

ABMDR

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

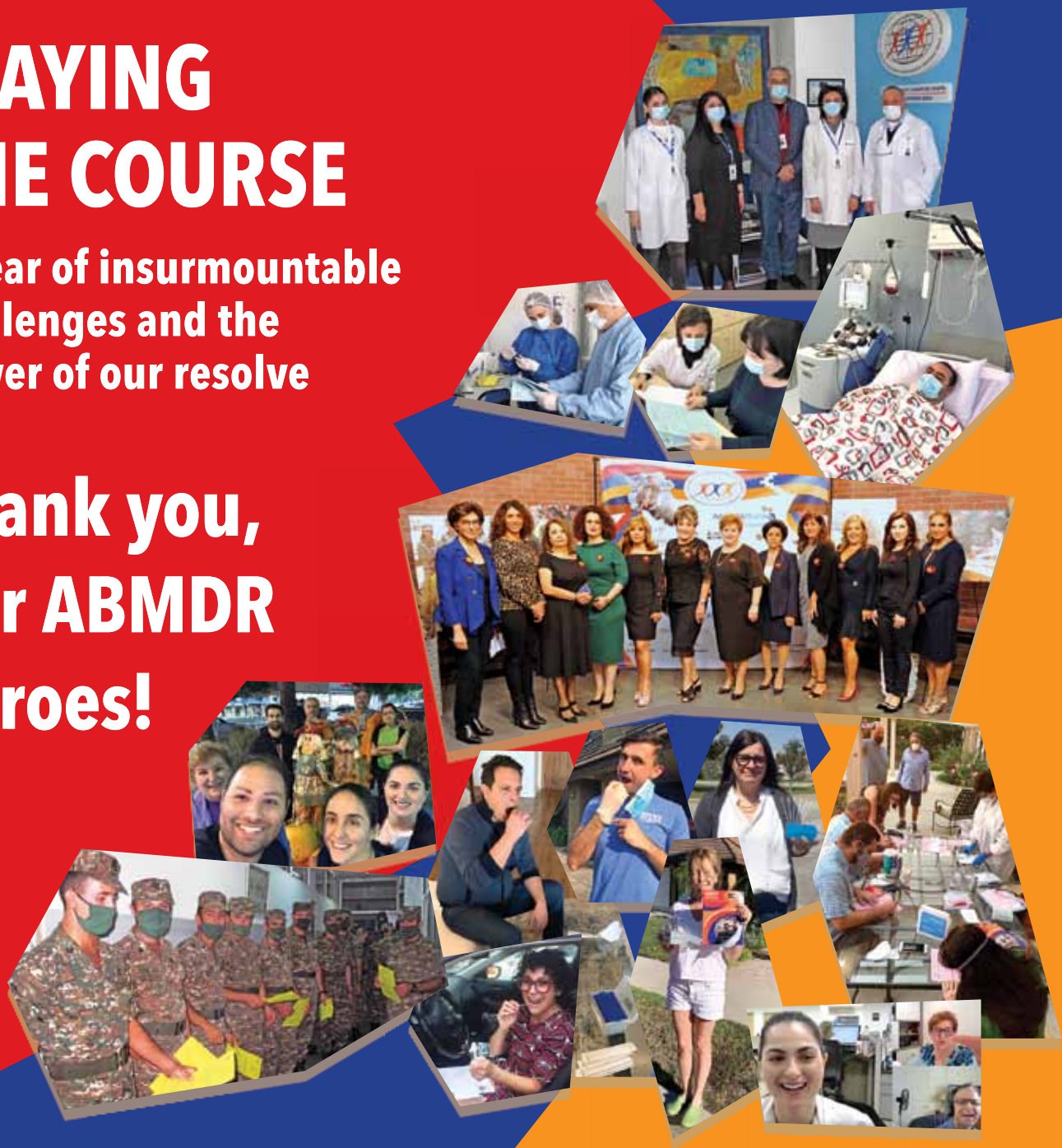
2021 NEWSLETTER



STAYING THE COURSE

A year of insurmountable challenges and the power of our resolve

Thank you, our ABMDR heroes!



THANK YOU,
OUR SPONSORS,
FOR YOUR
GENEROUS
CONTRIBUTIONS



Carmen Lukassian
Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko and Dr. Arpenik Avagyan

Dr. Vergine Madelian



DR. NEIBAR BOGHOSSIAN

FIGHTING CANCER
IS ABOUT *life*. YOUR FIGHT
TO *live* AND HAVE A LIFE
AFTER DIAGNOSIS AND
CANCER THERAPY.

THE DOCTORS AND STAFF OF THE
LOS ANGELES CANCER NETWORK
ARE *dedicated* TO BEING
YOUR TEAM FOR LIFE!



DR. BORIS BAGDASARIAN



LOS ANGELES CANCER NETWORK

www.LACancer.net
www.facebook.com/lacancernetwork

Glendale Memorial Hospital
222 West Eulalia Street, Suite 100C
Glendale, CA 91204
(818) 553-8160

Glendale Adventist Medical Center
1505 Wilson Terrace, Suite 200
Glendale, CA 91206
(818) 409-0105

A year of tough challenges and heartwarming resilience

Ask the Doctor: an interview with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last year, we celebrated our 20th anniversary and started 2020 with great energy and expectations. Then, suddenly, COVID-19 struck. Facing enormous obstacles, lack of funds, and incredibly demanding restrictions, we faced a difficult choice: pause, or confront the myriad of challenges and continue to serve our patients. We chose the latter. We adapted. Wearing masks and protective gear, we swabbed and tissue-typed patients and families in Armenia and L.A., found matches for patients all over the world, and completed three stem cell harvests for Armenian patients in Germany. We continued our

cord blood banking and other diagnostic tests for cancer and non-cancer patients in Armenia. In addition, we undertook an ambitious research project to determine the relationship between specific HLA types and the severity of the COVID-19 illness.

That we achieved all this against all odds is a testament to our ABMDR community: our dedicated lab staff that worked day and night under extremely trying conditions, and our staunch supporters whose generosity sustained our day-to-day operations, and also encouraged our timely research project. Thank you! But 2020 had one more disaster in store for us. The Artsakh war put our nation through a terrible tragedy. We lost so many precious young lives, many from among our very own donors. Our heartbreak is deep, but our resolve is deeper and stronger. Let us start this year with even more tenacity and determination. Let's honor our fallen heroes by helping our patients. Let's work together and keep saving precious lives.

Frieda Jordan, PhD, President



Q: This has been the year when COVID-19 paralyzed the world and stopped everyone and everything in its tracks. How was ABMDR affected?

A: Like most countries, Armenia was hit hard by COVID-19. We lost many citizens to the disease, people had to isolate in place, only essential personnel were allowed out for essential business. The country was shut down. But cancer doesn't stop for pandemics. So except for large-scale recruitments, our operations continued. We were as busy as ever.

Q: What kept the lab busy?

A: We continued to receive and process requests for patients in need of transplants from around the world. We processed a total of 6,000 such requests and 200 follow-up requests. Twenty of the patients were from Armenia.

Q: Did you find matches for any of these patients?

A: Yes, we did. In fact, under extremely difficult conditions, we harvested stem cells for three patients, all of them Armenian patients being treated in Germany. With the help of Armenia's Ministry of Health, and in spite of severe travel restrictions in Armenia and all over Europe, we managed to get all the proper documents to have special couriers fly the harvested cells to Germany for transplantation into these three patients. We are extremely proud of our team. These harvests, two in 2020, and one in early 2021, meant that three of our patients got a second chance at life.

Q: Three transplants in the year of a pandemic! That's truly remarkable. But I'm sure the lab staff was also occupied with other tasks.

A: Yes, indeed. We continued to perform all the diagnostic tests used to dictate the best course of treatment for patients, such as immunophenotyping and HLA disease association, and we performed all the matching for the kidney-transplant center in Armenia. We also processed and banked over 40 cord blood samples.

Q: That is very impressive. So while COVID-19 was certainly a great challenge, it didn't slow you down.

A: No, it didn't. In fact, in addition to our regular lab work, we undertook an investigation to study the relationship between HLA and COVID-19. We expand on this project in this issue's "Major Milestones" section (pages 6-7).

Q: We also know that the last few months of 2020 were consumed by the Artsakh war. What was that like?

A: That has been a devastating shock to the country. The loss of life and land was immeasurable, a heavy blow to the entire nation. Among the thousands of soldiers who lost their lives, many were from the ranks of our donors. They were family. We mourn them all, but vow to honor them by fighting even harder to save every life we can.



MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

For over 20 years, I have been associated with the ABMDR, and yet the work of this organization continues to astound me, particularly during these extraordinary times of the COVID-19 virus. I say this not only as its long-time honorary chair, but also as a trained epidemiologist: ABMDR has not only risen to the challenge facing health providers today, but excelled in its mission of finding and facilitating matches for our people, in Armenia and beyond. My heartfelt gratitude to you all for your professionalism and perseverance, now more than ever.

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



Yerevan resident donates stem cells to help save life of Armenian patient in Germany

Despite unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, ABMDR facilitated a life-saving stem cell-harvesting procedure. On January 11, a Yerevan resident, a young man who is a registered donor with ABMDR, donated bone marrow stem cells to help save the life of an Armenian cancer patient undergoing treatment in Germany. The Yerevan resident was identified as a perfect stem cell donor match for the recipient patient, who suffers from a life-threatening illness and whose last hope of survival is a stem cell transplant.

The painless, non-invasive harvesting of cells from the donor, the 36th such procedure to be performed by ABMDR, took place in Yerevan. As soon as the harvesting was completed, the donated cells were flown to Germany with the help of a special courier, Nico Keiser. Present at the harvesting procedure in Yerevan were ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, among other lab-staff members.

“All of us at ABMDR are delighted for having been able to facilitate our 36th harvesting procedure,” said ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan and added, “Today, I’m proud to say that thanks to our wonderful volunteers, staff members, and supporters, ABMDR continues to stand with our patients and communities across the world.”

Dr. Jordan also stated that although the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted ABMDR, the organization continues to conduct donor-search requests and tissue-typing for its patients, and continues to provide them with support and counseling remotely.



The Yerevan resident who donated bone marrow stem cells for a chance to save the life of an Armenian cancer patient in Germany.



A LETTER FROM INTERNATIONAL COURIER NICO KEISER

Dear Dr. Avagyan, Dr. Nazaretyan, and the entire ABMDR team,

First of all, the most important bit of information I must convey: the transport of the peripheral blood stem cell went as planned and the product arrived safely at the transplant center in Germany. I am very happy to have contributed, as a small chain in this huge event and life-saving mission, and to have been able to fulfill my duties with all your help.

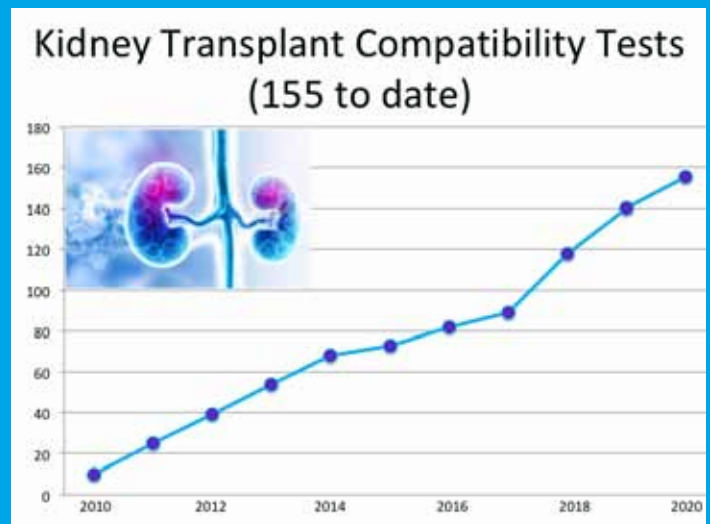
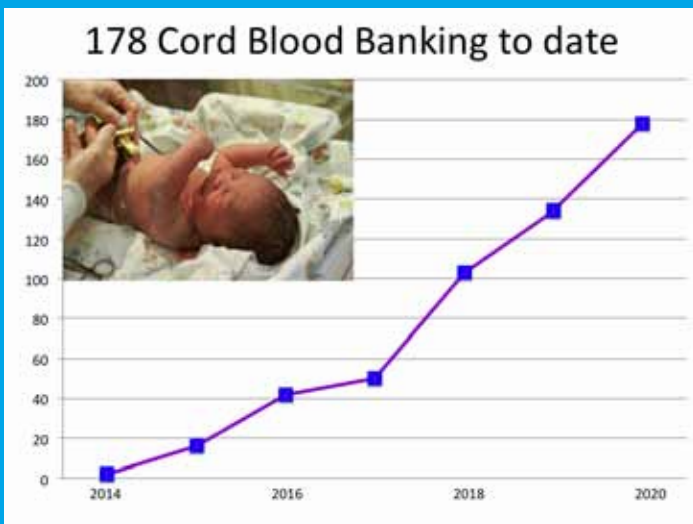
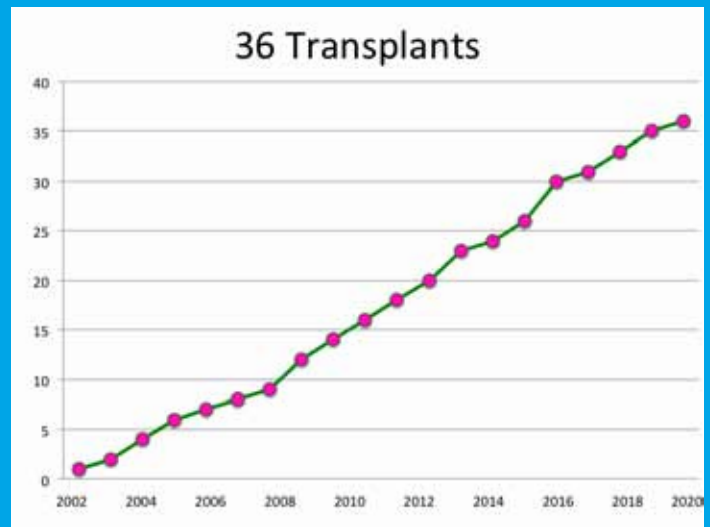
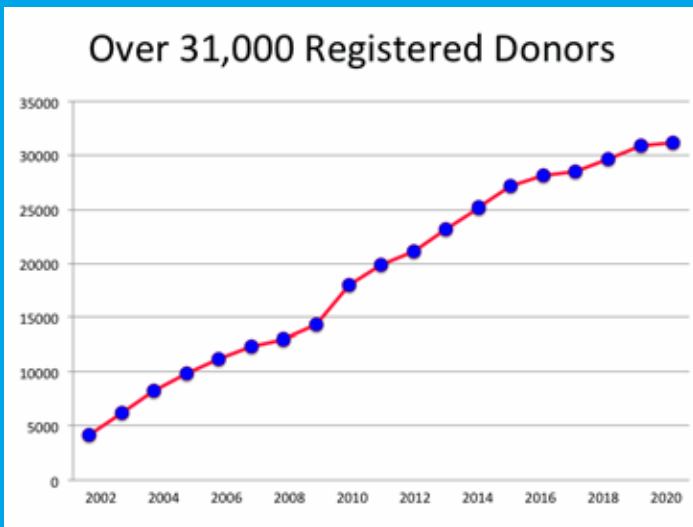
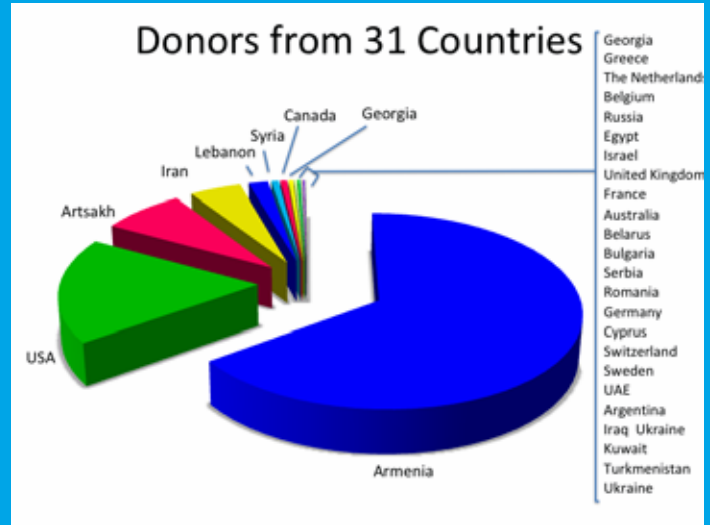
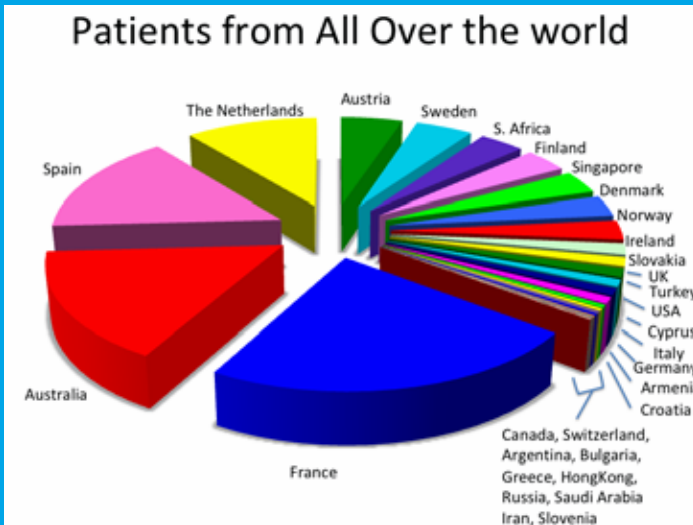
Secondly, I would like to express my warmest thanks to all of you in the wonderful ABMDR team in Yerevan! The welcome you extended to me was indeed the most impressive I have ever experienced, and it was truly a pleasure to meet you all. Furthermore, you had implemented a perfect arrangement of all the necessary procedures.

I was able to get a “swift” but strong impression of the kind nature and hospitality of the Armenian people as well as a good taste of Armenian food. I am truly looking forward to coming back to Armenia to deepen my experiences of your country, perhaps as part of another life-saving mission. It would be my pleasure.

Thank you once again for everything. Stay safe and greetings to all.
Best regards from Germany,
Nico Keiser

In the photo on the left: ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan; the special courier, Nico Keiser, who took the harvested stem cells to Germany; and ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan at ABMDR’s Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in Yerevan.

The work of ABMDR in 2020: a snapshot



ABMDR CONDUCTS GROUNDBREAKING COVID-19 RESEARCH

At ABMDR, we tissue-type every donor we register. The tissue type of each individual is determined by the combination of Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA), which, in turn, is determined by our genetics. These proteins have to be matched between donors and recipients in order for transplants to succeed.

In addition to being critical in the successful outcome of transplants, HLA antigens play a key role in our immune response to invading bacteria and viruses. HLA molecules recognize and bind parts of these infectious agents, and present them to our immune system, which then is prompted to mount a defense and fight off these particular invaders. The specific HLA profile of a person often determines if this immune response is weak or strong, and thus determines the progress and severity of the disease.

When SARS-CoV-2 took the world by storm, ABMDR immediately developed a research project to determine if there are specific HLA profiles that would make COVID-19 patients more or less susceptible to severe disease. With this in mind, we studied a group of 300 COVID-19 patients in Armenia, grouped according to the severity of their disease (severe, mild to moderate, asymptomatic). We determined the HLA profiles of these patients, and are in the process of analyzing our data. The idea is to find specific HLA types that may either make patients more susceptible to severe disease, or others that may protect the individual from severe disease.

Our study will advance our basic understanding of the COVID-19 disease. It could be used to identify genetically high-risk individuals and help in the clinical management of the disease.

This study was conceived, developed, and conducted by our ABMDR team in the US (Drs. Frieda Jordan and Vergine Madelian) and Armenia (Drs. Sevak Avagyan and Mihran Nazaretyan, Armine Hyusyan, Alina Sirunyan, Ani Azaryan, and Dr. Tatshat Asaturyan).

But our work would not have been possible without our wonderful collaborators, skilled experts in their own fields:

Anahit Hovhannisyian, PhD, is a researcher at the Laboratory of Ethnogenomics, Institute of Molecular Biology, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. She has a doctoral degree in Genetics, and is presently a visiting post-doctoral fellow at the Evolutionary Ecology Group, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, UK.

Rubina Arakelyan, MA, is a data analyst at Clinsoft LLC, with wide experience in all aspects of statistical modeling and analysis. She has a master's degree in economics with a major in modern data analysis,

(continued on page 7)



From left: ABMDR Lab Technician Ani Azaryan, Lab Secretary Zara Hovhannisyian, ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan, and ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan.



Armine Hyusyan (left) and Senior Lab Technician and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan reviewing patient data.



Ani Azaryan and ABMDR Cord-blood-banking Director Dr. Tatshat Asaturyan processing COVID-19 patient samples.



ABMDR research collaborator Rubina Arakelyan.

and has worked on several projects in Armenia, Estonia, and the Czech Republic.

In addition to our scientific partners, we owe a big debt of gratitude to: The Armenian Health Ministry for giving us access to patients, and providing us with the permits and documentations to conduct the research; Histogenetics for performing our HLA and antibody tests; Zorayr Manukyan, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer of the ClinStat Consulting, LLC group, for facilitating our collaboration with Clinsoft; Dr. Carolann and George Najarian, and the Armenian Medical Society of California, for partial funding of our study.

Finally, our special thanks to all the patients who signed a consent form and responded to our questionnaires and interviews, gave us samples for HLA and antibody testing, and made it possible for us to conduct our research project, even during their time of illness and distress. We are truly grateful to them.



ABMDR research collaborator Dr. Anahit Hovhannisyan.

BREAKING NEWS:

ABMDR to present COVID-19 research findings to European Federation for Immunogenetics

ABMDR’s abstract pertaining to its COVID-19 research findings has been accepted for an oral presentation at the prestigious European Federation for Immunogenetics/British Society for Histocompatibility Joint Meeting. Titled “EFI 2021: From Research

to Clinical Reality,” the conference will take place virtually, from April 21 through 23 of this year, with the participation of scientists and representatives of national bone marrow registries and research labs from

throughout the globe. The event will comprise the 34th European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference, and the 31st British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Conference.

EFI 2021
FROM RESEARCH TO CLINICAL REALITY
 34th European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference, together with BSHI
ONLINE | 21-23 APRIL 2021

efi BSHI
 British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics
 Promoting Science and Education in Transplantation

IN MEMORY OF FALLEN SOLDIERS WHO WERE ALSO ABMDR DONORS

Among the thousands of soldiers killed in the Artsakh war last year were many potential bone marrow donors registered with ABMDR. We mourn their devastating loss and will never forget them, for they were not only heroes who died while defending their homeland, but also selfless young men who had joined the ranks of ABMDR for the chance to save lives.



Hrant Azaryan



Aleqsan Saghatelian



Sevak Bazunts



Gevorg Gasparyan



Hovhannes Harutyunyan



Mkhitaryan



Shiraz Sanasaryan



Khachik Botsinyan



Hayk Gharsyan



Khachik Harutyunyan



Vazgen Miqayelyan



Suren Vahanyan



Valentin Burnusuzyan



Davit Ghazaryan



Yeghish Hovhannisyanyan



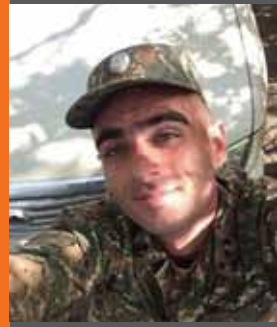
Roland Nersisyan



Artyom Yeghoyan



Valeri Danelin



Armen Grigoryan



Edgar Matevosyan



Edward Petrosyan



Sevak Zurabyan



(photos not available):

Aghasi Aghababyan
Samvel Amiryan
Hayk Chitchyan
Edgar Galstyan

Garnik Khachatryan
Lyova Khachatryan
Aghasi Mikayelyan
Stepan Petrosyan

Sargis Poghosyan
Hovhannes Sargsyan
Davit Tevanyan

Harutyun Vardanyan
Narek Vardanyan
Pativakan Yengoyan

RECRUITMENT IN YEREVAN, HELD IN HONOR OF FALLEN SOLDIERS



Eighty-eight soldiers joined the ranks of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry at the event, which took place on September 22, 2020, at the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute, in Yerevan.

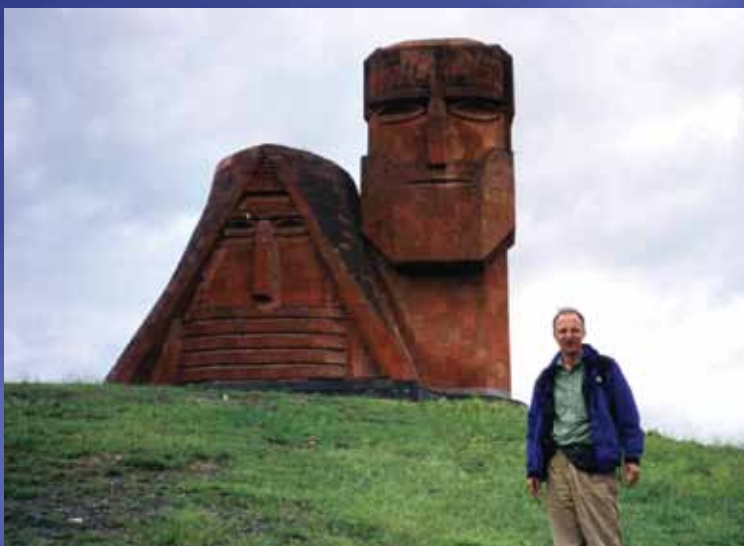
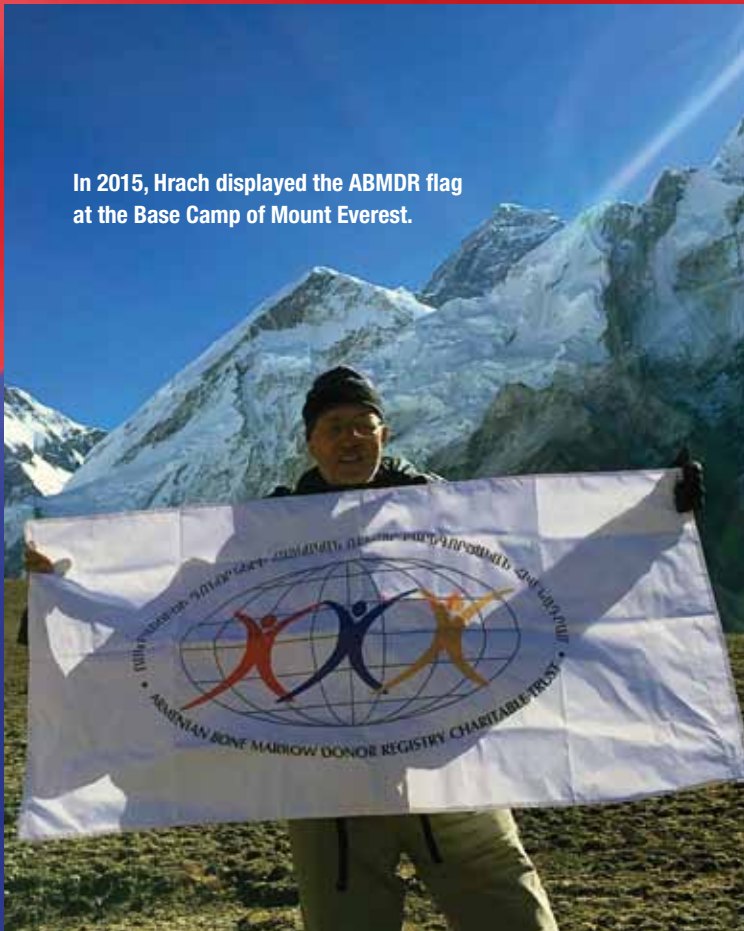


In memory of my beloved husband, Hrach Lukassian, a man of many talents, a patriot, a tireless advocate of "Nature and Wildlife," and a gifted sportsman. He left behind a cherishable legacy for his family and friends, who admire him endlessly.

Carmen Lukassian



In 2015, Hrach displayed the ABMDR flag at the Base Camp of Mount Everest.



Inspiring tomorrow's scientists and healthcare professionals

Like everything else this past year, our outreach had to change and adapt. In November of 2020 and then again in March 2021, Dr. Christina Ashjian made several Zoom presentations on the subject of "Bone Marrow Stem Cell Transplantation and the Role of Registries like ABMDR," for Los Angeles-area high school students enrolled in programs specially designed to help them explore their interests in science and prepare them for future careers in the medical and healthcare fields.

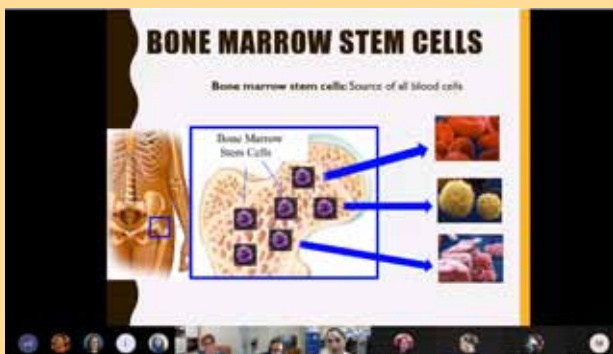
Close to 40 participants attended each lecture. Eric Markarian organized the one for Crescenta Valley High School's Academy Program, of which he is the Junior Co-President. Dr. Arjan Harjani and Mrs. Sona Ashjian organized the lectures for the Providence High School Medical Focus Program. Eric is an active participant of ABMDR's walkathons, and members of his family are no strangers to ABMDR. Also, students of Providence High are regular participants of our annual walkathons, due mostly to the efforts of Mrs. Sona Ashjian, who is in charge of the school's Medical Focus Program, in addition to being an active member of ABMDR.



Dr. Christina Ashjian and her mother, Sona Ashjian, both ABMDR Board members, during the Providence High School lecture.



Eric Markarian (top row, second from left) organized the lecture for Crescenta Valley High School's Academy Program. Below: a scene from the Providence High School lecture, which was organized by Dr. Arjan Harjani and Mrs. Sona Ashjian.



Meet our local heroes



From left: potential matched donors Dr. Arthur Jordan, Ana Gollardo, and Jasik Avanes.



New recruit Anahid Oshagan, Esq.



New recruit Jano Boghossian, MD.

Although, out of safety concerns, we could not organize large-scale recruitments since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we did have a very small recruitment in Los Angeles, held for one of our patients, and a number of supporters joined our ranks as potential donors. As importantly, we continued our tissue-typing operations, while three donors, Dr. Arthur Jordan, Ana Gollardo, and Jasik Avanes, were identified as potential matches for patients whose last hope of survival is to have a stem cell transplant. Thank you, Dr. Arthur Jordan, Ana Gollardo, and Jasik Avanes for providing additional swab samples for high-resolution testing and matching. You are all, truly, our heroes!



Recruitment in Los Angeles, conducted by ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan.



In 2020, the ABMDR Walk of Life adapted to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic by going virtual. Although the world, and the annual fundraiser itself, looked a little different, one thing was clearly constant: our commitment and dedication to supporting the health of our community. Instead of having stand-alone events in Los Angeles and Boston, we invited our community and supporters from around the globe to participate in a virtual walk that lasted throughout the month of October. We utilized an online platform, Charity Footprints, to organize the fundraiser, and participants downloaded its connected app to track their steps while walking in their own neighborhoods.

Upon registration for the virtual Walk of Life, participants were automatically entered into a raffle to win one of the following prizes: an Apple iPad, donated by Paulette Malekian of Dilbeck Real Estate; an Apple Watch, donated by Megan Harabid; an Apple AirPods set, donated by Megan Harabid; a \$100 Amazon gift card, donated by Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian; and a JBL Clip 3 Portable Bluetooth Speaker, donated by Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian. We awarded five additional raffle tickets to the following walk participants: Team with most funds raised, Individual with most funds raised, Individual with greatest number of contributors to their walk, and Individual with greatest distance walked (miles). Winners of these categories were also recognized by: having their name on the Angel Wall at ABMDR's lab in Yerevan, and a cluster of trees being planted in Armenia by the Armenia Tree Project in their honor. The winners of the categories were as follows: 1. Team with most funds raised: Team Angel-Biurad Moghadesian. 2. Individual with most funds raised: Megan Harabid. 3. Individual with greatest number of contributors to their walk: Megan Harabid. 4. Individual with greatest distance walked (miles): Lena Boyadjian.

There were 162 walkers and 210 individual donors. Walkers covered over 2,236 aggregated miles throughout the duration of October 2020. Proceeds from the walk were donated to families displaced or otherwise impacted by the Artsakh war.



Thank you, Foundation Laboratory, for being our Major Sponsor.



And a big Thank You to all of our generous walk sponsors:



**Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association (AAPA)
Armenia Tree Project
Arrow Graphics, Inc.
Chalmers
Dr. Hamlet Davari
Ella and Mila
Providence High School
Watertown Savings Bank**

Volunteer Eric Markarian reflects on his outreach work



Eric Markarian, Junior Co-President of Crescenta Valley High School's Academy Program, had a key role in organizing one of our virtual community-outreach events (see page 11). He also greatly contributed to the success of our virtual walkathon. Below, he reflects on the process of encouraging activism among his peers.

For the virtual outreach, I first contacted all our Academy members, informing them about the event and how they could sign up, using the flyers. I also held a presentation at lunch, when I discussed what ABMDR is, what Walk of Life is for, and how students can sign up for the virtual Walk of Life. A lot of students were very excited to join, and many of the members who had participated in the walk the previous year and volunteered actually joined the virtual walk as well. We sent reminders to the students through email and the Remind app about one-two times a week, and I always had meetings where people could join and ask me any question about the virtual Walk. Toward the end of the month, I organized another lunch meeting, when I talked about the upcoming deadline and how people could still join and start walking. In the Academy, each student has a specific "trip" requirement to fulfill every year, and we actually were able to make the virtual Walk of Life count as this "trip" requirement for that month, so many people joined in!

THANK YOU, ERIC, FOR ALL YOUR WONDERFUL OUTREACH EFFORTS!

Paulette

MALEKIAN

REALTOR

DRE# 01848544

818-795-1454

Your Realtor Since 2008

PauletteMalekian.com | paulette@dilbeck.com

With years of valuable experience and several awards for high production and customer service satisfaction, Paulette specializes in Residential Real Estate in Southern California.

With her knowledge of the current market, Paulette can help you
Sell your house with the highest possible price!

And, at the same time,
if you are a first time home buyer, she will walk you through the process by using the best lenders, helping you understand the market in different areas, the techniques of getting your offer accepted, paperwork, and negotiations during escrow.

Visit <https://www.realsatisfied.com/Paulette-Malekian> to read her client testimonials.

Dilbeck
REAL ESTATE



To search for properties,
download my free App **"Homes By Paulette"**

“
It will be my pleasure to help you
with your next purchase or sale.
818-795-1454
Paulette Malekian



303 N. Glenoaks Blvd., L-110 Berbank, CA 91501

21ST ANNIVERSARY

MATCH FOR LIFE VIRTUAL GALA

ABMDR's 21st Annual Gala was held as a virtual event, due to circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the participation of ABMDR Board members, teams, and longtime supporters, including Hoori Sadler of the Persian-American Cancer Institute and Adventist Health Glendale Business Development Executive Ramella Markarian, the Gala took place on November 5, 2020, and was broadcast live from the studios of ARTN TV in Glendale, California. Opening remarks were delivered by ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan, who stated that the ABMDR family mourns the loss of the thousands who died during the Artsakh War of 2020, including close to 70 Armenian soldiers who were ABMDR donors. Dr. Jordan thanked everyone who has supported ABMDR during the pandemic, and said that the Registry not only continues



its vital tissue-typing activities and provides support virtually to all of its patients worldwide, but has also conducted landmark scientific research into how the COVID-19 virus affects ethnic Armenians. Subsequently, ABMDR's unique COVID-19 research project was presented to viewers by ABMDR Outreach Officer Dr. Vergine Madelian.

In the course of the event, chairpersons of various ABMDR committees presented overviews of their activities, while bone marrow stem cell donors Arpine Zohrabyan and Paulette Malekian spoke of the extraordinary joy of helping save someone's life. Highlights of the Gala included interviews with major sponsors including Ramella Markarian, Hoori Sadler, and Vehanoosh Grigorian of 1st Eagle Realty and Finance, as well as wonderful performances by beloved singer Harut Pambukjian.

Also featured during the event was a documentary about ABMDR's latest activities and achievements. The production of the documentary was implemented and donated by Garek Mirzaian. Toward the close of the event, the ABMDR Angels were introduced by Gayaneh Kostikyan and Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian; and Razmik Moghadesian, speaking as the father of a victim of leukemia, reminded and encouraged viewers to join the ranks of the Registry for a chance to save a patient's life. Viewers were also reminded that the ABMDR facility in Yerevan features a Wall of Angels, on which supporters can have their names placed in honor of loved ones. The Gala concluded with the drawing of the ABMDR lottery.



Thank you, our Gala sponsors!



Carmen Lukassian

Dr. Vergine Madelian



IMMUNOCORE



Dr. Jack Alajajian

Drs. Varoosh & Rita Alaverdian

Diana Artunian & Family

Dr. Christina Ashjian

Levon & Sona Ashjian

Dr. Evelyn Avanesian

Drs. Garni & Evelyn Barkhoudarian

Iline and Aleko Boghoskhanian

Dr. Nubar & Aline Boghossian

Lena Boyadjian

Michael & Hilda Gourdikian

Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian

Alex & Beayna Hovsepian

Anahit Janoyan

Harut & Gayaneh Kostikyan

Dr. Norik & Ramella Markarian

Armond and Carolyn Mehdikhani

Fimi Mekhitarian

Dr. Carolann and George Najarian

Dr. Beno & Sonia Nersissian

Silva Petrosian

George & Araxi Titizian



LIFETIME SUPPORTERS AND LOYAL CONTRIBUTORS

Ramella and Dr. Norik Markarian



Dr. Carolann and George Najarian



Stepan and Linda Vartanian



Amy and Michael Boyadjian



Viken and Salpi Mankerian



Lara Yeretsian and Hratch Manuelian



Alvart Badalian



Anahit Janoyan



Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian



Dr. Avagyan and Sokurenko



Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian



In the course of the past year, ABMDR reaffirmed its strength and viability as it marched forward with its ranks poised and solid, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. ABMDR continued to analyze and publish multidimensional research data. Even more importantly, it relentlessly continued its core mission of helping its patients throughout the world. Despite travel and transportation limitations, complex negotiations were carried out and special arrangements were made to deliver vital donor materials to recipients. It is every supporter's obligation to help ABMDR sustain its team and consistently carry through efforts in sustaining life when it often has one last chance.

Dr. Arpenik Avagyan and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko

Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian, long-time business owners, have always prided themselves on their devotion to their family and to Armenia. They have instilled a deep love of country in their children and insisted that it is their duty to give back to the country that extends its roots deep into their lives. Zaven and Vehanoosh are thankful for having been introduced to the work of ABMDR to continue to contribute their resources and enrich their own lives while doing so.

The printing of our Newsletter was graciously donated by Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian. Thank you, Tina and Zarik, for your truly extraordinary and generous support!

Dr. Vergine Madelian



Thank you, Dr. Vergine Madelian, for your years of outstanding dedication and service to the life-saving mission of ABMDR: for raising public awareness of our work through lectures and presentations, and for generously sponsoring all of our events!

In memoriam



Dr. Beno Nersissian

On January 22, 2021, ABMDR lost a great friend, Dr. Beno Nersissian. We convey our heartfelt condolences to his wife and our dear Board member, Sonia Nersissian, as well as her family, and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for being longtime supporters of the ABMDR mission.

Arthur Zakarian

ABMDR mourns the loss of Arthur Zakarian, a dear friend, a pillar of the Registry, and a true patriot. Zakarian passed away in December 2020. As a Founding Member of ABMDR and a longtime member of its Board of Directors, Arthur played a significant role in the organization early on, and was an outstanding fundraiser and contributor for many years. For his sustained commitment and support, Arthur was recognized as ABMDR's 2006 Man of the Year, and was bestowed with the "ABMDR Excellence in Leadership" award in 2014.



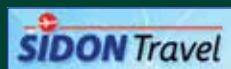
CONGRATULATIONS, OUR NEWEST LOTTERY WINNERS!



First
Prize
Winner

Haikouhe Kassamian

Two round-trip tickets
donated by Sidon Travel



The winner donated her
prize to ABMDR. Thank you!



Second
Prize
Winner

Haigouhi Seropian

iPad
donated by
Paulette
Malekian,
Dilbeck
Real Estate



Third
Prize
Winner

Armen Dovlatian

Amazon
Echo Show 5
donated by
Mr. and Mrs.
Hratch and Annethe Postik



Thank you for in lieu of flowers

In loving memory of

- Mariana Kazarian
- Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
- Arlene Titizian
- Hratch Lukassian
- Severt Seyranian
- Roger Vitti
- Alfred Yegumian
- Arda Nazarian
- Janet Jordan
- Dr. Beno Nersissian
- Roubina Bahlavouni Baghdassarian
- Alice Kulhanian
- Arpenik Petrosian



Mariana Kazarian



Dr. Aida Shirinian
Kaloostian



Arlene Titizian



Hratch Lukassian



Roubina Bahlavouni
Baghdassarian



Alice Kulhanian



Arda Nazarian



Dr. Beno Nersissian



Arpenik Petrosian



Severt Seyranian

Board of Directors

Bella Kocharyan, MD,
Honorary Chairperson
Frieda Jordan, C HS, PhD,
President
Mark Geragos, Esq.,
Chairperson
Armond Mehdikhani,
CLS, MBA,
Secretary
Frank Melkonian,
Treasurer
Diana Artunian,
Deputy Treasurer
Sevak Avagyan, MD,
Executive Director, Armenia
Vergine Madelian, PhD,
Outreach and Education Officer
Salpi Mankerian,
Development Officer
Christina Ashjian, Pharm D
Naz Atikian
Alvart Badalian, MBA
Boris Bagdasarian, DO
Evelyn Baghdasraian, MD
Nubar Boghossian, MD
Amy Boyadjian
Ramella Markarian
Carolann Najarian, MD
Hratch Postik
Michele Seyranian
George Titizian
Lara Yeretsian, Esq.

Board of Advisors

Varoosh Alaverdian, MD
Aramais Andonian
Sona Ashjian
Tamara Ashjian, Esq.
Susanna Avagyan
Ani Azar
Arax Badalian
Tatoul Badalian
Harmik Baghdasarian
Stella Baghdasarian, DDS
George Bashirians, PhD
Iline Boghoskhanian
Michael Demirchian
Maral Der Torossian,
East Coast Recruitment Officer
Hilda Gourdikian
Sharlene Gozaliens, PhD
Teresa Hacopian
Jasmen Jerahian
Arsineh Karabedian
Mariette Keshishian
Taleen Khatchadourian
Karine Khudikian
Amalia Kiureghlian
Gayaneh Kostikyan
Carmen Lukassian
Annette Malekandrasians
Paulette Malekian
Marina Manoukyan
Tatev Manukyan
Fimi Mekhitarian,
West Coast Recruitment Officer
Razmik Moghadesian
Mihran Nazaretyan, MD, PhD
Sonia Nersissian
Nani Oskanian, MD, Armenia
Annethe Postik
Alvart Petrossian, Armenia
Armenia Sinanian
Mariet Toumians
Sam Tripoli
Rubina Varjabedian
Stepan Vartanian, ASCP
Tina Yeretsian
Lori Yeterian
Lori Yogurtian
Arpine Zohrabyan

ABMDR Los Angeles

Frieda Jordan, PhD
1146 N. Central Ave.,
Suite 533
Glendale, CA 91202
Phone: (323) 663-3609
Email: Frieda.Jordan@att.net

ABMDR Yerevan

Sevak Avagyan, MD
7 H. Nersisyan St.
0014 Yerevan, RA
(374 10) 20 83 11,
(374 10) 20 83 12
Fax: (374 11) 20 83 13,
(374 10) 20 93 12
Email: info@abmdr.net



abmdr.am

We are deeply grateful to artist and longtime ABMDR supporter Aramais Andonian, of Boston, for designing this issue's cover page as well as the page dedicated to fallen soldiers who were also ABMDR donors.

We also convey our heartfelt thanks to Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian for making the printing of this issue possible.

ABMDR Newsletter designed and edited by Ishkhan Jinbashian.

ABMDR Board meeting, summer 2020



Gala Committee



Virtual planning retreat, March 2021





ADANA
Real Estate Consultant

818.858.5951
AdanaHomes@gmail.com
AdanaHomesCA.com

Adana Chaharmahali | DRE #02070347
Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated.



COLDWELL BANKER
HALLMARK REALTY



SHOP **FCN**.ORG

Shop • Give • Create

Shop FCN's mission is to introduce the exceptional talent and heritage of Armenia and its people by supporting individual and **family-owned small businesses** through the sale of handmade, high-quality, one-of-a-kind, exclusive merchandise. Shop FCN serves the ultimate goal of unifying artists and improving the economy in Armenia.

100% of proceeds from Shop FCN will benefit Focus on Children Now (FCN). For more than 15 years, FCN has helped over 100,000 impoverished children & their families access the basic necessities of life, through its education, nutrition, humanitarian, and health programs and given hope to disadvantaged children.

All the items shipped from
Glendale, CA

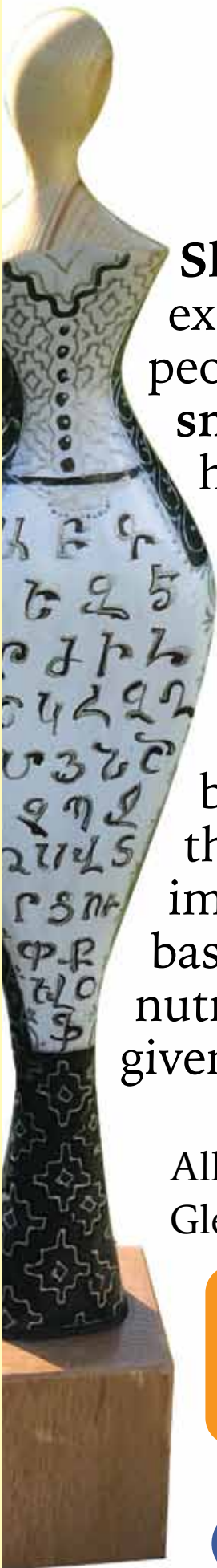
To support, Visit :
shopfcn.org



@shopfcn



@shopfcn



Made for more mission

“



”



We were all made for more. More compassion. More taking action. More missions to benefit others. At Adventist Health Glendale, we believe in making this world a better place one person at a time, and in this case, it is donating lifesaving bone marrow for another.



Adventist Health Glendale is proud to support the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and its mission.