

ABMDR

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

2024 NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SAVING LIVES



DR. NEIBAR BOGHOSSIAN

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DR. BORIS BAGDASARIAN



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Glendale Adventist Medical Center
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Glendale, CA 91206
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our beloved organization. I'll never stop being in awe of the fact that ABMDR came into existence through not much more than a dream, a desire to help a little girl struck by cancer, Alique Topalian. Yet it was that very desire that proved to be stronger than any resource imaginable. Since 1999, we've faced just about every challenge that a growing institution might grapple with. Those challenges, however, though very real and sometimes quite ominous, ultimately have been no match to our resilience – as patients and

families, and as donors, supporters, and volunteers. We started, literally, from zero. Since then, ABMDR has grown to become a global presence, a trusted partner of world health organizations.



Today, we continue to function as the only national registry in the Caucasus region; as an educational hub for countries that wish to start their own registries; and as an educational hub and training center for students in Armenia and the Diaspora. With the introduction of state-of-the-art molecular testing in Armenia, we have greatly enhanced its DNA-based medical technologies, vastly improving patient diagnosis, treatment, and overall survival. And by stand-

ing as the reference lab for solid-organ kidney transplantation, we have helped reduce the risk of organ rejection and post-transplant failure. Finally, we have made strides in scientific research too, with the findings of our landmark COVID-19 research published in a top medical journal last year.

As we look to the future, we believe strongly in the incalculable potential of our youth. This is why we established ABMDR NextGen, our dynamic group of college and university students, which already has built an impressive track record with its outreach and recruitment efforts. As importantly, our Yerevan Lab staff continues to grow professionally, through training, by attending conferences and workshops, and by working to receive their EFI licenses. Our Lab supervisor, Armine Hyusyan, has become an EFI inspector representing Armenia, alongside myself. All of our Lab and professional-growth activities are funded by our sponsors, volunteers, and Board members, who tirelessly organize various fundraising events to cover expenses.

The past few years have been particularly hard, due to the pandemic, the wars that devastated our homeland, and the terrible loss of military personnel who were ABMDR donors. As we honor their memory and renew our shared commitment to helping save lives, I salute our team in Armenia, headed by Doctors Sevak Avagyan and Mihran Nazaretyan; our dedicated and wonderful Board members; and our volunteers worldwide. And I salute all of our donors, who selflessly donate their stem cells to save a precious life; as well as all of our patients, for whom we started our organization 25 years ago. They are our driving force, our most cherished motivation, empowering us to fight all challenges and inspiring us to soldier on.

Frieda Jordan, PhD, President

MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

Being associated with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry continues to be among my life's most treasured endeavors. This is an organization that very much exemplifies the pan-Armenian spirit in its fullest sense, as it synergizes the very best efforts of Armenia and the Diaspora, equally in the homeland and throughout the world. And the fact that ABMDR has helped Armenia become a vibrant, productive, and highly-respected member of the international health community is all the more reason, for every one of us, to champion and support its life-saving mission.

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



Ask the Doctor: a conversation with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan



Question: as ABMDR starts its 25th year of existence, what can you tell us about the state of the Registry?

Answer: The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry has matured to a size where in the past decade we have been serving approximately 6,000 patients each year, finding between 200 to 400 potential matches per year, and facilitating two to three transplants per year – transplants toward which the donors' stem cells were harvested,

processed, and analyzed at our own harvesting facility in Yerevan.

Q: So the global paralysis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the tragic Artsakh wars, didn't affect your operations and your ability to serve your patients?

A: COVID and the wars were very hard on us. But cancer doesn't know COVID, and it doesn't know war. Our patients' requests continued at a steady rate, and, with Herculean efforts, we managed to serve them in spite of extremely trying circumstances. But what COVID and the wars did was to severely curtail our ability to recruit donors. And what the Artsakh wars did, in addition, was to cause us to lose many of our donors.

Q: Can you elaborate?

A: COVID and the wars alike greatly impeded our recruitment efforts. COVID, along with all the restrictions imposed on travel and gatherings, limited our ability to recruit, both in Armenia and abroad. The wars in Artsakh also severely limited our entry into military facilities, which have been sites of our routine yearly recruitment drives. As a result, in the last few years we recruited only a fraction of what we do in normal times.

Q: And how did COVID and the wars cause you to lose donors?

A: Life loss to COVID did not affect our registry significantly, but the Artsakh wars hit us hard. Many of the soldiers fighting to defend our homeland came from the ranks of our ABMDR donors, brave young men who had signed up with ABMDR to save lives, and who ended up losing their own on the battlefield. This deeply shook the ABMDR family, but it also impacted our registry's work significantly.

To honor our lost heroes, we held a memorial, prayed for their souls, and recognized them not only for their love of country, but their humanity, their willingness to sign up and volunteer to save lives.

Yet, without any action, these would be hollow words and feelings. We therefore decided to redouble our efforts, in order to refill the ranks left empty by our donors' untimely loss, and to dedicate our 25th-anniversary recruitments to our fallen heroes, their courage, their valor, and their memory.

ABMDR performs 40th and 41st harvesting procedures



Stem cells were harvested from Yerevan donor, for a chance to save the life of her brother in the US

On May 23, 2023, a Yerevan resident, Anahit, donated bone marrow stem cells to help save the life of her younger brother, who lives in the United States. The harvesting of the donated stem cells was the 40th procedure of its type facilitated by ABMDR. It was performed in response to a donor-search request made by the National Marrow Donor Program, which is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ABMDR is a co-op member of the National Marrow Donor Program.

The painless, non-invasive harvesting of Anahit's donated stem cells took place at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in the Armenian capital.

"Once Anahit was identified as a matched stem cell donor, she did not hesitate for a moment to donate her stem cells," said ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and continued, "Anahit immediately checked in at the ABMDR center in Yerevan, to undergo the stem cell harvesting procedure that could help save her brother's life."

"We are extremely proud to be a co-op member of the National Marrow Donor Program, and delighted to be able to provide it with a matched donor for helping save a life in America," said ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan.



Doctors Sevak Avagyan and Mihran Nazaretyan with the international courier in charge of transporting the 40th ABMDR donor's stem cells.



Clockwise from left: the 40th-harvesting donor and Dr. Sevak Avagyan; the 41st-harvesting donor with Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan (left) and Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, who performed the harvesting procedures; Dr. Nazaretyan with the international courier in charge of transporting the 41st donor's stem cells.



Young man in Yerevan donates stem cells to help save life of fellow Armenian

On December 5, 2023, a young man in Yerevan donated bone marrow stem cells to help save the life of a fellow Armenian. This was ABMDR's 41st stem cell harvesting procedure. Thanks to the harvesting, the donated stem cells were to be used for an urgent transplant that could help a patient, himself an Armenian young man, survive a life-threatening blood-related illness. The harvesting procedure was performed by Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, the Stem Cell Harvesting Center's resident physician. Also present at the procedure were ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan and other lab personnel.



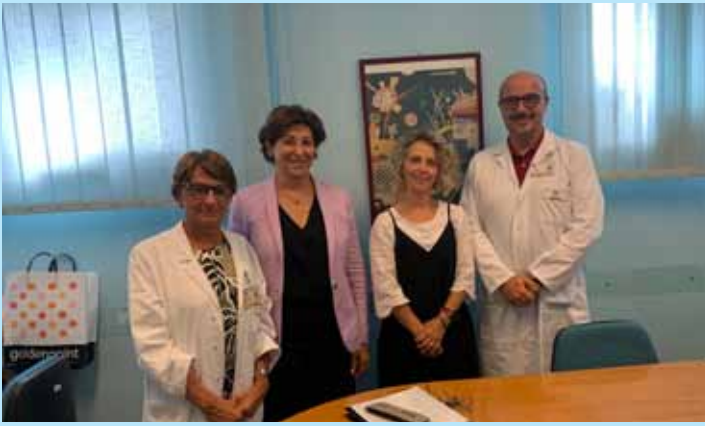
Lab technician Ani Azaryan.

"More than two decades ago, when ABMDR was being established, our overarching goal was to find donor matches for patients living anywhere in the world," said ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and continued, "Today, the significant increase in the number of such donor matches speaks to the fact that ABMDR, thanks to its pool of close to 34,000 potential donors, is able to secure a level of genetic diversity that is essential for patients for whom matched donors can't be found in their immediate families."

"Every transplant is a challenge, involving the work of many specialists," said ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan. "But once the process is set in motion, everyone involved focuses on a single goal, which is to get the donated stem cells to the patient as quickly as possible for helping them survive a potentially fatal illness."

Anyone in good health between the ages of 18 and 50 can register with ABMDR as a potential bone marrow stem cell donor, for a chance to save someone's life. Given the unique genetic makeup of ethnic Armenians, ABMDR needs to maintain a robust global registry of Armenian donors.

Dr. Frieda Jordan conducts EFI inspection of laboratory in Bari, Italy



Dr. Frieda Jordan with the staff of the Tissue Typing and Transplant Immunology center of Bari, Italy, including the lab's director, Dr. Donata Mininni.

Dr. Frieda Jordan and ABMDR Laboratory Supervisor Armine Hyusyan are official inspectors with the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI), in charge of assessing the work of labs in various countries for EFI accreditation. ABMDR's own HLA Typing Laboratory, in Yerevan, is the only one of its kind in the Caucasus, and the only

EFI-accredited facility in the entire region. On September 8, 2023, Dr. Jordan conducted an EFI inspection of the UOD Tissue Typing and Transplant Immunology Center (UOD Tipizzazione Tessutale e Immunologia dei Trapianti), in the city of Bari, Italy. The director of the Tissue Typing and Transplant Immunology Center is Dr. Donata Mininni.

Armine Hyusyan performs EFI inspection of laboratory in Prague, she and Alina Sirunyan attend immunogenetics conference in Vienna



From February 25 to 27, 2024, ABMDR Senior Lab Technician and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan and Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan received continuing education by participating in the East West Immunogenetics Conference in Vienna, hosted by the Medical University of Vienna. On October 4, 2023, Hyusyan performed an EFI inspection of the HLA Typing Laboratory at the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine, in Prague (in the photo above left).

Dr. Jordan conducts EFI inspection of laboratory in Thessaloniki, Greece



On March 8, 2024, Dr. Jordan performed an EFI inspection of the Transplantation Laboratory at Thessaloniki Ippokrateion General Hospital, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Training our future scientists and researchers: Monte's story



From left: ABMDR Lab Secretary Zara Hovhannisyan, Lab Technician Ani Azaryan, and student trainee Monte Asisian.

During the summer of 2023, a young man from Los Angeles, Monte Asisian, interned at the ABMDR lab in Yerevan, gaining first-hand experience of our work in tissue-typing and other procedures. Soon after his training, Monte wrote us a letter of appreciation, as did his parents. Our staff was absolutely delighted to have Monte as an intern, especially considering his great enthusiasm and curiosity. And we wholeheartedly thank his parents, Adrineh and Njdeh Asisian, for encouraging Monte's educational quest and helping support our life-saving mission. Below is Monte's letter.

Dear Dr. Jordan, Dr. Avagyan, and Armond [Mehdikhani],
I am writing to say thank you for the opportunity to learn and work at the Yerevan lab during the summer. I learned many things that I could learn only by doing work at the ABMDR lab. I also extend my thanks to everyone working there, who showed me not only how the lab was run but taught me about the country and the customs. It was an experience I would not trade for anything. Thank you!
Best,
Monte



Monte during his internship at ABMDR's HLA-typing Lab, in Yerevan.

Investing in the quest to save lives: our latest harvesting system

In 2023, ABMDR purchased a state-of-the-art harvesting machine, the Spectra Optia Apheresis System, to further enhance its stem cell harvesting procedures. On January 12, 2023, the system was installed at our lab in Yerevan by technicians from the manufacturer, Terumo Medical Corporation. Following the installation, the Terumo representatives trained our harvesting specialist, Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, in the utilization of the system.

The Spectra Optia system is an industry-leading therapeutic apheresis, cell-processing, and cell-collection platform that allows our lab staff to spend more time focusing on patient care.

"Given the fact that our lab operations, tissue-typing and stem cell harvesting in particular, entail significant costs, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to sustain our work," said ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and continued, "The acquisition of our latest harvesting system required a considerable financial commitment, one which we had to make without any major benefactor support. We hope, however, that we will be able to continue to fulfill our mission at an optimal level, with adequate funding from contributors."



Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan (in blue coat) received training in the use of the new harvesting system, from a specialist from the manufacturer, Terumo. In the right photo below, a Terumo representative demonstrating the advanced features of the new system.



SUPPORTERS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS VISIT ABMDR'S YEREVAN HEADQUARTERS, BECOME FAMILIARIZED WITH ACTIVITIES



Carmen Lukassian with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan, and ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan.



Armine Hyusyan, ABMDR 2023 Woman of the Year Vehanoosh Grigorian, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, and Zaven Grigorian.



Members of ABMDR's NextGen Armenia youth group during their visit. Launched in 2022, NextGen works in California and the Armenian homeland.



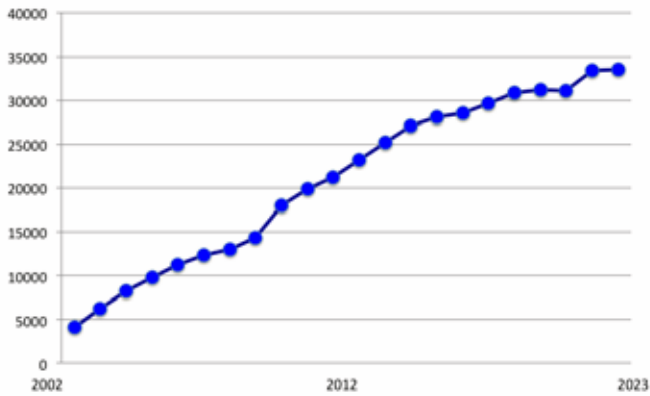
Yerevan State Medical University students. Every year, students from universities visit the ABMDR Lab to gain first-hand knowledge and experience of its activities.



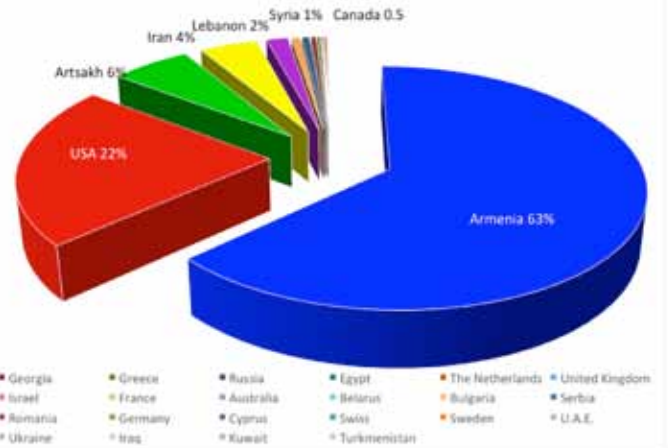
Arsineh and Razmik Moghadesian, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, student trainee Monte Asisian, and lab technician Ani Azaryan.

The work of ABMDR in 2023: a snapshot

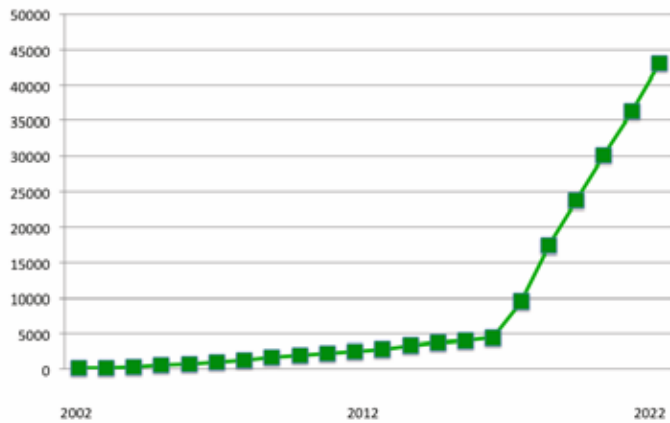
Over 33,000 Registered Donors



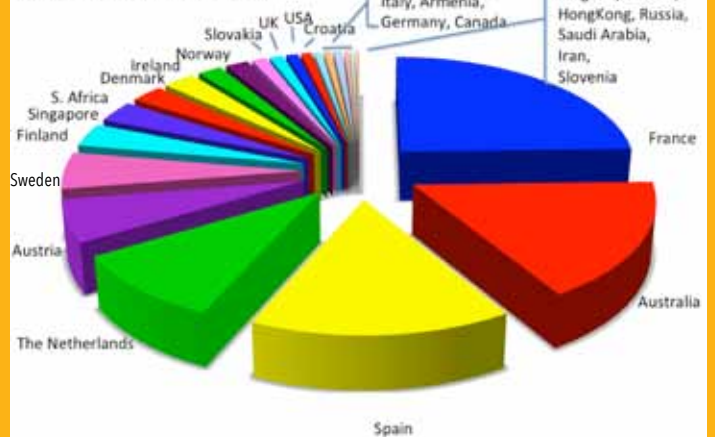
Donors from 32 Countries



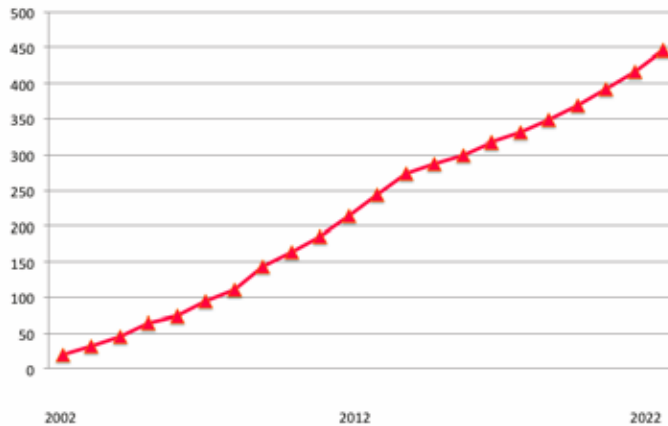
Over 43,000 Patient Search Requests



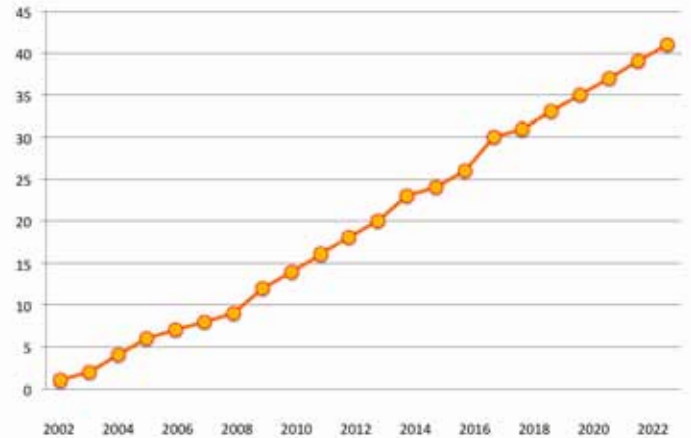
Search Requests From 40 countries



447 patients from Armenia to date



41 Transplants to date



ARMENIA

May 6, 2023: recruitment at VOMA Center, Yerevan (39 donors).
July 4, 2023: recruitment at AimIT company, Yerevan (23 donors).
July 6-8, 2023: recruitment during the Sixth International Medical Congress of Armenia, Yerevan.
August 5, 2023: recruitment during the opening of the Eighth Pan-Armenian Summer Games, in Gyumri.
August 18, 2023: recruitment at the Embassy of Argentina in Armenia.
November 22, 2023: recruitment at PicsArt Armenia, Yerevan (ten donors).
January 8, 2024: recruitment at Yerevan Subway, to mark National Bone Marrow Donor Day and celebrating ABMDR's 25th anniversary (38 donors).

GREECE

March 10, 2024: outreach and recruitment in Thessaloniki, Greece, held at the local Armenian community center.

CALIFORNIA

March 25, 2023: training workshop for NextGen members, held at Adventist Health hospital, Glendale.
April 12, 2023: NextGen recruitment at UC San Diego (over 20 donors).
May 24, 2023: NextGen recruitment at Glendale City College (30 donors).
June 28, 2023: recruitment for patient Michael, in Granada Hills.
July 10, 2023: recruitment for all ABMDR patients, including Michael, at St. Leon Cathedral, Burbank (200 donors).
August 13, 2023: recruitment for Pastor Harut Khachatryan, at United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles (80 donors).
September 17, 2023: recruitment during Armenian Independence Day Festival, Verdugo Park, Glendale.
October 7, 2023: recruitment during ABMDR's 18th annual Walk of Life in Glendale.
December 3, 2023: Team Alex Toy Drive, at the Western Diocese, in Burbank.
February 14, 2024: NextGen recruitment at UC Berkeley.

MASSACHUSETTS

September 23, 2023: recruitment during the 11th annual ABMDR Walk of Life, organized by ABMDR New England, in Watertown.



LATEST ABMDR STATS

- Over 33,000 donors
- Over 43,000 patient requests
- 447 patients from Armenia
- 3,200 follow-up patient requests
- 41 transplants
- Over 3,100 HLA-disease association tests
- 440 immunophenotyping tests
- 234 kidney-transplant compatibility tests
- 10 crossmatch tests
- 262 cord-blood banking procedures
- Training for students



AimIT company, Yerevan, July 4, 2023



Opening of Eighth Pan-Armenian Games, August 5, 2023, Shirak Stadium, Gyumri



Embassy of Argentina in Yerevan, August 18, 2023



Yerevan Subway, January 8, 2024, organized by the Municipality of Yerevan, on the occasion of National Bone Marrow Donor Day. The event, celebrating ABMDR's 25th anniversary, received wide media coverage in Armenia.





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My name is Eric Markarian. I'm a sophomore at Stanford University, studying Bioengineering, and the founder/president of ABMDR NextGen. Through this initiative, our team strives to expand ABMDR and involve the youth as the next generation of leaders, healthcare professionals, and donors.



My name is Dalita Tahmassian, Secretary of ABMDR NextGen, and I am attending Glendale Community College, majoring in Biology. I am optimistic about expanding Armenian youth participation in the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry with recruitment drives held at our campus.



My name is Jeff Balian, and I'm a second-year undergraduate at UCLA, studying Biochemistry. Being a proud second-generation Armenian-American, I strive to assist the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry in initiating a recruitment drive within my campus this Spring."



I'm Adrin Konarki, a second-year Biology student at Glendale Community College and a member of NextGen's Outreach Committee. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to serve the Armenian community alongside the efforts of ABMDR, as we tackle the ongoing crisis of blood cancer around the world.



My name is Ania Konarki, a second-year Psychology student at Glendale Community College and a member of NextGen's Outreach Committee. I am eager to boost the engagement of the Armenian youth with the Registry by coordinating recruitment drives at our college.



My name is Lori Mehdikhani, Vice Chair of NextGen, and I am a second-year Biology major at Glendale Community College. I am looking forward to furthering the involvement of the Armenian youth in the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry through recruitment drives on our college campus.



My name is Ari Bakshi, Fundraising Chair of ABMDR NextGen, and I am currently pursuing a major in Kinesiology as a student at Glendale Community College. I am eager to advance the involvement of the Armenian youth in ABMDR's activities and recruitment drives at GCC.



My name is Alyssa Hacobian. I'm a sophomore at UC San Diego, majoring in Business Economics, with a minor in Marketing. I'm thrilled to be a part of NextGen! As Vice Chair for the San Diego region, I strive to expand ABMDR, particularly by leveraging UCSD's large Armenian student population.



My name is Sevanna Shaverdian. I'm a student at UC Irvine, majoring in Education Sciences, with a minor in Criminology, Law, and Society. I serve on the NextGen Board as Chair for the Orange County region. My involvement in ABMDR has fueled my passion for justice and inspired my career aspirations.



My name is Nazeli Aghajanian and I am currently in my second year at UC Berkeley, pursuing a degree in Economics. I serve as Vice Chair for the NextGen Berkeley/Northern California region, and am eager to engage the youth in an organization like the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry's NextGen.



My name is Prenie Ohanian. I am the co-Vice Chair of NextGen's San Diego region, and a sophomore at University of California, San Diego, majoring in Biochemistry. I'm looking forward to my future as a part of NextGen, helping engage our youth in such a rewarding organization.



My name is David Bagdasarian. I have been a volunteer for ABMDR for the past five years, during which I have sponsored a team for the annual Walk for Life. Having grown up with an oncologist father and attending St. Francis High School, helping those in need has become ingrained in my way of life.



My name is Raffi Boghossian and I am an 11th-grade student at Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School, where I initiated the ABMDR NextGen Club in 2024. I have also held bake sales in support of Armenians around the world afflicted with leukemia or other severe blood-related illnesses.



My name is Emineh Hacopian and I am a pre-med Physiological Science major at UCLA. As a founding board member of ABMDR NextGen, I am dedicated to expanding youth involvement in the activities of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry by organizing recruitment drives at UCLA.

ABMDR NextGen founding members

- Eric Markarian
- Jeff Balian
- Lori Mehdikhani
- Sevanna Shaverdian
- Alyssa Hacobian
- Prenie Ohanian
- Nazeli Aghajanian
- Dalita Tahmassian
- Leia Avakian
- Ari Bakshi
- David Bagdasarian
- Ania Konarki
- Adrin Konarki
- Lily Balian
- Brianna Balian
- Leo Davtyan
- Artin Shenian
- Liana Isatants
- Emineh Boghossian
- Raffi Boghossian

University of California, San Diego, April 12, 2023



ABMDR NextGen team members Prenie Ohanian and Alyssa Hacobian, freshman students at University of California, San Diego, with the help of fellow student



Ani Gabrelian, organized and held a donor-swab drive on April 12, 2023. The event, which took place at the Fireside Lounge on campus, was a great



success, particularly thanks to the enthusiastic participation of fellow UC San Diego students from the Armenian Students' Association.

Glendale City College, May 24, 2023



University of California, Berkeley, February 14, 2024



ABMDR NextGen held its first-ever bone marrow donor drive in Northern California, at UC Berkeley. Spearhead-



ed by our Vice Chair for Berkeley, Nazeli Aghajanian, and assisted by NextGen founder Eric Markarian, the



drive was held in collaboration with the Cal ASA and ABMDR, and resulted in numerous recruits.

Two hundred youths join ABMDR in support of Michael and other patients



On July 10, 2023, ABMDR held a recruitment drive for all of its patients, including Michael, at St. Leon Cathedral of the Western Diocese, in Burbank, California. Young

Armenians from throughout Los Angeles responded to the call to action, with 200 men and women ultimately joining the ranks of ABMDR as potential bone marrow

stem cell donors. The Registry also held a recruitment drive among Michael's family and friends on June 28, at Michael's home.



Armenian Independence Day recruitment, Glendale, California



The recruitment took place at the Annual Armenian Independence Day Festival on September 17, 2023, at Verdugo Park in Glendale.

Recruitment at United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles



On August 13, 2023, ABMDR conducted a donor-recruitment drive in Los Angeles for Rev. Harut Khachatryan, senior pastor at United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC). The drive, organized jointly by UACC,

ABMDR, and Rev. Khachatryan's family, took place at the hall of the church. A total of 80 supporters registered as potential bone marrow stem cell donors. Tragically, Rev. Khachatryan lost his battle with leukemia



in January 2024. In the photos, clockwise from above left: the event's organizers and volunteers; ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan addressing congregants at UACC; and scenes from the recruitment drive.



First-ever ABMDR outreach and recruitment in Thessaloniki, Greece



In 2024, ABMDR held its first-ever outreach and recruitment in Thessaloniki, Greece. On March 10, Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan were warmly welcomed by local community leaders and members, including Akis Dagazian, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia; Father Yeghia Malkhassian, Pastor; and Nevart



Galileas Kalfayan, Chairperson of the local ARS. In their presentations, which took place at the Armenian community center adjacent to the Holy Armenian Church of the Virgin Mary, Doctors Jordan and Avagyan discussed the work and accomplishments of ABMDR, starting with the organization's launch 25 years ago. Afterwards



many community members, including Ambassador Dagazian and Father Malkhassian, were recruited as ABMDR donors, while community leaders pledged continued collaboration with the Registry. Doctors Jordan and Avagyan also visited the Armenian Saturday School, which is housed inside the community center.





Los Angeles

Over 350 supporters gathered at the plaza of the Glendale City building, in Glendale, California, on October 7, 2023, to participate in ABMDR's 18th annual Walk of Life. The pan-Armenian event was dedicated to the people of Artsakh.

With a life-affirming message of solidarity and hope, and held in a festive community atmosphere, Walk of Life drew strong youth participation. In addition to individual teams of walkers, there were teams representing local schools, among them Providence High School and West Coast University. Elected officials attending the event included California State Senator Anthony Portantino and Glendale City Council member Ardy Kassakhian.

Prior to the walk, remarks were delivered by Walkathon Committee co-chairs Dr. Christina Garabedian and Hutch Postik, Senator Portantino, and ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan. Following his remarks, Portantino presented Dr. Jordan with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the California Senate, in praise of the Registry's worldwide humanitarian mission.

The walkathon's invocation was performed by Fathers Zaven Markosyan of the Western Diocese and Zareh Sarkissian of the Western Prelacy.

Also before the start of the walkathon, Garabedian recognized young brothers Sevan and Aren Barkhoudarian as the team that had raised the most funds for the event; the Providence High School team as the one that had the most participants, thanks to the encouragement of Mrs. Sona Ashjian and Miss Janet Fontaine; and Team Arpine Zohrabyan and West Coast University as another top fundraising team.





“Only days ago, we lost an invaluable part of our homeland. We not only lost our beloved Artsakh, but also close to 120,000 of our compatriots — men, women, children, and elderly — were displaced from their millennia-old birthplace, leaving behind everything they had and becoming refugees.

“Yet despite this disaster, despite our profound and boundless grief, let us remind ourselves, AND the world, that today we walk proudly in honor of our heroic people, in honor of our soldiers, donors, and patients.

We will continue to stand strong, we will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder, with our brothers and sisters. And we will soldier on — together, in unity — for our shared mission, which has always been, and will continue to be, about LIFE.”

Dr. Frieda Jordan
President, ABMDR
Remarks delivered at the walkathon



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Thank you, Foundation Lab, for your major sponsorship!





Thank you, our sponsors, for your generous support: Foundation Lab (major sponsor); Softline Solutions; Paulette Melekian; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; Print On All; DJ Eddy O; Dr. Vergine Madelian, for donating her hand-made Christmas ornaments and cards; Faith in Angels Hospice; RaMa Drugs; and ABMDR volunteer Aleko Boghoskhanian for photographing the walkathon for many years. Also thank you, Porto's Bakery, for providing delicious pastries; McDonald's, for coffee and cookies; and Tamara Ice Cream, for their yummy ice cream.



Laughter for Life delights throngs of comedy lovers in Los Angeles

A capacity audience of nearly 300 supporters attended the 19th annual Laughter for Life, the comedy night of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. One of the pan-Armenian organization's most popular benefit events, Laughter for Life was held on December 3, 2023, at the landmark Comedy Store on the Sunset Strip, in West Hollywood, California.

Long a showcase for cutting-edge stand-up comedy, Laughter for Life featured a lineup of acclaimed comedians, including Maz Jobrani, Sam Tripoli, Amir K, Dustin Ybarra, Nicky Paris, Anthony Amorello, and Orny Adams. Sam Tripoli also organized and hosted the beloved event, as he has done ever since co-founding Laughter for Life with Lara Yeretsian, Esq., in 2002.



Clockwise from top: the Comedy Night Committee; Lara Yeretsian with comedians and audience members; committee members and supporters; Lara Yeretsian welcoming the audience; Maz Jobrani, Amir K, and Sam Tripoli during their performances.



Walk of Life New England

Supporters from throughout New England converged on Watertown on September 23, 2023, to take part in ABMDR New England's 12th annual Walk of Life. Every year, the celebrated pan-Armenian event draws enthusiastic youth participation, with numerous students from area schools and colleges. The walkathon is also supported by local organizations, businesses, and community leaders.

Since its inception 12 years ago, Walk of Life New England has 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; Watertown Savings Bank; ThermOil, Inc.; Armenian Women's Welfare Association; and Suphi Furs; as well as the Armenia Tree Project, Amaras Art Alliance, St. James Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Waverly Oaks Athletic Club, and the Armenian Museum of America.

At the opening ceremony of the walkathon, which took place on the grounds of the Charles Mosesian Center, Shant Der Torossian of the ABMDR New England Walkathon Organizing Committee welcomed the participants.

"Once again, we're touched to see many community organizations and individuals that have come together today to participate and collaborate for this walkathon," Der Torossian said. "Some of you have been with us since day one. A big thank-you to those who assisted with promoting this event among their co-workers, friends, and family. We couldn't do this without you!"

Der Torossian conveyed the Walkathon Organizing Committee's gratitude to St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Pastor Arakel Aljalian, and Yn. Natasha for generously hosting the commencement of this year's walkathon.

Der Torossian went on to acknowledge Rubina Varjabedian, who has served as the treasurer for the New England ABMDR Committee for years, as the recipient of the ABMDR 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award. "Rubina Varjabedian and her family have been among the very first volunteers of ABMDR New England," Der Torossian said. "We appreciate their support and dedication to ABMDR."

Young Telo Ghazarians, Salpy Yeterian, and Miganush Stepanians of PROMETRIKA, LLC were awarded the Gold, Silver, and Bronze top-fundraiser awards, respectively. For the 11th consecutive year, the Armenia Tree Project will plant commemorative trees in Armenia in honor of the walkathon winners, as part of the #Living-Century Initiative. Commenting on the significance of the event, Der Torossian extended the Walkathon Organizing Committee's appreciation to the event's sponsors for their continued support year after year. Der Torossian also brought the participants' attention to sponsor logos and names on their T-shirts. He said, "Funds raised through the walkathon and all other donations go a long way in ensuring that ABMDR is able to continue to fulfill its mission, by educating the public, recruiting donors, and facilitating bone marrow stem cell transplants for



The Walkathon Organizing Committee.



Prayer and a moment of silence in honor of fallen soldiers in the Armenian homeland, and for all those who were displaced from Artsakh.

patients throughout the world." Prior to the start of the walkathon, participants held a moment of silence in honor of fallen soldiers in the Armenian homeland, and for all those who were displaced from Artsakh. The walk concluded at Saltonstall Park in Watertown Square, where participants celebrated the day's achievements and enjoyed great music and food, along with those attending the annual Faire on the Square festival.



Three-year-old Telo Ghazarians was awarded the Gold Award for fundraising, as many in the community wholeheartedly supported her participation in the walk. As has become an annual tradition for all the years of Telo's life, she was happy to take part in the beloved event. Telo walked with her younger sister, Roubina, by her side, albeit in a stroller, which she insisted on pushing.





Walkers and supporters.



Salpy Veteranian (second from left) receiving the Silver Award for fundraising.



Photos above and below: scenes from the walkathon.



Sharisse Zerounians receiving the Bronze Award on behalf of Miganush Stepanians.

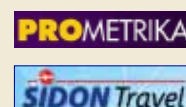


CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES



- 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 Dr. 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. Premises 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.
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 and Glendale Adventist Medical Center.
Recruitments in Bulgaria, the UK, and France.
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 to raise funds for the establishment of 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.
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, 11th, and 12th 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. Hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Viken and Salpi Mankarian 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. Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 10.
13th and 14th 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.
15th and 16th transplants.
- 2012**
First walkathon in Watertown, Massachusetts.
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.
17th and 18th transplants.
- 2013**
First recruitment in the Republic of Georgia.
Registered donors: 23,192.
First-time donors: 2,041.
PS requests: 316. HR requests: 155.
CT-sample requests: 38. HLA-disease association: 200. Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 15. Immunophenotyping: 8
19th and 20th 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.
21st, 22nd, and 23rd transplants.

Thank you, our loyal sponsors, for your generous support!





2015

Recruitments in ten regions of Armenia. 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. Kidney transplant compatibility tests: 5. Immunophenotyping: 14. PRP: 82. Cord-blood banking: 14.

24th 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 partners with Armenia's first-ever bone marrow transplantation facility, the Ruben Yeolyan Hematology Center, in Yerevan.

25th and 26th transplants.

2017

Recruitments in Javakhk, Georgia. ABMDR joins the European Marrow Donor Information System software program, gaining access to the 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. 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.

27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th 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.

31st transplant.

2019

ABMDR reaches 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, both held in Yerevan. ABMDR participates in the International Medical Congress of Armenia and the Pan-Armenian Hematology Symposium. Recruitments throughout Artsakh and Armenia. Close to 1,300 new recruits. Recruitment in Detroit for patient Rafee Alsaeeh. Aram Arevian of Los Angeles donates stem cells to help save life of patient in Germany. High-resolution typing requests: 180. Confirmatory typing requests: 33. HLA-disease associations: 240. Kidney transplantation compatibility testing: 22. Immunophenotyping: 59. PRP: 22. Cord-blood banking: 31. HLA typing of donors/patients referred by the Ruben Yeolyan Hematology Center, Yerevan, per agreement: 62. New donors: 1,570.

Stem cell transplants: 2.

2020

The COVID-19 pandemic: a year of tough challenges and heartwarming resilience. Outreach and recruitment in Greece, recruitments at Panos Terlemezyan Yerevan State College of Arts and Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute.

ABMDR launches groundbreaking COVID-19 research.

High-resolution typing requests: 157. Confirmatory typing requests: 5. HLA-disease associations: 249. Kidney transplantation compatibility testing: 15. Immunophenotyping: 46. PRP: 8. Cord-blood banking: 44. HLA typing of donor/patient referred by the Yeolyan Hematology Center: 49. New donors: 200.

Stem cell transplants: 2.

2021

Recruitments at ClinChoice and Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute, Yerevan, in honor of fallen soldiers. ABMDR makes COVID-19 research presentation at EFI meeting. Mourning the loss of soldiers who were registered donors. 37th harvesting procedure, with a Yerevan resident donating stem cells for a patient in Canada. High-resolution typing requests: 146. Confirmatory typing requests: 22. HLA-disease associations: 208. Kidney transplantation compatibility testing: 22. Immunophenotyping: 66. PRP: 3. Cord-blood banking: 25. HLA typing of donors/patients referred by the Yeolyan Hematology Center: 52. New donors: 160.

Stem cell transplants: 2.

2022

ABMDR launches NextGen, a subsidiary, to encourage youth participation in the Registry's activities and mission. Recruitments in the US and Armenia for patients Alex Darbinyan and Jack Chorlian. Recruitments throughout Yerevan, Gyumri, and Hrazdan. The results of ABMDR's COVID-19 research (a study of associations between HLA genotype and COVID-19 disease severity among the Armenian population) are published in *Frontiers in Immunology*, one

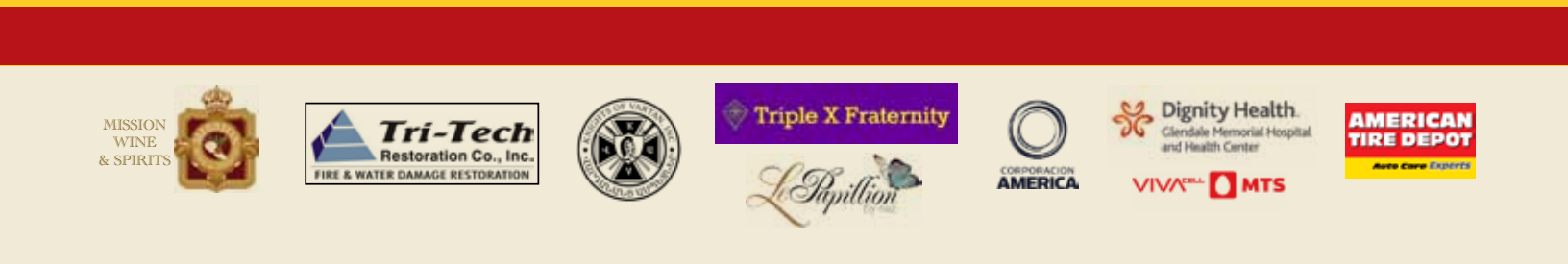
of the world's leading medical journals. 38th harvesting, with a Yerevan resident donating stem cells for a patient in France. 39th harvesting, with a Yerevan resident donating stem cells for his brother, a patient in Germany. ABMDR Lab in Yerevan becomes training hub for students from across the world. High-resolution typing requests: 156. Confirmatory typing requests: 23. HLA-disease associations: 240. Kidney transplantation compatibility testing: 26. Immunophenotyping: 46. PRP: 5. Cord-blood banking: 34. HLA typing of donors/patients referred by the Yeolyan Hematology Center: 55. New donors: 2,310.

Stem cell transplants: 2.

2023

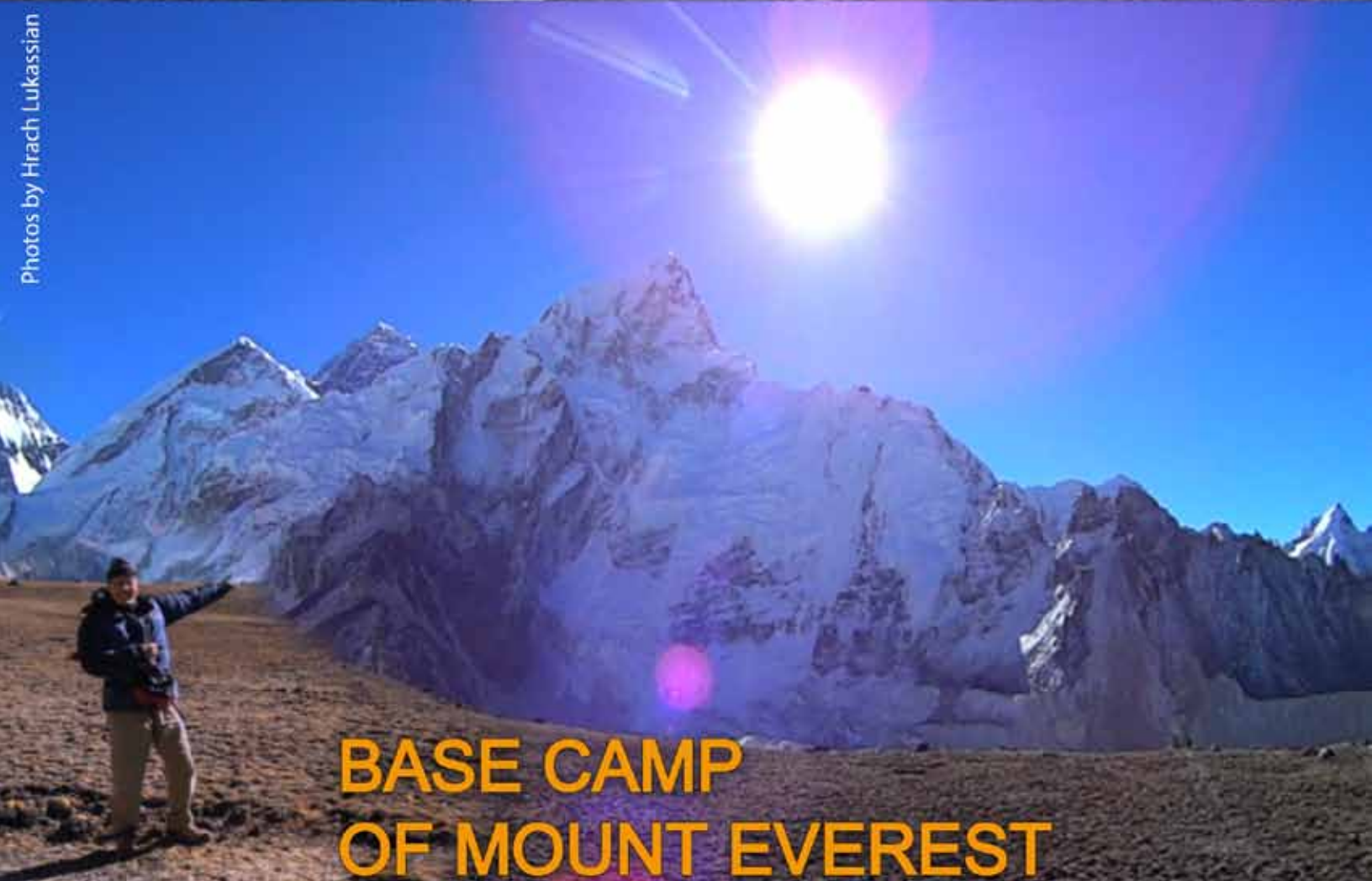
Recruitments across Yerevan, including during the International Medical Congress of Armenia and at the Embassy of Argentina; and during the Pan-Armenian Summer Games, in Gyumri. ABMDR NextGen team members Gary Shirikchian and Monte Asisian complete short-term internship at ABMDR Lab. ABMDR works to establish a DNA bank for military personnel. Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan appointed EFI Inspector. During the blockade of Artsakh, ABMDR fights to allow an Artsakh resident, a matched donor, help save the life of a 15-year-old boy in Germany. 40th and 41st harvesting. High-resolution typing requests: 164. Confirmatory typing requests: 27. HLA-disease associations: 245. Kidney transplantation compatibility testing: 31. Immunophenotyping: 140. Cross-matching: 10. Cord-blood banking: 25. HLA typing of donors/patients referred by the Yeolyan Hematology Center: 30. New donors: 152.

Stem cell transplants: 2.





Photos by Hrach Lukassian



**BASE CAMP
OF MOUNT EVEREST**



Easter Brunch

Over 170 supporters attended ABMDR's inaugural Easter Brunch, held on March 23, 2024, at the Chevy Chase Country Club, in Glendale, California. The event was organized and chaired by Dr. Ramella Markarian. Sponsors of the occasion included Adventist Health Glendale, Los Angeles Cancer Network, Dr. Nubar and Mrs. Alin Boghossian, Dr. Evlyn Avanesian, Medick Pezeshkian, First Eagle Realty and Finance, Elevate Health Group, Remedy Liquor, and Paachi Chocolate.



Hosted by Vehanoosh and Zaven Grigorian at their home, in Los Angeles



Zaven and Vehanoosh (third and fourth from left in the photo above) graciously hosted our pre-Gala dinner on August 23, 2023, at their home in the Los Angeles area.



ABMDR's 24th annual Gala and awards ceremony took place on the evening of August 27, 2023, at the Glendale Hilton, in Glendale, California. The jubilant event was attended by more than 300 supporters, including community leaders, elected officials, and representatives of community and health organizations.

ABMDR's work received praise from many officials attending the event, among them California State Senator Anthony Portantino, who presented ABMDR with a special Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the California Senate.

The successes which the Gala celebrated included ABMDR's participation in several global medical conferences, a significant range of DNA-based services which ABMDR offers to patients in Armenia, expansion of outreach and recruitment with the launch of ABMDR's NextGen youth group, and professional growth at the ABMDR Lab through advanced trainings and certification.

As mentioned during the Gala, several medical innovations and breakthrough medical research achieved by ABMDR were presented at the Medical Congress of Armenia in 2023.

24TH



MATCH FOR LIFE GALA



Thank you, major sponsors Prolase Med Spa and Laser Clinic, Adventist Health Glendale, Geragos & Geragos, and First Eagle Realty / Vehanoosh Grigorian, for your invaluable support!





Congratulations, our 2023 award recipients!



Top row: ABMDR Inspiration Award recipient Maz Jobrani; members of Fans With a Cause, the ABMDR Organization of the Year. Second row: Dr. Karo Isagholian, proprietor of Prolase Med Spa and Laser Clinic, the ABMDR Business of the Year; Volunteer of the Year Lena Tchellikian Boyadjian. (Rubina Varjabedian, not pictured, was also named Volunteer of the Year). Third row: Woman of the Year Vehanoosh Grigorian; Man of the Year Hratch Postik.

Gala photos by Shahe Melelian, Arka Photography



Diocese Prayer Day in honor of ABMDR patients and families, March 26, 2023



Prelacy Prayer Day in honor of ABMDR patients and families, Feb. 12, 2023



Diocese Visit, February 7, 2023



Prelacy Visit, January 25, 2023



Community presentations, Los Angeles



At the invitation of Bishop Torkom Donoyan, Prelate of the Western Prelacy, ABMDR addressed our community on two occasions during Lenten luncheons in 2023: a short address on March 1, at Legacy Hall, in Glendale, organized by the Western Prelacy Ladies' Auxiliary; and a full-length lecture on March 29, at Dikranian Hall, in Encino, organized by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Holy Martyrs Armenian Church. ABMDR is deeply thankful to Bishop Donoyan, Father Razmig Khatchadourian, and both Ladies' Auxiliaries for these and other occasions, through which we can inform the public about our work and accomplishments.



Lecture at UACC, Los Angeles



On October 26, 2023, at the invitation of the United Armenian Congregational Church's United Women, Dr. Vergine Madelian presented a lecture titled "Blood Diseases, Bone Marrow Stem Cell Transplants: Why Ethnicity Matters." The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A session with the audience.



From left: Joyce Abdulian, United Women Co-Chair Debbie Levonian, and Dr. Vergine Madelian.



Outreach and presentation in Watertown, Massachusetts



On March 5, 2023, a presentation by Dr. Frieda Jordan was held at the AGBU Center in Watertown, Massachusetts. The event was organized by ABMDR New England and co-sponsored by the AGBU Young Professionals of Boston. The presentation was titled "ABMDR Beyond Bone Marrow Transplantation: Navigating Pandemics, Wars, and Emerging Opportunities." With over 60 supporters in attendance, including repre-



sentatives of various local organizations, the event served as a much-anticipated occasion to inform the community about the latest activities of ABMDR and its plans for continued growth. Dr. Jordan's presentation was followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Subsequently the attendees enjoyed a wine-and cheese reception, featuring award-winning wines from Armenia.

Clockwise from top: Lori Sorial of the ABMDR New England support group delivering her welcome remarks; Dr. Frieda Jordan; the ABMDR New England support group; and a scene from the presentation.



A large banner for the ABMDR 25th Anniversary Gala. The text reads: "THE ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY" at the top in teal. Below that, "ABMDR" in gold. The number "25" is large and gold, with "Anniversary CELEBRATION" written below it. To the right, "Gala" is written in a large, gold, cursive font. Further right, "SAVE THE DATE" is written in large white letters, and "SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH, 2024" is written below it in white. There are three gold stars between "25" and "Gala".



ABMDR at pan-Armenian conferences in Yerevan

In July 2023, ABMDR participated in two medical conferences in Yerevan. On July 5, the organization took part in the Third Pan-Armenian Hematology satellite Symposium. Representing ABMDR at the event was ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan. Next,

ABMDR participated in the Sixth International Medical Congress of Armenia, from July 6 through 8. Speaking at the event were ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, and Senior Lab Technician and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan.



In the photo at the top: Dr. Sevak Avagyan during his presentation at the Medical Congress of Armenia. In the photos above: Alina Sirunyan and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan during their presentations at the conference.



Conference in Sofia

On November 3 and 4, 2023, ABMDR participated in a leading international medical and scientific conference, the European Federation of Immunogenetics' (EFI) Region 8 Balkan EPT Meeting, in Sofia, Bulgaria. Representing Armenia and ABMDR at the annual conference were Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan. As a featured speaker, Dr. Jordan made an in-depth presentation on ABMDR. She also chaired one of the conference's scientific sessions.



In the photo at the top: Dr. Frieda Jordan during her presentation. In the photo above: Dr. Sevak Avagyan; Elisaveta Naumova, president and organizer of the event; and Dr. Jordan.

Dr. Christina Garabedian makes presentation on ABMDR for Kaiser Permanente

On March 19, 2024, Dr. Christina Garabedian made a presentation on the mission of ABMDR, as part of the Armenians@KP Business Resource Group's monthly virtual community meeting. Armenians@KP comprises Armenian healthcare and other professionals associated with Kaiser Permanente. During her comprehensive presentation, Dr. Garabedian discussed donor recruitment, HLA-typing, matching donors to patients, and the stem cell-harvesting and transplantation processes, as well as the work of the ABMDR Lab and Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in Yerevan. Dr. Garabedian is an ABMDR Board member and the Co-Chair of the Registry's Walkathon Committee. The Armenians@KP group also includes ABMDR Board members Evelyn Baghdasraian, MD; and Armond Mehdikhani.



In the photo, from top: Elvira Derhovsepian, Supervisor of Administrative Services, Armenians@KP; and Dr. Christina Garabedian during her online presentation for healthcare professionals at Kaiser Permanente.

Dr. Ramella Markarian



Thank you, Ramella, for your key role in our partnership with Adventist Health Glendale, and for being a dedicated member of our Board of Directors.

Dr. Carolann and George Najarian



Stepan and Linda Vartanian



George Titizian



Thank you, George Titizian and L.A. Chapter Trex Fraternity for donating proceeds from the Armenian Open Golf Tournament to ABMDR.

Viken and Salpi Mankerian



Lara Yeretsian, Esq., and Hratch Manuelian



Amy and Michael Boyadjian



Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian



Thank you, Lara, for your pivotal role in the continued success and popularity of the ABMDR Comedy Night.

Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian



Alvart Badalian and Aramais Andonian



"As a female business owner, I have come to recognize the strength of our Armenian community and the value of human connection. With my success comes the responsibility to give to those less fortunate and in need. ABMDR provides a lifeline to individuals who find themselves at a crossroads with their health. I am honored to do my part and assist with their journey."

Vehanoosh Grigorian

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!

Carmen Lukassian



Thank you, Carmen, for your years of support of our activities and events, including the Walkathon and the Gala, and for being a devoted Board member.

Dr. Arpenik Avagyan and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko



Dr. Vergine Madelian

Thank you, Vergine, for your outstanding dedication to the life-saving mission of ABMDR: for not only raising public awareness of our work through presentations, training our recruiters, and sponsoring all of our activities, but also designing artistic glass works and Christmas decorations and donating them to our events!



Thank you, Softline Solutions, for continuing to provide ABMDR with top-notch IT support. Thanks to this wonderful company, ABMDR reaches supporters across the globe and keeps them informed of its work, through a great website as well as email blasts and social media.



Congratulations, Alique

To ABMDR supporters across the world, Alique Topalian is celebrated as the inspiration behind the founding of our Registry, in 1999. Alique was a little girl then, and the fact that there was no Armenian registry of bone marrow donors to find a match for her was reason enough for Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan to spring to action and go on to establish ABMDR. In the years since, Alique has not only beat cancer, but grown up to become an extremely accomplished young woman. Today, she holds a Master of Public Health degree as well as a PhD, and works as a research scientist, patient advocate, adolescent and young-adult community builder, and mental-wellness promoter.

On October 21, 2023, Alique reached yet another wonderful milestone in her journey, as she and Max Tallman tied the knot, at St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Congratulations, Alique, and thank you for being a beacon of inspiration for thousands.



Thank you, Alex and family

On December 3, 2023, Alex Darbinyan, one of our young patients, and his family (father, Artem; mother, Rosie; and sister, Emily) held a toy drive for Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The event, at the Western Diocese, also included an ABMDR donor recruitment as well as a raffle drawing, and Alex's family went on to donate all of its proceeds to ABMDR. So Alex's parents, who are the proprietors of RaMa Drugs, not only donated nearly \$8,000 to ABMDR, as proceeds from the raffle, but also were among the sponsors of ABMDR's 2023 Laughter for Life comedy night. Thank you!



Thank you for in lieu of flowers

In loving memory of

- George Davidian
- Dr. Jilbert Issai
- Mariana Kazarian
- Hrach Lukassian
- Rozik Markarian
- George Postik
- Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
- Dr. Razmik Sirakian
- Kevork Sultanian
- Arlene Titizian
- Ani Ohani Torosian
- Janet Yegumians



Mariana Kazarian



Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian



Arlene Titizian



Hrach Lukassian



George Postik



Dr. Razmik Sirakian



George Davidian



Dr. Jilbert Issai



Janet Yegumians



Rozik Markarian

Dr. Frieda Jordan, Hasmik Keyribarian, and Taleen Khatchadourian honored by Senator Portantino



Hasmik Keyribarian of the Armenian American Medical Society, Dr. Frieda Jordan, Glendale City Planning Commissioner Edith Fuentes, and ABMDR Board member and Armenian Autism Outreach Project

President Taleen Khatchadourian were among a group of 15 California women who were honored by California Senator Anthony Portantino on March 12, 2023, on the occasion of Women's History Month.



Keyribarian, Dr. Jordan, and Khatchadourian with their awards. The honorees were recognized at the 25th Senate District Women of Distinction Awards reception, which took place at Pasadena City Hall.

Marina Manoukyan and Annette Postik receive *Business Life* Magazine's Women Achievers Awards



ABMDR Board member Marina Manoukyan, and ABMDR Board member and Gala Committee Co-Chair Annette Postik were among a group of extraordinary women who were honored with *Business Life* Magazine's 2023 Women Achievers Awards. Marina and An-



nette were presented with their awards by *Business Life* publisher John Krikorian, during the publication's 34th Women Achievers Symposium and Awards Celebration, which was held on October 27, 2023, at Noor Events, in Pasadena, California.

Dr. Christina Garabedian honored by Rep. Schiff



ABMDR Board member and Walkathon Committee Co-chair Dr. Christina Garabedian was among 16 remarkable women from California's 30th District who were honored by US Representative Adam Schiff as the District's 2023 Women of the Year. Dr. Garabedian was praised for having made significant contributions to her community through civic engagement, community service, and leadership in her field.

"The 2023 Woman of the Year honorees are an inspiration to their communities for their passion and dedication to service," Schiff said. "They are not just leaders in their fields of work but in their communities as well, making our home a better place for all."



ABMDR Board members, supporters, and volunteers attending the *Business Life* event.

Training workshop for ABMDR NextGen recruiters



The workshop was conducted by Dr. Vergine Madelian and Fimi Mekhitarian. The event, held on March 25, 2023, was hosted by Dr. Ramella Markarian, at Adventist Health Glendale.



ABMDR at Armenian Heritage Night



From left, news anchor Araksya Karapetyan, Dr. Frieda Jordan, Arpine Zohrabyan, and Dr. Christina Garabedian at the inaugural Armenian Heritage Night. The event was held on July 12, 2023, at BMO Stadium, in Los Angeles, and hosted by the Los Angeles Football Club.

Easter Brunch Committee



Board meeting, summer 2023



Gala Committee and supporters



Annual Planning Retreat



Held on February 17, 2024, and hosted by ARS Western US, at its center in Glendale.



World-Class Care at Adventist Health Glendale

Adventist Health Glendale is a nonprofit, 515-bed, tertiary care hospital nationally acclaimed for clinical excellence and patient safety. We proudly deliver world-class care to Glendale, Montrose, La Crescenta, La Canada and surrounding communities. Nearly a quarter of our patients come from outside our immediate service area, which is a testament to the quality care we provide — quality that ensures expert care is close to home.

Our mission

Living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.

Clinical excellence

We serve nearly 600,000 residents of Glendale and surrounding communities with a continuum of clinical services staffed by physicians who are leaders in their specialties. Our clinical offerings rival our competitors and include the following centers of excellence:

- **Cancer** — Our comprehensive cancer services are accredited by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer as a Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program. Additionally, The Sam and Grace Carvajal Comprehensive Breast Center features advanced treatments, including cryoablation and intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT).
- **Cardiovascular** — We offer a pioneering structural heart program with a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic services for all types of heart and vascular diseases, including TAVR, WATCHMAN, MitraClip and more.
- **Emergency** — Our emergency department is certified as a STEMI Receiving Center, Chest Pain Center, Comprehensive Stroke Center and Emergency Department Approved for Pediatric (EDAP).
- **Interventional Gastroenterology** — Our fellowship-trained physicians offer advanced, less invasive diagnostic and treatment options for people suffering from complex gastrointestinal diseases.
- **Neuroscience/Stroke** — We are one of only 23 hospitals in L.A. County certified as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. Awarded by DNV GL Healthcare, this certification reflects the highest level of quality in stroke care for patients. Services include stroke care, neurosurgery and cerebrovascular and endovascular surgery.
- **Orthopedics/Sports Medicine** — Our orthopedic surgeons combine their expertise with advanced technology to treat all types of joint pain and orthopedic conditions and injuries.
- **Spine** — Featuring skilled physicians utilizing the latest technology, including advanced robotics, our spine program provides patients with convenient access to comprehensive care for back and neck pain.
- **Women's Services** — Our services for women of all ages cover pregnancy, breast health, urinary tract health, pelvic floor conditions, urogynecology and gynecological oncology.
- **Surgery** — Our highly skilled surgical subspecialists perform minimally invasive, advanced and robotic procedures including the da Vinci Surgical System the Mako robot, and image/computer guided neurosurgery.
- **Behavioral Health** — The Center for Behavioral Health and Recovery provides compassionate, comprehensive whole-person care for patients suffering mental health issues. Services include psychiatric emergency intervention, crisis stabilization, acute psychiatric care and dual diagnosis treatment. We provide care in the inpatient and partial hospitalization/outpatient settings.

By the Numbers | 2023

17,895

DISCHARGES

1,466

BIRTHS

7,045

SURGERIES

55,020

EMERGENCY VISITS

107,965

OUTPATIENT VISITS

Awards and Recognitions



5-Star Quality Rated

Adventist Health Glendale has earned four consecutive five stars, the highest-possible rating, through the Overall Hospital Star Ratings program by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Only 10% of hospitals nationwide and 12% in California received five stars.



'A' Rating from The Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Group, a patient safety watchdog organization, awarded Adventist Health Glendale an 18th consecutive "A" Hospital Safety Grade, making us one of only 45 hospitals in the country to earn an "A" grade continuously since 2015. Only six other California hospitals have achieved as many consecutive "A" ratings.



America's 250 Best Hospitals

Adventist Health Glendale has been recognized as one of America's 250 Best Hospitals™ for the fourth year in a row by Healthgrades, placing it in the top 5% of 4,500 hospitals in the country and an overall leader in clinical excellence.



Magnet Designation

Adventist Health Glendale is recognized as a Magnet-designated organization by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the highest and most prestigious international distinction that a healthcare organization can receive for nursing. Less than 9% of U.S. hospitals are Magnet-recognized.



Get With the Guidelines® — Stroke

Adventist Health Glendale has received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Gold Plus quality achievement award for ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines. We also received additional distinctions, including Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Honor Roll; Target: Stroke Advanced Therapy Honor Roll; and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.



Comprehensive Stroke Center

Adventist Health Glendale was the first medical center in California to receive Comprehensive Stroke Center accreditation from DNV GL Healthcare, demonstrating that we exceed patient safety standards set forth by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Brain Attack Coalition and the American Stroke Association.



Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program

Accredited by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer as a Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program, given to facilities who meet the requirements for patient-centered care and focus on improving quality and patient outcomes.



Joint Commission Certification in Joint Replacement

Adventist Health Glendale has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for its joint replacement program (knee and hip) by demonstrating compliance with national standards for healthcare quality and safety in disease-specific care.



Pink Ribbon Facility

Adventist Health Glendale's Cancer Center is designated a Pink Ribbon Facility by Hologic. Pink Ribbon Facilities are recognized as providing excellence in breast health paired with their exceptional commitment and support to the women of their community.



Christmas Party

December 21, 2023, Fresco Restaurant, Glendale, California



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ABMDR Newsletter designed and edited by Ishkhan Jinbashian.

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In memoriam: Steve Artinian

The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry fondly remembers Steve Artinian, a long-time supporter and dear friend, who passed away on June 18, 2023, in Los Angeles. A veteran leader of Homenetmen Western US and an activist with the Armenian National Committee of the Western Region, Steve made a significant impact on ABMDR as well. He served on ABMDR's Advisory Board, in which capacity he conceived the idea of – and organized – ABMDR's first-ever walkathon, in 2005. Steve also worked on the branding of ABMDR and created a framework to implement a cohesive expansion of its various activities. In 2009, Steve was named an ABMDR Volunteer of the Year.

He will be greatly missed, and his rich legacy of activism will live on. Our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

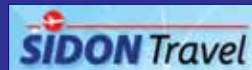
2023 ABMDR LOTTERY WINNERS



First
Prize
Winners

John and Violet Dagdigian

Two round-trip tickets,
donated by Sidon Travel



[The Dagdigians donated their prize to ABMDR. Thank you!]



Second
Prize
Winner

Dalida Keuroghlian

iPad, donated by Paulette Malekian,
of Engel & Volkers



Third
Prize
Winner

Cindy Norian

Google Nest Hub,
donated by Annette and Hratch Postik



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