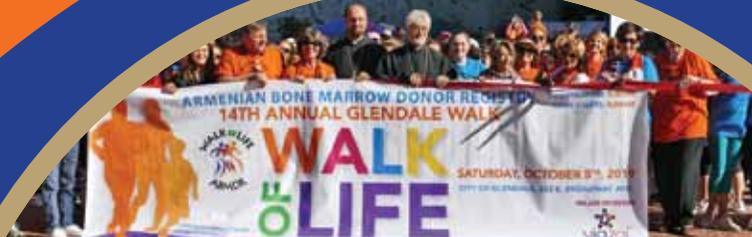
ABMDR

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

2020 NEWSLETTER



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At 21, ABMDR forges ahead to expand its life-saving mission



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

How can it be? Our “baby” is turning 21! Born out of a desperate call for help in 1999 from a family in the US, the networking of a few organizations, and a response from two medical professionals in England and Armenia, ABMDR has since developed into a mature and internationally respected organization that has received thousands of requests for help, and provided life-saving procedures for patients around the globe. Our cause has inspired over 32,000 potential donor registrants, including thousands of soldiers from Armenia and Artsakh, whom you

will find honored and highlighted on page 19. Also highlighted here are the incredible international connections being made by ABMDR between patients and donors — read about the magical triangle created by a German patient, a US donor, and the Yerevan Stem Cell Harvesting Center in our interview with Dr. Avagyan, on this page. ABMDR’s accomplishments continue to attract the attention of world health professionals, as evidenced by last year’s request by the European Federation for Immunogenetics to have us host not one but two of its prestigious conferences in Armenia, and to share our expertise with colleagues. In the years ahead, you’ll see our well-traveled organization venturing into new communities, in Kuwait and England, with an eye toward reaching the ambitious goal of 40,000 donors in 2020! I thank each of you for the nurturing which you have provided to ABMDR over the years, and which you continue to provide. We can all claim to be proud parents!

Frieda Jordan, PhD, President



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

ABMDR has truly come of age, and I am so proud of all that has been accomplished. There have been, of course, growing pains along the way — developing the volunteer network and funding to keep up with the momentum of our Pan-American cause, and figuring out all the logistics for expanding our laboratory operations — but we have persevered, and we are now thriving. Happy 21st birthday to ABMDR!

Mark Geragos, Esq.

Chairman of the Board of Directors



MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry is 21 years young. This is a vital organization which has contributed so much to our people in Armenia, Artsakh, and around the world, and which has many years ahead to positively impact future generations. I convey my heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for continued success to our volunteers and supporters across the world.

Bella Kocharyan, MD

Honorary Chair,
former First Lady of Armenia

ABMDR’s Stem Cell Harvesting Center: trusted by donors and patients alike

An interview with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan



Q: There seems to be a greater frequency in ABMDR donor matches in recent years. What accounts for this?

A: Yes, we are very pleased to be harvesting more frequently. One of the reasons for this is the increased number of donors in our worldwide registry. As we have stressed, the more donors we have to draw upon, the better our chances of finding a match statistically... and the more lives we save!

Q: It’s wonderful to see more donor and patient matches. But it is also striking to see that the ABMDR Harvesting Center has been increasingly active. Why is that?

A: Where stem cells are harvested is often simply a function of where the donor lives. Our 31st, 32nd, and 34th donors — Dr. Iloyan, Christine, and Arman — all happened to live in Yerevan, and their stem cells were couriered to patients in Iran, Spain, and Germany, respectively. But in July 2019, we were honored to have our 33rd donor travel from Los Angeles to Yerevan to have his stem cells harvested.

Q: That is remarkable. Why did he make the trek to Armenia?

A: Well, that’s why we’re so honored. He had the choice of having the harvesting procedure done in Los Angeles or Yerevan, and he chose our Center. I humbly believe that the professionalism and experience we have demonstrated over the last 13 years since the Center was established have earned confidence and trust.

Q: ABMDR has truly gained a reputation for excellence. And the connections between people in different parts of the world are so heartening.

A: Yes, our 33rd case is a true triangulation involving a Lebanese-Armenian in the US and a patient in Germany, connecting through our laboratory in Armenia. We hope there will be many more such life-saving connections in the years ahead, especially as we continue to expand our Registry and facilitate more donor matches with our patients in need.



Aram, of Los Angeles, traveled to Armenia to donate stem cells for a potentially life-saving bone marrow transplant in Germany.

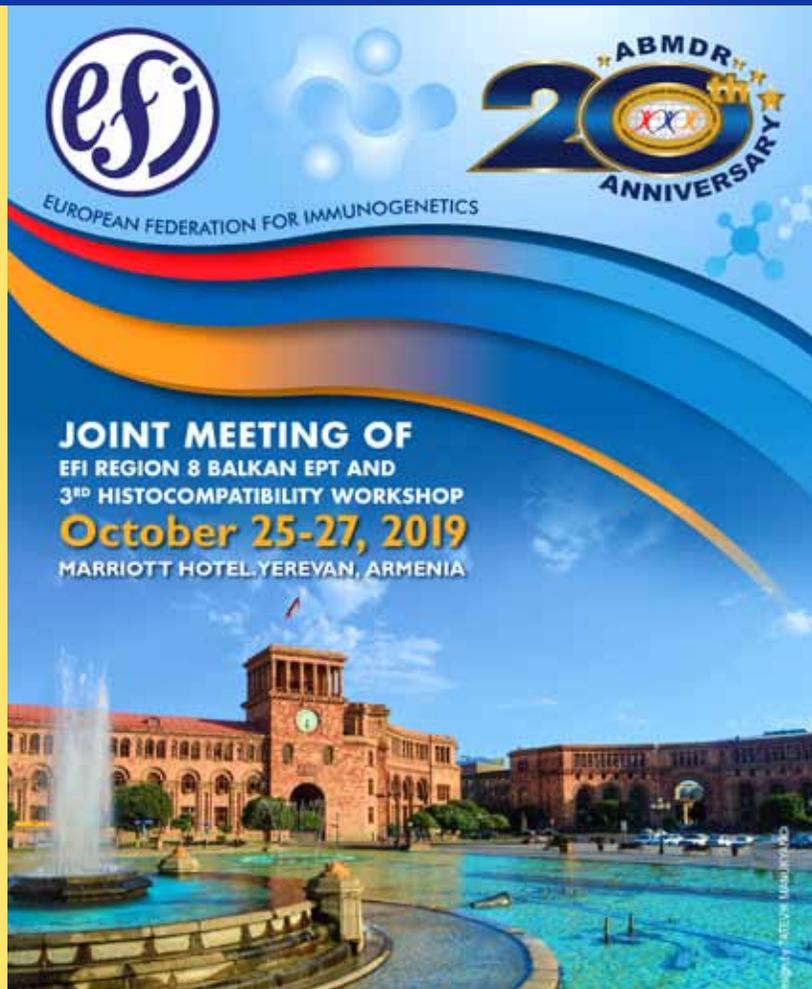
ABMDR hosts two global conferences in Yerevan

ABMDR reached a new milestone in October 2019 by hosting two prestigious global conferences: the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) Educational Meeting and Workshop; and the EFI Region 8 and Balkan EPT Meeting. The events took place in Yerevan, from October 25 to 27.

The highly-anticipated conferences functioned as a regional forum for sharing the latest advances in the fields of immunogenetics and histocompatibility on the one hand, and provided advanced training and education to participants on the other. By doing so, the two conferences helped expand the knowledge base and increase the professional capabilities of participants, and promoted continued international medical collaboration, especially among new and emerging national bone marrow registries.

Previously, ABMDR has hosted the EFI Educational Meeting and Workshop in Yerevan twice, in 2011 and 2014. In 2019, EFI entrusted ABMDR to host not one, but two conferences in Armenia, once again basing its decision on ABMDR's capabilities and achievements. These include the Registry's research and development work at its Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan, its track record in facilitating bone marrow transplants and autotransplantation procedures, and its global impact as a national bone marrow donor registry.

Featuring an outstanding roster of speakers, the conferences in





Yerevan were attended by more than 200 participants. They included scientists, physicians, representatives of international and national bone marrow transplant centers and registries, and medical students from the Caucasus, the Middle East, the United States, Europe, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Cyprus. In all, 30 countries were represented at the conferences in Yerevan.

The conferences were kicked off on October 25 with a festive reception, during which welcome remarks were delivered by ABMDR Executive Director and Conference Chair Dr. Sevak Avagyan and EFI President Dr. Joannis Mytilineos. In his address, Dr. Avagyan emphasized the importance of hosting the conferences in Yerevan, given the fact that Armenia has become a regional hub, functioning as a bridge between EFI

(continued on the next page)



and countries in the region. On his part, Dr. Mytilineos underscored EFI's instrumental role in educating its members, bringing all member countries together to ensure the quality of lab work in the fields of transplantation and immunogenetics, and, ultimately, in increasing the chances of survival for patients across the world.

The EFI Educational Meeting and Workshop took place on October 26. Conference participants received certification from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

On the evening of October 26, a Gala Dinner-Dance was held to celebrate the success of the EFI Educational Meeting and Workshop.

The EFI Region 8 and Balkan EPT Meeting took place on October 27. The conference was dedicated to presentations on the diverse activities of Region 8 labs, as well as the EFI membership and accreditation processes, including external proficiency testing (EPT) protocols.

EFI's Region 8 countries comprise Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Montenegro, and Israel. During the conference on October 27, emerging bone marrow registries were encouraged to become members of EFI.

The EFI conferences in Yerevan were made possible by the support of a number of sponsors and working partners, including Immucor, One Lambda, Histogenetics, CareDx, Parseq Lab, and Alliance Global.





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I am also a proud member of ABMDR's, 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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20th-anniversary events: 600 in Artsakh join ranks of ABMDR

On March 26 and 27, 2019, during a series of recruitments held in Artsakh, a total of 350 supporters joined ABMDR for a chance to help save the lives of patients in need of bone marrow stem cell transplants. The recruitments, held in collaboration with the Health Ministry of Artsakh, took place at the police headquarters of the republic, Artsakh State University, Shushi College of Technology, Stepanakert Medical College, and Artsakh State Medical Center.

On July 1, 2019, an ABMDR team traveled to Artsakh in order to both celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization and recruit donors. The ABMDR team comprised Dr. Frieda Jordan, president; Dr. Sevak Avagyan, executive director; ABMDR Board members and supporters including Mr. and Mrs. Stepan and Linda Vartanian as well as Kristina Sokurenko (daughter of Dr. Arpenik Avagyan and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko); and staff members from ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan.

The first recruitment drive was held in Chartar, a village in the Martuni Region. Later in the day, an ABMDR-organized concert was held at one of the area's barracks. The concert's featured singers, including Leyla Saribekyan, Davit Amalyan, and Gohar Hovhannisyanyan, created great enthusiasm among the garrison's soldiers and officers, many of whom joined the renowned performers in singing and dancing to patriotic songs.

"Our soldiers constitute an immensely important segment of our donor registry, since young, healthy donors are ideal for facilitating life-saving transplants by donating their stem cells," Dr. Jordan said and continued: "Apart from this, Artsakh continues to play a crucial role in the success of our work, not only in terms of its heartfelt enthusiasm for our mission, but the tangible fact that no less than 8,000 of our more than 30,000 registered donors are residents of Artsakh."

Kristina Sokurenko, who helped with the recruitment drives and experienced the community-outreach process first-hand, commented on the impassioned efforts of the boy's family to find a matched donor. She said, "Matching bone marrow donors and patients is far more complex than matching blood types, and it was not lost on the young patient's father, who understood that finding a donor for his son was like finding a needle in a haystack. To him, every single person who registered as a potential donor that day offered a renewed glimmer of hope: that the next woman or the next man walking into the room could turn out to be the perfect match the family was praying for. This is the battle that ABMDR wages every single day – by constantly expanding its donor pool, it closes the gap between a patient's suffering and the hope for survival."

In all, the recruitment events in the Martuni Region resulted in a total of more than 250 new recruits, including a large number of soldiers and officers, who joined ABMDR as potential bone marrow stem cell donors.





This page is sponsored by George and Araxi Titizian and family.

L.A. Armenian donates stem cells for life-saving transplant in Germany

In July 2019, Aram, a young resident of Los Angeles, traveled to Armenia to donate stem cells for a potentially life-saving bone marrow transplant in Germany. Aram has been a registered donor with ABMDR since 2010. In June 2019, he was identified as a donor match for a cancer patient in Germany. Soon after being notified by ABMDR of his matched-donor status, Aram was given the choice of having his stem cells harvested in either Los Angeles or Yerevan. Aram opted for the latter.

On July 22, stem cells were harvested from Aram at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in the Armenian capital. The safe, non-invasive procedure was performed by Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan. Afterwards the donated stem cells were rushed via a special international courier to Germany, to be utilized for a potentially life-saving transplant.

"We are so very proud of Aram, for his extraordinary generosity and practical altruism alike," said Dr. Frieda Jordan, president of ABMDR, and continued: "Aram symbolizes the spirit of giving on which the very success of our organization has been built. Today, thanks to his swift action, the life of yet another patient will be saved through a transplant."

Clockwise from top: stem cell donor Aram; Aram with his sister, Ani, and ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan; Aram and his sister with ABMDR Board members and the executive staff of the organization's Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in Yerevan.



SUPPORTERS VISIT ABMDR'S HLA-TYPING LAB, GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF ACTIVITIES



Visitors included Ramella Markarian and her son, Eric.



Students from Vahan and Anoush Chamlian Armenian School, Los Angeles.



Dr. Carolann Najarian and her family.



Alique Topalian and her father, Mourad.



Razmik Moghadesian and his wife, Arsineh.



Hilda Gourdikian.



Paulette Malekian.



Maral Der Torossian and family.



Dr. Frieda Jordan conducts EFI accreditation inspection in Greece



As an official inspector with the European Federation for Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility (EFI), Dr. Frieda Jordan conducted a technical inspection of the HLA Typing Laboratory of Evangelismos Hospital, in Athens, Greece, on February 23, 2020. Following a rigorous inspection, including interviews with staff and examinations of all technical equipment, and instruments, and procedures, Dr. Jordan issued a recommendation for renewing the institution's EFI accreditation.

Aleksey Yablokov, Editor-in-Chief of *Blood5* magazine; and Sergey Mostovshikov, Director of the Blood5 Project, from the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry of the Russian Federation.



Continuing education for staff a top priority for ABMDR Lab

Doctors from the Arabkir Medical Center, in Yerevan.



In 2019, ABMDR Senior Lab Technician and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan (in the left photo above) completed the World Marrow Donor Association's Search Coordinator Certificate Training Programme, Advanced Level. Also in 2019, ABMDR Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan (appearing in the photo above right with Katerina Psarra) received advanced training in flow cytometry, at the HLA Typing Laboratory of Evangelismos Hospital in Athens, for the second time since 2009. This time around, Hyusyan received training in flow cytometry crossmatching, which helps detect HLA antibodies in transplant recipients, predict transplant outcomes, and avoid graft rejection. This method allows helping professionals working in the field of solid organ transplantation to choose donors with a lower risk of acute or chronic rejection. "The Evangelismos staff, particularly my friend and mentor Katerina Psarra, were very helpful and caring, and I know that I always can rely on their support," Hyusyan said.



Talin Vartanian, son Alec, and Dr. Zareh Baghoumian



Recruitments in Michigan and California to help save life of leukemia patient

In a grassroots effort to help save the life of a leukemia patient, ABMDR held a series of recruitment drives in Michigan and California in January 2020.

The patient, Rafee Alsaeeh, is a 45-year-old resident of Los Angeles. Since his illness is life-threatening, he urgently needs a bone marrow stem cell transplant, which would be possible only if he is matched with a bone marrow stem cell donor. Rafee is of Armenian and Iraqi-Chaldean descent. Given the genetic similarities of Armenians and Chaldeans, and therefore the strong likelihood of finding a donor match from either community, ABMDR recruited potential donors from



Over 400 supporters register as potential bone marrow stem cell donors

both. After meeting with Rafee's family and upon their request, ABMDR held an informational recruitment drive with the Chaldean community of Detroit on January 18. Organized by the patient's family, the recruitment took place at the Regency Manor in Southfield, Michigan. The daylong recruitment was conducted by Dr. Frieda Jordan, President of ABMDR; and Fimi Mekhitarian, the Registry's West Coast Recruitment Officer. As Dr. Jordan informed the large audience of supporters, becoming a bone marrow stem cell donor is a simple, safe, and painless process, and has the potential of helping save the life of a patient such as Rafee, or any of the numerous patients currently waiting for a donor match.



On January 19, a second recruitment was held in the hall of St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, in Southfield, with the purpose of recruiting donors from the local Armenian community. For this event, Dr. Frieda Jordan and Fimi Mekhitarian were joined by the Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Pastor of St. John Armenian Church, and ABMDR's East Coast recruitment team, headed by East Coast Recruitment Officer Maral Der Torossian. In his remarks during the event, Fr. Jebejian introduced ABMDR's life-saving mission and urged attendees to support the organization by signing up as donors and volunteers. Also addressing the audience was Dr. Jordan, who spoke about ABMDR's outreach activities worldwide and its goal of continually expanding its registry of donors. Following a Q&A session, many supporters joined the ranks of ABMDR as potential bone marrow stem cell donors.



The recruitment effort continued on January 20, with a major event at the Auditorium of Adventist Health Glendale, in Glendale, California. Facilitated by Ramella Markarian, ABMDR Board member and Business Development Executive with Adventist Health Glendale, the event saw an extraordinary outpouring of support from the Armenian community of Los Angeles. Within three hours, more than 300 donors were recruited.



“The marvelous spirit of giving which we witnessed in Detroit and Glendale is what ABMDR’s life-saving mission is all about.”

The event proved all the more special for attendees when patient Rafee himself dropped by to personally thank them. In all, over 400 potential donors joined the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry during the recruitment events in Michigan and California. “We are deeply touched and impressed by the overwhelmingly-

positive response of the Chaldean-American and Armenian-American communities,” said Dr. Frieda Jordan and continued, “The marvelous spirit of giving which we witnessed in Detroit and Glendale is what ABMDR’s life-saving mission is all about, and we hope with all our hearts that a donor match will be found

for Rafee. I would like to thank Rafee’s gracious wife, Arsineh Sarkissian, and their family; the Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian; our highly-dedicated West Coast and East Coast recruitment teams; as well as Ramella Markarian, for all of their hard work in ensuring the success of our latest recruitment events.”

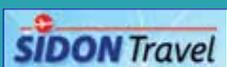
CONGRATULATIONS, 2019 ABMDR LOTTERY WINNERS!



First Prize Winner

C. Pathmarajill

Two round-trip tickets donated by Sidon Travel



Second Prize Winner

Raffi Marukian

iPad donated by Paulette Malekian



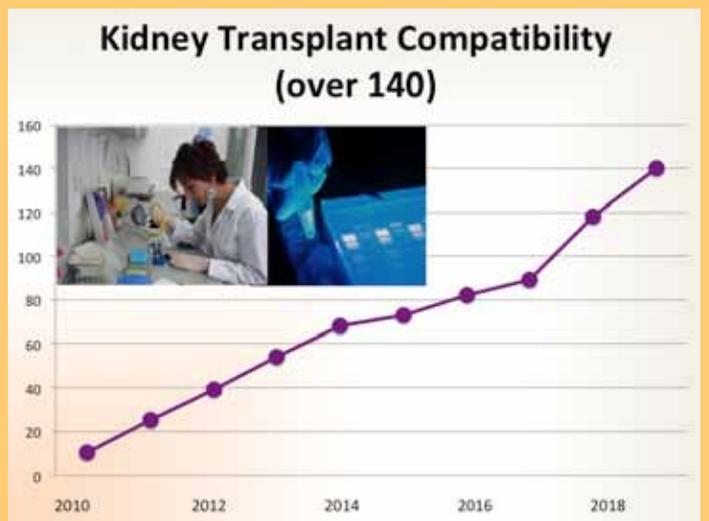
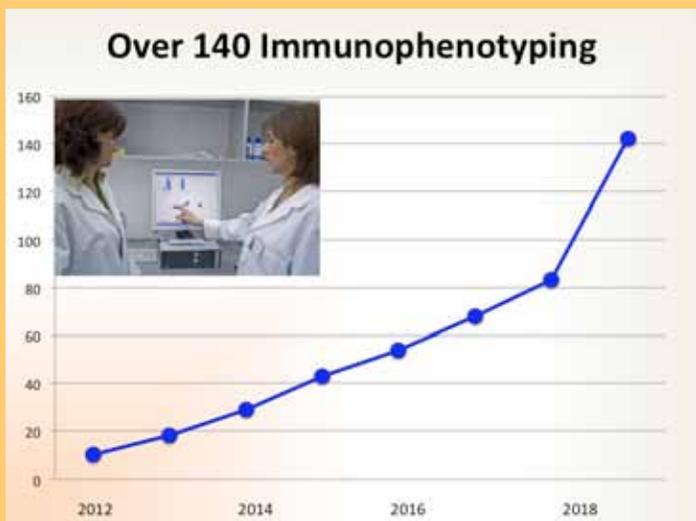
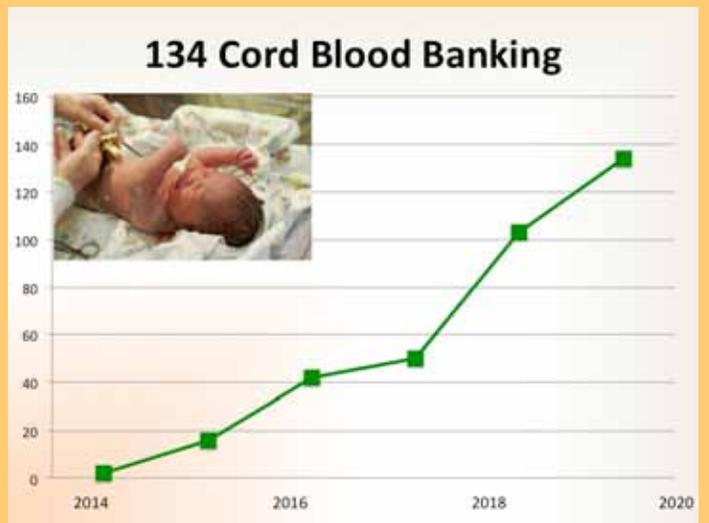
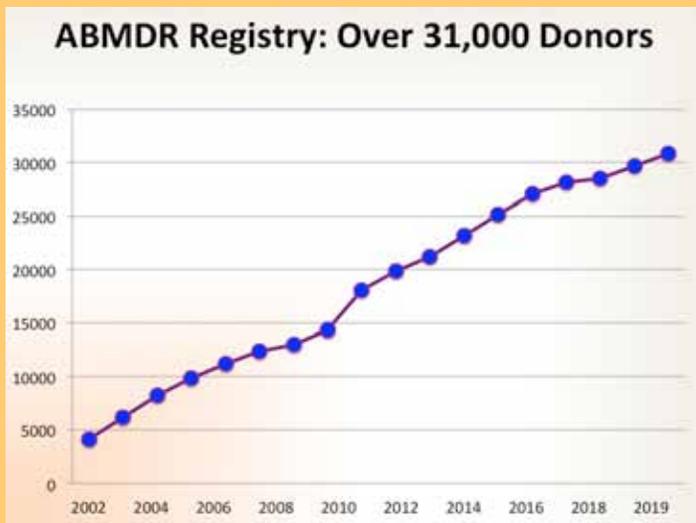
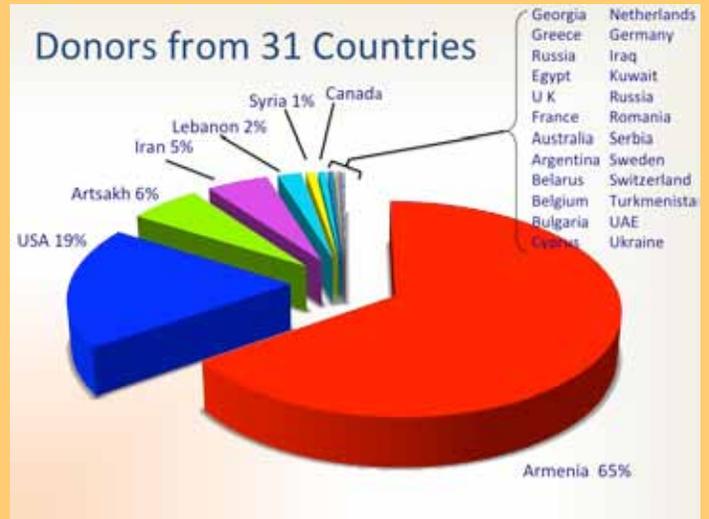
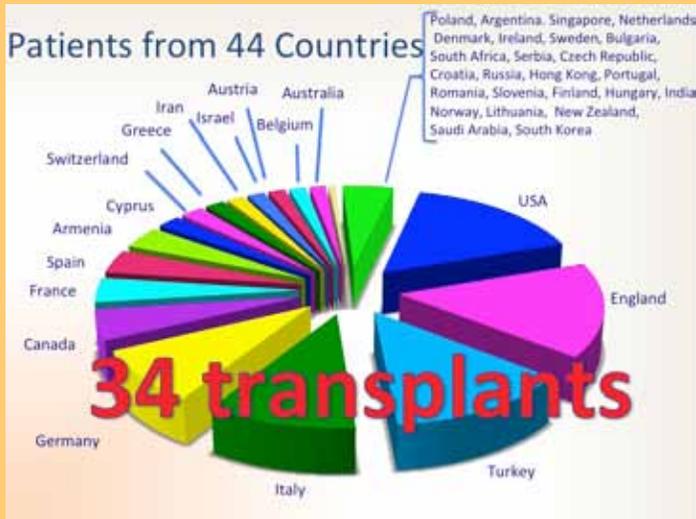
Third Prize Winner

Arlette Esmaili

Amazon Echo Show donated by Hratch and Annethe Postik



The work of ABMDR in 2019: a snapshot



2020 ABMDR STATS

- Registered over 31,000 donors worldwide
- Identified over 9,000 patients
- Facilitated 34 bone marrow transplants
- Active in 44 countries across four continents



Outreach and recruitment events, February 2019 through February 2020

ARMENIA

February 19, 2019: recruitment at National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (44 donors)
 February 21, 2019: recruitment at Central Police Station of Yerevan (14 donors)
 February 27-28, 2019: recruitments at various Police Stations of Yerevan (129 donors)
 March 5-13, 2019: recruitments at various Police Stations of Yerevan (138 donors)
 March 14, 2019: recruitment at #161 Kindergarten, Yerevan (55 donors)
 March 20-23, 2019: recruitments at various Police Stations of Yerevan (54 donors)
 April 7, 2019: recruitment at the Yerablur pantheon (15 donors)
 August 8, 2019: recruitment at YERAZ Kids Center, Yerevan (18 donors)
 September 20, 2019: recruitment at Military Institute of Armenia (60 donors)
 December 23, 2019: recruitment at Arabkir Medical Center (79 Donors)
 February 13, 2020: recruitment at Yerevan State College of Arts named after P. Terlemezyan (68 donors)

ARTSAKH

March 26, 2019: recruitments at Artsakh State University, Shushi College of Technology, Stepanakert Agricultural College, and Mesrop Mashtots University (130 donors)
 March 27, 2019: recruitment at Artsakh Republican Medical Center and Artsakh Police headquarters (120 donors)
 July 1, 2019: recruitment in Artsakh (Chartar village, Martuni barracks, Martuni City Hall, and Martuni Hospital) (250 donors)

GREECE

February 2, 2020: recruitment in the Armenian community of Greece, Athens (23 donors)

UNITED STATES

April 24, 2019: outreach and recruitment during April 24 commemoration at Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School, Encino, California.
 May 3, 2019: outreach and recruitment at 117th Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference (East Cost).
 September 20, 2019: outreach and recruitment during Armenian Students' Association of Boston Kebab Night, at the AGBU Center.
 September 20, 2019: outreach and recruitment during St. James Armenian Church Hye Cafe, Boston.
 October 19, 2019: outreach and recruitment at St. James Armenian Church Annual Bazaar, Watertown.
 November 1 and 2, 2019: outreach and recruitment at St. Stephen's Armenian Church Bazaar.
 November 2, 2019: outreach and recruitment at tenth annual Glendale Health Festival, at the Pacific Edison Community Center in Glendale, California. The Glendale Health Festival is a community service of the Armenian-American Medical Society.
 January 18, 2020: informational recruitment drive with the Chaldean community of Detroit, at Regency Manor in Southfield, Michigan, for patient Rafee Alsaeeh.
 January 19, 2020: recruitment at the hall of St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, in Southfield, Michigan, for patient Rafee Alsaeeh.
 January 20: recruitment in the Auditorium of Adventist Health Glendale, in Glendale, California, for patient Rafee Alsaeeh.

RECRUITMENTS IN ARMENIA

In the course of 2019, ABMDR held multiple outreach and recruitment events in Armenia, welcoming hundreds of enthusiastic supporters to its ranks. The events were held at the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia, the Central Police Station of Yerevan and various other Police Stations throughout the capital, the #161 Kindergarten, the Yerablur pantheon, the YERAZ Kids Center, the Military Institute of Armenia, Arabkir Medical Center, and Yerevan State College of Arts named after P. Terlemezyan.





A salute to our soldiers

There is a special mindset that soldiers have: a pledge to serve, to protect, to save the lives of those they defend. With this kind of passion and commitment, it's no surprise that soldiers are among ABMDR's most dedicated recruits. Armenian soldiers, police officers, and first responders, in Armenia and Artsakh alike, constitute an estimated 20 percent of ABMDR's registry of potential donors.

Not only have Armenian soldiers volunteered to register, but have stepped up as stem cell donors. Four have given their life-saving cells to patients seeking the help of ABMDR. This comprises a remarkable 12% of our organization's 34 donors. In some ways this is not surprising: the youth and healthiness of the soldiers fits the ideal profile for donors of stem cells.

Every year, the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute, in Yerevan, has consistently hosted donor-recruitment drives for ABMDR. Recruitment drives in Artsakh are also met with tremendous enthusiasm by soldiers and their officers. In March 2019, an ABMDR team traveled to Artsakh to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization, and to recruit donors. By the end of the visit, 350 new donors were registered.

Another series of outreach and recruitments events were held in Artsakh in July 2019, with 250 additional supporters joining the ranks of ABMDR.

Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, and accompanying supporters offered their profound gratitude with a concert held at one of the barracks. The event saw performers, guests, and soldiers joining together in patriotic song and dance.

In the midst of the celebratory activities, there was also a time of solemn remembrance of Artsakh Defense Army officers Hovsep Kirakosyan and Ashot Shahbazyan, registered ABMDR donors who were killed during the Azeri attack on Artsakh in 2016.

The soldiers of ABMDR are heroes, in wartime and in peace.



Sergey Ohanyan (photographed here with his wife and child) donated stem cells in 2017 for a patient in Iran.



Artak Lazyan donated stem cells in 2004 for a patient in Germany.



Hovhannes Alikhanyan donated stem cells in 2005 for a patient in Germany.



Vahe Vardanyan donated stem cells in 2004 for a patient, a little girl, in Italy. He later received an honorary Italian citizenship for having helped save the life of that girl.



ABMDR donors Hovsep Kirakosyan and Ashot Shahbazyan were Artsakh Defense Army officers. They lost their lives during the Azeri attack on Artsakh in April 2016.

First recruitment and outreach in

GREECE

In February 2020, Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan conducted ABMDR's first-ever recruitment and outreach in the Armenian community of Athens, Greece. The event was hosted by the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) of Greece, under the auspices of Archbishop Kegham Khatcherian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Greece. Attending the event were a large number of community members as well as several community leaders and dignitaries, including Anna Khachatryan, First Secretary of the Armenian Embassy in Greece. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Armenian community of Greece for its warm welcome and enthusiasm, and, in particular, to Lizet Kirazian, Chairperson of the ARS of Greece, who was instrumental in the success of the event.



April 24 commemoration, Ferrahian High School, Encino, California



Glendale Health Festival, Glendale, California



ABMDR participated in the tenth annual Glendale Health Festival, which took place on November 2 and 3, 2019, at the Pacific Edison Community Center in Glendale, California. Throughout the daylong festival, which provided free medical, dental, and



vision care to hundreds of local-community members, ABMDR volunteers provided visitors with information regarding the mission of the Registry and recruited potential bone marrow stem cell donors.

Thank you, Masis Geragosian, of Business Analytics and Industrial Engineering, for your donation to the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Emin and Lilith Terzian, for making a donation to ABMDR in lieu of wedding favors.



Comedy Night with Antic and Demq Show



Comedy Night Committee, Demq Show members, and Antic. Photo below: members of Demq.



ABMDR New England marked the organization's 20th anniversary with several events, including an extraordinary Comedy Night, held on May 11, 2019, at the Keljik Hall of St. James Armenian Apostolic Church. The event was attended by over 450 supporters and lovers of comedy. The Master of Ceremonies was Michael Demirchian. The Demq Show, produced by Gor Kirakosian, offered a wealth of Armenian anecdotes and skits, with some sprinkles of English. Members of Demq filled the first half of the show with continued laughter, preparing the crowd for a dynamic and hilarious performance by Antic. Comedy paired with appetizers and cocktails certainly provided the Armenian community with a different twist on the average fundraiser.

The Comedy Night was made possible by many generous supporters, including Rev. Fr. Arakel Ajjalian and Yn. Natasha, who provided the beautiful facilities at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, and local businesses and organizations which made in-kind donations. Congratulations to the Comedy Night Committee, co-chairs Michael Demirchian and Lori Yeterian, and committee members Alvar Badalian (ABMDR Board member), Maral Der Torossian (ABMDR Recruitment Officer), Rubina Varjabedian, Ardemis Minassian, Tatoul Badalian, Arax Badalian, Rebecca Shahverdian, Shant Der Torossian, Lori Yogurtian, Tamar Melkonian, Talin Abrimian, Ojen Kaviakian, Tatiana Nalbandian, and Karnee Berjikian for their efforts in ensuring the success of our Comedy Night.

Our clergy supporting ABMDR



On May 3, 2019, we had the privilege of recruiting and swabbing at the 117th Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference. Over 50 clergy and 200 lay delegates and leaders of the Eastern Diocese were present. We are so grateful to Yn. Natasha Ajjalian and Der Arakel Ajjalian for this unique and precious opportunity, and for their unconditional and continued support.



ASA Boston Kebab Night



September 20, 2019: the Armenian Students Association of Boston Kebab Night was held at the AGBU Center.

St. James Church Hye Cafe



The Hye Cafe was held on September 20, 2019.

Our new promotional cap



Olympic gymnast Houry Gebeshian joins ABMDR



On November 1, 2019, Olympic gymnast Houry Gebeshian became a bone marrow donor. ABMDR New England volunteers had a recruitment table at the St. Stephen's Armenian Church Bazaar in Watertown, which Gebeshian attended specifically in order to join the Registry. Thank you, Houry Gebeshian, for your exemplary support!

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and Senator Ed Markey show their support

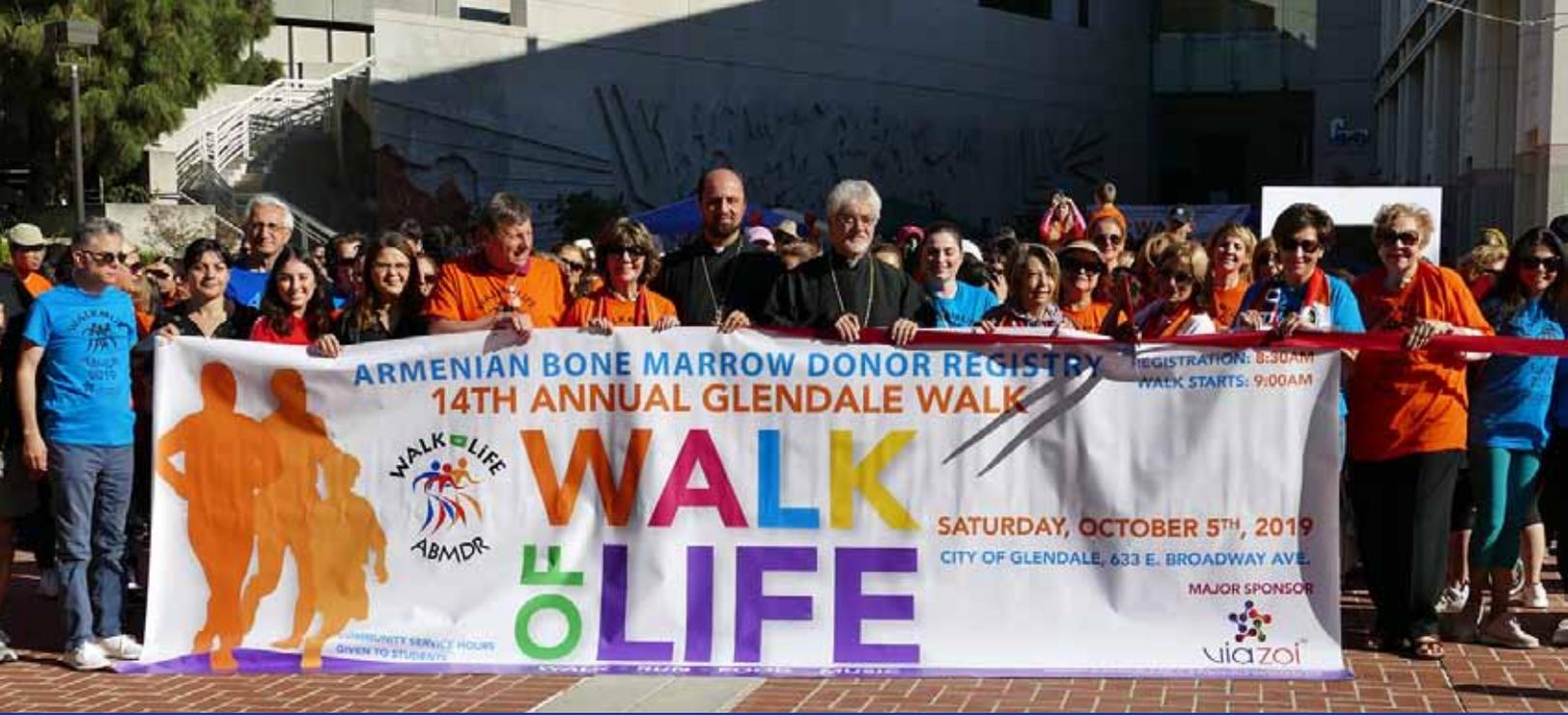


Above: November 2, 2019: Massachusetts Sheriff Peter Koutoujian (fourth from left) and Senator Ed Markey (fifth from left) show their support during ABMDR recruitment at St. Stephen's Armenian Church Annual Bazaar.

Below: November 23, 2019: ABMDR New England year-end celebration, hosted by Rubina and Kegham Varjabedian.

The ABMDR New England team celebrating a year of wonderful successes





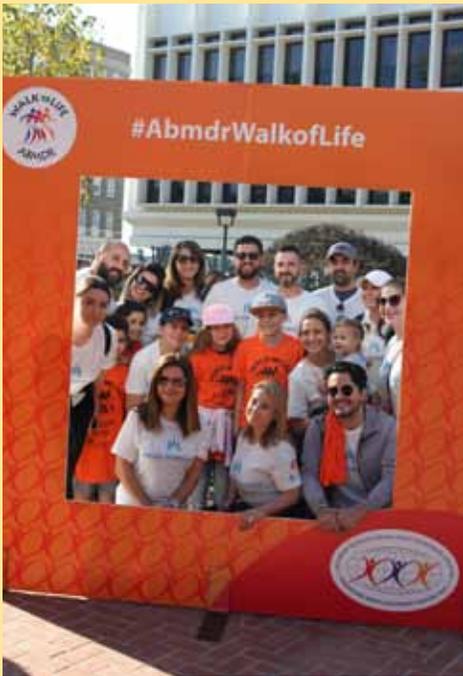
Walk of Life Los Angeles



Thank you, Viazoi, for being our major sponsor !

With its latest walkathon in Glendale, California, held on October 5, 2019, ABMDR celebrated its 20th anniversary while raising grassroots support for its mission of helping save lives across the globe. The more than 350 supporters who attended the event included state and local elected officials, community leaders, and numerous teams representing schools, universities, community organizations, and individual supporters. We thank all of our enthusiastic participants and volunteers, as well as our generous sponsors, for their marvelous support!







A big Thank You to all of our Los Angeles Walkathon sponsors: Viazoi, DJ Eddy O, Softline Solutions, 3T, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Paulette Malekian of Dilbeck Real Estate, the Armenian Professional Society, P.H. Solutions, Providence High School, Porto's Bakery & Café, Tamara Ice Cream, L.A. Smiles, ASAP Pharmacy, Super King Markets, Dr. Peter H. Ashjian, Prolase, and Flintridge Family Chiropractic.



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Laughter for Life

On the evening of November 10, 2019, Laughter for Life, ABMDR's 17th annual comedy night, thrilled a capacity audience while benefiting the organization's life-saving mission.

Laughter for Life took place at West Los Angeles' The Comedy Store, the famed landmark that has served as the show's venue since its inception. Over 350 supporters attended this year's comedy night, which, along with several other events, celebrated ABMDR's 20th anniversary.

The evening's performers included renowned comedians Sam Tripoli, Jeff Dye, Bobby Lee, Tamer Kattan, Chris Spencer, Josh Wolf, and Whitney Cummings.

"I thank our community for its continued support, and convey our profound gratitude to our hard-working Comedy Night Committee, including co-founders Lara Yeretsian and Sam Tripoli, as well as our dedicated and generous sponsors," Dr. Frieda Jordan said.

Yeretsian and Tripoli co-founded Laughter for Life in 2002, with the goal of supporting the ABMDR mission through outstanding comedy events.





Walk of Life New England

On September 28, 2019, the Armenian community of New England came together in support of ABMDR's eighth annual Walk of Life 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.

Walk of Life received support and sponsorship from several large and small businesses, including PROMETRIKA LLC of Cambridge, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association (AAPA), Watertown Savings Bank, ThermOil, Inc., several other local businesses, the Armenia Tree Project, the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), and the AGBU New England District.

At the walkathon's opening ceremony, held on the grounds of ACEC, Lori Yogurtian of ABMDR New England welcomed the participants. "Seventy-five percent of patients' lives depend on finding a matched unrelated donor," she said. "This is already a difficult situation. However, the unique genetic make-up of Armenians makes it nearly impossible for them to find suitable matches among the existing international registries. Every person the ABMDR informs, swabs, and registers is another

chance for a patient's life to be saved." On his part, Jack Antounian, lead marshal of the walk and president of the Armenian Business Network (ABN), provided safety guidelines to the walkers. This year, the ABN marshals were joined by several volunteer members of ABMDR New England. 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 ABMDR New England said, "A big Thank-you to all those who assisted in promoting this event among their co-workers, friends, and family. We couldn't do this without you!" Der Torossian went on to convey the New England Walk of Life Committee's deep gratitude to the event's sponsors and the walkathon marshals from the ABN for their continued support.

Following Der Torossian's remarks, Alec Der Sirakian, Lilit Hovnanian, and Sossy Yogurtian (AAPA) were awarded the first, second, and third top-fundraiser awards, respectively. For the seventh consecutive year, the Armenia Tree Project subsequently planted commemorative trees in Armenia in honor of the walkathon winners, as part of the #LivingCentury Initiative.





Thank you, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, for your generosity as a major sponsor of Walk of Life New England!





MATCH FOR LIFE GALA

With its annual Match for Life Gala in 2019, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry celebrated its 20th anniversary. The pan-Armenian event, which took place on August 25 at the Taglyan Complex, in Los Angeles, was attended by over 350 supporters, including elected

officials, community leaders, and honorees. "ABMDR exemplifies the spirit of compassion," Master of Ceremonies Dr. Sepilian said. "Over the past 20 years, ABMDR has grown to become a global organization that has recruited over 31,000 donors in 31 countries

across four continents, identified over 9,000 patients, and facilitated 33 life-saving bone marrow transplants. This work could not have been possible without the hard work and generosity of a whole army of volunteers and supporters."





Thank you, Adventist Health Glendale and Los Angeles Cancer Network, our major sponsors!



Congratulations, our 2019 award recipients!



Special-appreciation award recipients Ramella Markarian, representing Adventist Health Glendale; and Dr. Boris Bagdasarian and Dr. Nubar Boghossian of the Los Angeles Cancer Network.



ABMDR Visionary Award recipients Diana Artunian and Dr. Carolann Najarian. The ABMDR Visionary Award was also bestowed on Mark Geragos, Esq. (not pictured).



ABMDR Visionary Award recipients Mr. and Mrs. Stepan and Linda Vartanian, of Foundation Laboratory; ABMDR Lifetime Achievement Award recipient George Titizian.



Volunteer of the Year Award recipients Annethe Postik and Ara Soudjian.



Alvart Badalian, director of ABMDR's New England Support Group, accepting Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of Dr. Miganush Stepanians; ABMDR Organization of the Year Award recipients Dr. Boris Bagdasarian and Dr. Nubar Boghossian, of the Los Angeles Cancer Network.

THE ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY



Save the **DATE**

Match For Life
21st Annual GALA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020

GLENDALE HILTON

100 WEST GLENOAKS BLVD., GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

5:00 PM COCKTAIL 6:00 PM DINNER

**Congratulations, ABMDR,
on your 21st anniversary!**

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ABMDR participates in International Medical Congress of Armenia and Pan-Armenian Hematology Symposium

ABMDR leaders spoke at two major medical conferences in Armenia in 2019, in addition to the EFI conferences. On July 3, Dr. Frieda Jordan participated in the Second Pan-Armenian Hematology Symposium, held in Yerevan, during which she delivered a presentation on ABMDR's two decades of medical service to the global Armenian community.

On July 5, Dr. Jordan, along with Dr. Avagyan and ABMDR medical director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, participated in the Fifth International Medical Congress of Armenia, also held in Yerevan. In the photo on the right, Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan with Nairi Krafian, a longtime volunteer with ABMDR New England and recipient of the New England Walk of Life's Most Funds Raised Award for several years.



**EFI Annual Inspectors” Workshop,
Lisbon, Portugal**



Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry representatives visit Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon



The statue of philanthropist Calouste Gulbenkian



Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan with executives of the Calouste Gulbenkian, including Razmik Panossian, Director of the foundation's Armenian Communities Division.

Prayer Day at Western Diocese



Prayer Day at Western Prelacy



Western Diocese Annual Christmas Party



YWCA Legacy Luncheon



Dr. Jordan mentors Eric Markarian



Dr. Frieda Jordan mentored Eric Markarian, a student at Crescenta Valley High School, for his research. Eric went on to win second place at the 2019 Los Angeles County Science Fair, in the category of Pharmacology. In the photo above, from left: Stepan Vartanian, proprietor of Foundation Laboratory; Eric Markarian; Dr. Frieda Jordan; and Eric's father, Dr. Norik Markarian at Foundation Laboratory.

Mission Armenia Banquet



Organized by Adventist Health Glendale, the Mission Armenia banquet was held on September 15, 2019, at Tufenkian Fine Arts, in Glendale, California.

AAMS Gala



AAMS Mothers' Day Luncheon



Dr. Vergine Madelian presentation for Daughters of Vartan



Archbishops Derderian and Mardirossian reiterate their strong support of ABMDR

Delegations consisting of ABMDR Board members visited His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, at the Western Diocese; and His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate, at the Western Prelacy, in February 2019.

During the visits, the ABMDR representatives thanked both Archbishops for their outstanding leadership in supporting the life-saving mission of ABMDR. In particular, the delegation expressed gratitude to the Archbishops for boosting ABMDR's community-outreach efforts by featuring the organization on the television programs of the Diocese and the Prelacy, and for raising public awareness of ABMDR's work through annual prayer days.

The ABMDR Board members presented to the Archbishops an overview of the Registry's activities in the past year, and discussed plans and prospects for the future. On their part, Archbishops Derderian and Mardirossian commended ABMDR's most recent accomplishments. They also reaffirmed their strong support of the ABMDR mission, and reiterated their commitment to helping ensure its continued success.



Ramella and Dr. Norik Markarian



Lara Yeretsian & Hratch Manuelian



Stepan and Linda Vartanian



Dr. Carolann and George Najarian



Alvart Badalian



Tina Hartounian & Zarik Megerdichian



Amy and Michael Boyadjian



Viken and Salpi Mankerian



Anahit Janoyan



Drs. Avagyan and Sokurenko



For over two decades now, ABMDR has been at the forefront of helping save lives while refining its professional capacities and participating in global efforts to enhance donor recruitment and donor matching. The most recent example of this are the two EFI conferences which were organized and hosted by ABMDR in Yerevan, to great acclaim. We wish ABMDR to continue to grow, for the benefit of patients and families seeking tangible support in their courageous fight for life.

Dr. Arpenik Avagyan

Thank you for in lieu of flowers

In loving memory of

- Mariana Kazarian
- Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
- Arlene Titizian
- Hrach Lukassian
- Severt Seyranian
- Gohar Badalian
- Kasper Mardirosian
- Marie Mankerian
- Tamara Moradian
- Alice Kulhanian
- Levon Jordan
- Razmik Tilimian
- Alice Arzoomanian
- Roger Vitti



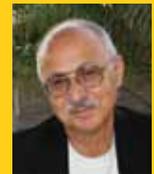
Mariana Kazarian



Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian



Arlene Titizian



Hrach Lukassian



Levon Jordan



Marie Mankerian



Gohar Badalian



Razmik Tilimian

ABMDR Board members honored by Armenian community and United States government

DR. FRIEDA JORDAN

Bridge of Health Humanitarian Award



PAULETTE MALEKIAN

Business Life Magazine
Women Achievers Award



LARA YERETSIAN

28th Congressional District Woman of the Year
Award from Congressman Adam Schiff



SONIA NERSISSIAN

Business Life Magazine
Women Achievers Award



DR. CAROLANN NAJARIAN

Certificate of Excellence
Kashatagh Multi-Children Family Foundation



AMY BOYADJIAN

Western Diocese
Certificate of Recognition



CARMEN LUKASSIAN

Glendale Youth Alliance
Legacy Award



Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Board meeting, summer 2019



ABMDR's 2020 goals and schedule of activities outlined at annual planning retreat, Los Angeles



Walk of Life Committee



Gala Committee



Christmas party

December 5, 2019,
Graff Gennaro's, Glendale, California



Our heartfelt thanks go to Saro Zakarian (in the left photo above, fourth from left), for generously providing his DJ skills for our gathering!



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