

# ABMDR

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

## 2026 NEWSLETTER



CHARTING A HOPEFUL FUTURE WITH THE POWER OF YOUTH



DR. NEIBAR BOGHOSSIAN

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DR. BORIS BAGDASARIAN



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year, as we mark the 26th anniversary of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, let us take pride in the fact that our beloved organization has become synonymous with not just an enduring spirit of humanitarianism, but also extraordinary resilience. For ABMDR, the path to success has never been an easy one. Yet, time and again, the difficulties we've encountered have only served to empower our resolve.



Today, while the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Artsakh War are still very much felt in our work, and even though we must deal with a number of ongoing challenges, our mission keeps going strong!

Our vision for the future, in fact, remains a key ingredient in everything we do, and it's why the continued growth of ABMDR reflects our commitment to pre-

paring our next generation of volunteers and activists. Three years ago, we established ABMDR NextGen, our very own, and very dynamic, youth group, which has since organized a string of outreach and recruitment events.

Our commitment to growth is equally reflected in our most recent effort to help educate our youth, with the recently-launched ABMDR Summer Internship Program. Through this initiative, a group of high-school students from California interned at the ABMDR Lab, in Yerevan, in 2025, gaining basic theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience in HLA-typing methodologies and bone marrow/stem cell donor matching.

This is all part of our goal to get our youth involved in science and humanitarian projects, equally, and we are thrilled about the prospects of building on the Summer Internship Program in 2026 and beyond.

In this, our 27th year, as we look ahead to the expansion of our activities, I thank each and every one of you – our dedicated volunteers, donors, and supporters – for empowering our cherished mission. It is a mission of bringing hope to patients and their families across the globe, engaging our communities, performing critically-important medical work and research, and inspiring our youth to join the cause.

FRIEDA JORDAN, PHD  
PRESIDENT, ABMDR

## MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

I couldn't be more proud of the young men and women from California, students from Providence High School and Ferrahian School, who took part in ABMDR's first-ever Summer Internship Program, in 2025. These youths are destined to become our tomorrow's scientists and researchers, in the fields of immunogenetics, bone marrow/stem cell donor matching, and transplantation. I convey my deep gratitude to ABMDR for helping pave the way for them.



BELLA KOCHARYAN, MD  
FORMER FIRST LADY OF ARMENIA

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



**Q: Congratulations on over a quarter century of growth and success. With the medical field becoming more and more demanding of implementation of newer and newer technologies, is ABMDR affected by these changes, and how does it deal with them?**

A: You are correct. As in most other fields, recent advances in sequencing technologies require that we, too, keep up with these demands. Knowing this, we have been studying and evaluating methods that would enable us to step up and keep up with the newer standards demanded in the field. We finally settled on the Oxford Nanopore Technology (ONT) system, which is ideally suited for institutions like ABMDR's HLA-Typing Laboratory: it achieves the new standards of allele-level typing of six loci, it is cost-effective, has built-in technical flexibility, and is scalable.

**Q: Have you already adopted this system?**

A: Negotiations are currently in progress, and training sessions have already been scheduled. We plan to gradually introduce this system to complement and add on to our long-standing PCR-SSP method with ONT. As always, the ABMDR HLA-Typing laboratory is among the first in the Caucasus region to introduce this method for clinical applications, and will soon be a regional hub for training personnel from other regional labs. We think the Oxford Nanopore system will be in place and fully functional at our Lab, in time for our summer interns to observe these new technologies in practice.

**Q: What is the practical significance of adopting these new technologies?**

A: The Oxford Nanopore system will bring our HLA laboratory to an entirely new level. Presently, we respond to patient requests by finding potential donors from our Registry who match patients at a low-resolution level. The transplant center then picks one, or more, or none of these potential matches and asks us to perform further tests to determine their high-resolution profile, upon which to base their selection of the best match for their patient.

With our present system, this second step of high-resolution typing is slow and laborious. The Oxford Nanopore system will greatly facilitate and expedite this step, and bring us up to par with the rest of our global partners.

These benefits will extend to kidney – and other solid-organ – recipients as well. High-resolution typing will enable the establishment of virtual cross-matching and the use of advanced immunological risk-assessment tools for sensitized patients.

**“Our Lab in Yerevan is among the first in the region to introduce the Oxford Nanopore Technology system for clinical applications, and will soon be a regional hub for training personnel from other regional labs.”**

## ABMDR Lab license renewed following EFI inspection

The European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) has renewed the operating license of ABMDR's HLA-Typing Laboratory, in Yerevan.

The ABMDR Lab has been accredited and licensed by EFI since 2006. "EFI accreditation is a key factor in our work, as it allows us to cooperate with national registries across the globe and hence save lives," said ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan.

The operating license of the ABMDR HLA-Typing Lab was renewed following a thorough inspection, which the facility passed with flying colors. The inspection was conducted on April 4, 2025, by EFI inspectors Dr. Ron Loewenthal of Israel and Dr. Dan Adrian Luscalov of Romania.

Doctors Loewenthal and Luscalov inspected the lab's methodologies and protocols, technical documents, procedures pertaining to HLA-typing for patients as

**Below: the EFI inspectors (center) flanked by ABMDR executive personnel and Lab staff.**



**From left: Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Dan Adrian Luscalov and Dr. Ron Loewenthal of the European Federation for Immunogenetics, Armine Hyusyan, and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan during the ABMDR HLA-Typing Lab's inspection.**

well as related and unrelated donors, and research with regard to connections between certain HLA antigens and a wide range of medical conditions. The inspectors also examined the integrity and accuracy of all medical equipment and instruments utilized at the lab. Present at the inspection were ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan, Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan, and Database Manager

Alina Sirunyan, among other staff members. The ABMDR HLA-Typing Lab is the only one of its type in the Caucasus, and the only such facility in the region to be accredited by EFI. "My colleagues and I couldn't be happier about the results of our lab's inspection," Dr. Jordan said and added, "EFI's renewal of our operating license is a vitally important achievement for not only the lab itself, but also our pan-national registry and the worldwide Armenian community as a whole."

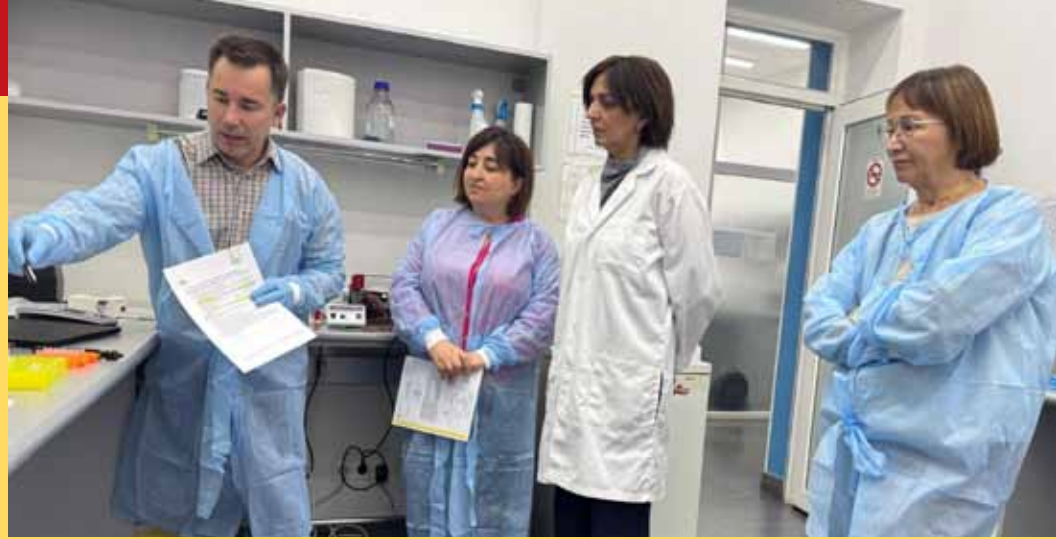


## Staff members receive training in the use of latest technologies

Starting on November 3, 2025, members of the staff of ABMDR's HLA-Typing Laboratory received three days of intensive training at the facility, in Yerevan. The training was provided by Yury Namestnikov, representing the Protrans company, of Germany. The training workshop introduced the ABMDR staff to the latest technologies in HLA typing, next-generation sequencing, and diagnostic testing for leukemia patients.

Our team of trainees – including Lab Technician Ani Azaryan, Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan, and Senior Lab Technician and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan – gained hands-on experience in the processes of validating new kits and analyzing real results. Joining our Lab Staff for this important training were Dr. Frieda Jordan as well as Dr. Irina Pavlova, co-director of the HLA-Typing Laboratory at the Dr. Raisa Gorbachova Memorial Institute of Children's Oncology, Hematology, and Transplantology (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation).

**In the top photo: Yury Namestnikov administering the training to Alina Sirunyan and Armine Hyusyan, as Dr. Irina Pavlova looks on. In the photo on the right: the trainees included ABMDR Lab Technician Ani Azaryan (seated), while also present at the training was ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan.**



## With seed money from the Barkhoudarian family, ABMDR Lab adopts advanced Oxford Nanopore Technology

Our Lab in Yerevan will begin using Oxford Nanopore Technology (ONT) sequencing, a state-of-the-art system that ensures fast and cost-effective HLA typing, for transplantation and disease research alike.

The adoption of the ONT system by our Lab was made possible by a generous donation of \$20,000 from the Barkhoudarian family, in memory of Sophia Barkhoudarian. The ONT method makes it possible to analyze HLA genes more accurately and with fewer ambiguities, compared with traditional techniques. As a result, donor-patient matching becomes far more precise. With its launch in April 2026 at our Lab, the ONT system will enhance not only the accuracy, but also scalability and efficiency of donor HLA typing.

"ABMDR's adoption of the ONT system is a reflection of its continued commitment to international standards,



**The Barkhoudarian family of Los Angeles donated \$20,000 for the establishment of the ONT project at our Lab, in memory of Sophia Barkhoudarian, pictured here with her husband, Sarkis Barkhoudarian.**

**ABMDR needs matching donations to continue to perform HLA-typing, therefore to save lives, for years to come. Please give generously today, at [abmdr.am](http://abmdr.am)**

innovation, and improved outcomes for patients in need of stem cell transplantation," said ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan. He continued, "We

are absolutely thrilled to have been able to adopt the ONT system at our Laboratory in Yerevan, through the magnanimity of the Barkhoudarians!"

# ABMDR Summer Internship Program off to a great start

In 2025, four high-school students from California completed ABMDR's inaugural Summer Internship Program, held at our HLA-Typing Laboratory, in Yerevan. The interns included Emily Davoodian, Vahan Gadimyan, and Zara Ovanessian, all from Providence High School, in Burbank; as well as Alexander Galstyan, from Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School, in Los Angeles.

During the two-week program, the interns gained basic theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience in HLA-typing methodologies used in immunogenetics and bone marrow/stem cell donor matching.

Individual topics of the program encompassed safety protocols and laboratory best practices, DNA extraction techniques, PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) setup for HLA typing, HLA-typing methodologies, gel electrophoresis and interpretation (including with software tools), donor/recipient case studies, bioinformatics in HLA typing (including local and international donor databases), donor recruitment and outreach, flow cytometry, and cord-blood banking.

ABMDR's HLA-Typing Laboratory is a state-of-the-art molecular-testing facility, accredited by the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) and recognized globally by all major transplant centers.



**Sona Ashjian, Medical Program Manager at Providence High School, in Burbank, California, mentored students to participate in ABMDR's Summer Internship Program at our Lab, in Yerevan.**

## THE ABMDR SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

is open to college students (graduate and undergraduate), as well as high-school seniors with a proper course background. Students interested in participating in the next Summer Internship Program should submit a one-page request to [info@abmdr.am](mailto:info@abmdr.am). The request should include a short biography and a list of courses taken in the fields of biology and chemistry.



**From left: Lab Technician Ani Azaryan, interns Zara Ovanessian and Vahan Gadimyan, and Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan.**



**From left: intern Alexander Galstyan, Ani Azaryan, and intern Emily Davoodian.**

**In the photo below: Vahan Gadimyan and Zara Ovanessian during their internship. The program seeks to provide interns with basic theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience in HLA-typing methodologies used in immunogenetics and bone marrow/stem cell donor matching.**





From left: ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, visitors Benjamin Aghamalian and his sister, ABMDR Board member Medik Aghamalian, and Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan.

Visitors from Arabkir Medical Center included Dr. Helen Nazaryan and Dr. Milena Voskanyan of the Transplantation Department, along with their kidney-transplant consultants from the UK, Dr. Miriam Manook and Professor Nizam Mamode.



From left, Dr. Milena Voskanyan and Dr. Helen Nazaryan of Arabkir Medical Center, Armine Hyusyan, and kidney-transplant consultant Dr. Miriam Manook.



ABMDR Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan introducing a group of students from Yerevan State Medical University to the activities and objectives of the facility.

## ABMDR at East-West Immunogenetics Conference, Zagreb, Croatia

ABMDR Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan and Database Manager Alina Sirunyan participated in the 18th East West Immunogenetics Conference (EWIC), held in Zagreb, Croatia, from February 26 to 28, 2026.

EWIC is one of the most highly-recognized regional meetings of the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI), known for its strong scientific content and practical relevance.

As in previous years, the 2026 program was carefully structured to meet the theoretical and practical needs of laboratory professionals. Alongside lectures summarizing and updating recent developments in histocompatibility and immunogenetics, interactive sessions focused on donor selection, result interpretation, and reporting. While seamlessly complementing one another, all of these components made the conference especially engaging, practical, and professionally valuable.

In the photo: Armine Hyusyan (left) and Alina Sirunyan at the conference.





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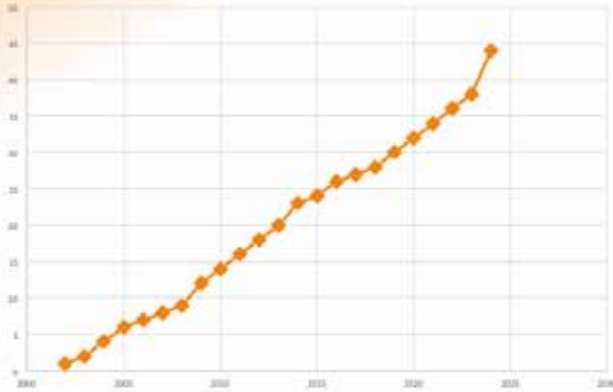
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# The work of ABMDR in 2025: a snapshot

## 44 Transplants



### Our original mission (and beyond)

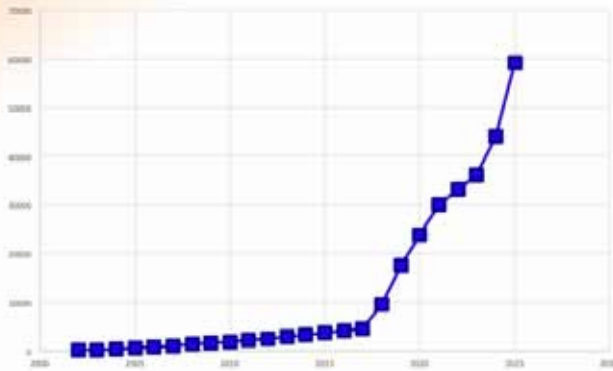
- 33,500+ donors
- Over 60,000 patient requests
- Over 550 patients from Armenia
- 44 Transplants

### Evidence-based medicine

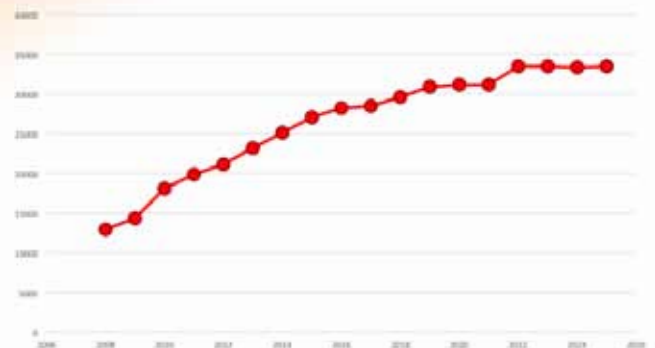
- HLA-disease association (3,500+)
- Immunophenotyping (830+)
- Kidney-transplant compatibility (315+)
- Cord-blood banking (360+)

- Hub of immunogenetics in the Caucasus
  - EFI and other conferences
- Training lab for students and interns
- Military Personnel DNA-Database Project

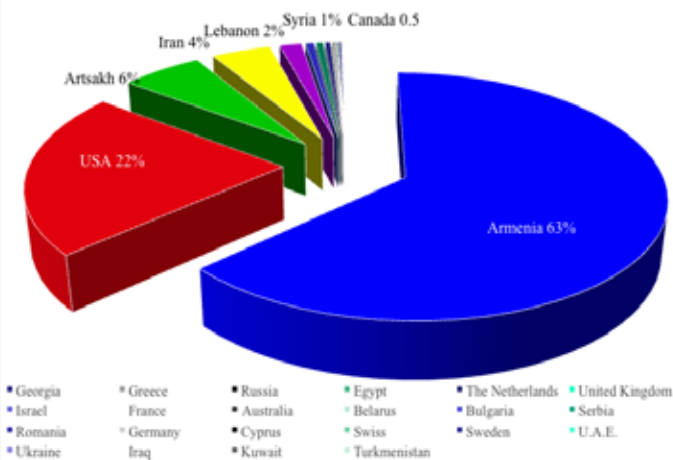
## Over 6,000 Patient Requests



## Over 33,000 donors



## Donors from 32 Countries



## Over 550 Patients from Armenia



## ARMENIA

January 8, 2025: Recruitment at Anania Shirakatsi Lyceum, Yerevan.

January 20, 2025: Recruitment at COAF Smart Center in Lori.

February 22 and 23, 2025: Recruitment at Woods Center, Yerevan.

April 15, 2025: Recruitment at Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy.

November 11, 2025: Recruitment at Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy.

## MASSACHUSETTS

June 8, 2025: Outreach and recruitment during St. James Armenian Church Festival, Watertown.

June 16, 2025: Outreach at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, in Belmont.

June 20-22, 2025: Outreach and recruitment during Watertown Greek Festival, Archangels Greek Orthodox Church grounds, Watertown.

June 30, 2025: Outreach and New England Walkathon promotion during Cafe Anoush'ella community event, held at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, in Watertown.

August 17, 2025: Outreach and recruitment during St. Stephen's Armenian Church's Second Annual Vartavar celebration, Watertown.

September 13, 2025: Recruitment during New England ABMDR's 14th annual Walk of Life, Watertown.

## CALIFORNIA

March 16, 2025: Outreach and recruitment during Western Diocese Prayer Day for ABMDR patients and families, Saint Leon Cathedral, Burbank.

March 23, 2025: Outreach and recruitment during Western Prelacy Prayer Day for ABMDR patients and families, Saint Mary's Armenian Church, Glendale.

April 17, 2025: ABMDR NextGen recruitment at UCLA's Coachellian 2025 event, held at UCLA's Fowler Amphitheater.

July 27, 2025: ABMDR NextGen outreach and recruitment during Fourth annual Vardavar Water Festival, Verdugo Park, Glendale.

October 4, 2025: Recruitment during ABMDR's 20th annual Walk of Life, Glendale.



# RECRUITMENTS IN ARMENIA



Recruitments at the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy, Yerevan. April 15, 2025 (photo above) and November 11, 2025.



## ABMDR NextGen recruitment at UCLA's Coachellian 2025

On April 17, 2025, ABMDR NextGen held a recruitment at the Coachellian 2025 event, held at UCLA's Fowler Amphitheater. Throughout the duration of the festivities, members of the NextGen team raised awareness of ABMDR's life-saving mission among attendees by answering questions and providing printed materials, and recruited potential bone marrow stem cell donors following a simple swab test. Hosted by UCLA's Armenian Students' Association, Coachellian is a beloved festival that celebrates Armenian culture through music, food, and dance.



Welcome to  
***Coachellian 2025***  
Hosted by UCLA ASA

# NextGen outreach and recruitment at Vardavar Water Festival, organized by Hayk for Our Heroes

July 27, 2025, Verdugo Park, Glendale, California



## Strength means nothing if you keep it to yourself

By Talia Boghossian

I once believed gratitude was simply something you felt – until one night, at the 2025 ABMDR Gala, taught me it is something you live. As Amanda Salas accepted the ABMDR Inspiration Award, she spoke of the moment her life split in two, when success turned into survival and she was told, “You have cancer.” Unable to ever donate blood or become a match herself, she refused to let that loss define her. Instead, she transformed her suffering into purpose, reminding us that survivors carry a duty to others and that we must “send the elevator back down.”

Watching caretakers – including my father, an oncologist and hematologist – rise to their feet, I understood that true strength is not measured by what you endure, but by what you give away. In that instant, one truth settled in my chest: strength means nothing if you keep it to yourself.

That night changed the direction of my life. I could not donate blood. I could not swab. But I could act. Within weeks, I brought ABMDR to my school and founded a club that drew over 50 students who wanted to save lives. I joined ABMDR Next-Gen, raised funds, walked in solidarity, and stepped into a legacy of service I had admired for years but was finally ready to claim as my own. What I found was not recognition, but purpose. Gratitude, I learned, is movement. It is choosing action over comfort, and responsibility over silence. I will keep helping spread awareness, grow our mission, and bring others with me, and when the day comes that I am old enough to register, I will do so without hesitation. Because if my voice, my work, or my willingness to stand up helps even one person see another sunrise, then that will be the greatest form of gratitude I can offer.



**“Watching caretakers – including my father, an oncologist and hematologist – rise to their feet, I understood that true strength is not measured by what you endure, but by what you give away.”**

– Talia Boghossian, ABMDR NextGen volunteer

# ABMDR's 2nd annual Golf Tournament a great success

On September 29, 2025, ABMDR held its second annual Charity Golf Tournament, at the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club Golf course, in Los Angeles. Benefiting the Registry's life-saving mission, the tournament brought together enthusiasts and supporters from throughout California.

Co-chaired by ABMDR Board members Armond Mehdikhani and Hutch Postik, the entire organizing committee contributed to the success of the tournament. The tournament was made possible by the generous donations of the following sponsors: ECC; MVS Phoenix; Heritage Financial; MidGate, Inc., and Racks4Retail.com.

The tournament winners comprised the following teams: first place: Alan Artunian, Vince Zarian, Hagop Khatchadourian, and Arby Melikian; second place: Aram Gasparian, Jim Pietsch, Ken Cash, Ronnie and Oberhammer; and third place: Steve Ekmekji, Vahe Devian, Vram Alian, and Matt Mateosian.

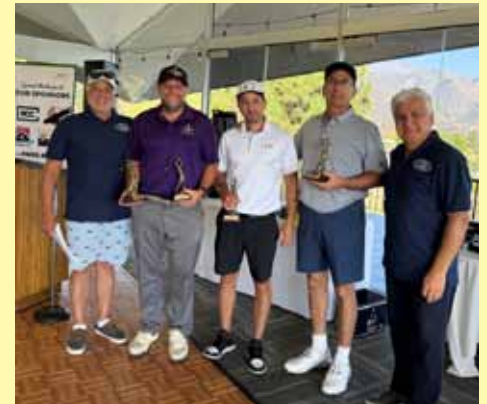
Several tournament participants also won exciting lottery prizes.



Members of the Golf Tournament's Organizing Committee and supporters.



Tournament participants.



The Golf Tournament's top-three winning teams. The much-awaited tournament brought together enthusiasts and supporters from throughout Southern California.



Some of the winners of the Golf Tournament's exciting lottery prizes.



## ABMDR featured on Los Angeles Football Club's Armenian Heritage Night

On October 8, 2025, ABMDR was featured as an outstanding community organization during the Armenian Heritage Night celebrations of the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC). That night, just prior to the start of the Toronto FC vs. Los Angeles FC soccer match at the BMO Stadium, in Los Angeles, the work of ABMDR was presented to the 22,000 spectators gathered at the arena. Appearing before the audience was a team from ABMDR. During the brief presentation, spectators were familiarized with ABMDR's life-saving mission

while visuals depicting ABMDR community activities were shown on the stadium's massive screens. ABMDR's participation in the event was facilitated by award-winning filmmaker and longtime ABMDR supporter Ara Soudjian (in the bottom left photo, far left). Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to LAFC Co-President and General Manager John Thorington (third from left in the left photo below) for his instrumental support in featuring ABMDR at the event. The two photos below were provided to us by the Los Angeles Football Club.





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## Laughter for Life wows supporters in L.A.

It was a night of nonstop laughs. On December 14, 2025, over 200 supporters converged on the world-famous Comedy Store, in West Hollywood, for ABMDR's 21st annual Laughter for Life. One of our most beloved benefit events, Laughter for Life boasted a lineup of outstanding comedians, including Antic, Erik Griffin, Jonathan Kite, K-Von, Kira Soltanovich, Sam Tripoli, Tehran Von Ghasri, and Dustin Ybarra. Tripoli also co-hosted the event, together with fellow Laughter for Life co-founder and Committee member Lara Yeretsian, Esq. Thank you, the highly-dedicated members of the ABMDR Comedy Night Committee, as well as all of our generous sponsors, for a marvelous event!





# Walk of Life Los Angeles

On October 4, 2025, close to 400 supporters gathered at the plaza of the Glendale City building, in Glendale, California, to participate in ABMDR's 20th annual Walk of Life. In addition to individual teams of walkers, there were teams representing schools, universities, community organizations, and businesses. They included Team Arpz (Arpine Zohrabyan), the USC Armenian Students' Association, Glendale City College ASA/Nursing Club, AGBU Manooagian-Demirdjian School, Holy Martyrs Ferahian High School, Providence High School, and Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School.

The invocation was performed by Father Yeghia Isayan. During the opening ceremony, remarks were delivered by Walkathon Committee co-chairs Medik Aghamalian and Khachig Boghossian; ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan; California Senator Sasha Renee Perez, who presented ABMDR with a special commendation on behalf of the California Senate; cancer survivor Gayaneh Sahakian; and ABMDR NextGen Executive Director Jeffrey Balian.

The walkathon's major sponsors included Paulette Malekian, USC Mann School of Pharmacy, Table 22 Films, Friendly Filmworks, and Dr. Vergine Madelian.

Prior to the start of the walkathon, awards were presented to Team Arpz as the team that had raised the most funds; and the Providence High School team as the one that had the most participants.

Following the ribbon-cutting, the 5-K walk-run looped through central Glendale. The walkathon concluded at the plaza of the Glendale City building, where the festivities continued into the day. The event also gave participants the opportunity to join the Registry as potential bone marrow stem cell donors, while volunteers were on hand to answer questions.





Thank you, Team Arpz  
(Arpine Zohrabyan),  
for most funds raised.

Thank you, Sona Ashjian,  
for having the most participants.



And thank you, Aleko Boghoskha-  
nian, for photographing our walk-  
athons for the past several years.





**A big Thank-you to our sponsors: Paulette Malekian (Engel and Volkers); USC Mann School of Pharmacy; Table 22 Films; Friendly Filmworks; Dr. Vergine Madelian, for donating her handmade Christmas ornaments and cards; Aleko Boghoskhanian, for his great work as the longtime photographer of the walkathon; Porto's Bakery, for providing delicious pastries for our walkers; and McDonald's, for providing our walkers with fresh coffee and cookies.**



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# Walk of Life New England

Supporters from across New England gathered in Watertown on September 13, 2025, to participate in ABMDR New England's 14th annual Walk of Life. The much-awaited pan-Armenian event drew numerous students from area schools and colleges, and was supported by local organizations, businesses, and community leaders.

Since its launch 15 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 Women's Welfare Association; Watertown Savings Bank; the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association; ThermOil, Inc.; Suphi Furs; Anoush'ella; and the Varjabedian and Bedrosian families; as well as the Armenia Tree Project, Amaras Art Alliance, St. James Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, the Red Sox, New England Revolution, Northeastern Hockey, the Waverly Oaks Athletic Club, and the Armenian Museum of America.

During the walkathon's opening ceremony, which took place on the grounds of the Charles Mosesian Center, Tamar Melkonian of the Organizing Committee welcomed the participants. "It's inspiring to see so many individuals and community organizations come together for this walkathon," she said. "Many of you have supported us since the very beginning, and we are deeply grateful. Thank you to everyone who helped spread the word among friends, families, and colleagues. Your support makes this event possible."

Melkonian conveyed the 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. Melkonian also acknowledged Artemis Minassian, one of ABMDR's earliest supporters, as the recipient of the ABMDR New England Volunteer of the Year Award.

The walk concluded at Saltonstall Park, where participants celebrated the day's achievements and enjoyed great music, dancing, and food, along with those attending the annual Faire on the Square festival.

As they conducted the closing ceremony, Manneh Gazarians and Narini Badalian of the Organizing Committee thanked the event's sponsors for their continued support year after year. Gazarians and Badalian also brought the participants' attention to all the logos and sponsor names on their T-shirts, and went on to present the walkathon winners with their awards. Subsequently, Telo Ghazarians, Alec Der Sirakian, and Sossy Yogurtian of the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association were awarded the Gold, Silver, and Bronze top-fundraiser awards, respectively. For the 13th consecutive year, the Armenia Tree Project will plant commemorative trees in Armenia in honor of the walkathon winners, as part of the #LivingCentury Initiative.

In an interview with Watertown Local Access TV covering the Faire, Tamar Melkonian and Shant Der Torossian of the Walkathon Organizing Committee spoke of the vital importance of the event in raising public awareness of ABMDR's life-saving mission.



Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian (center, in yellow T-shirt) and Rev. Fr. Arakel Aljalian blessing the walkers.



The Walkathon Organizing Committee.



Dana-Farber Cancer Institute representative Kidest Mequanen (seated, far right) and ABMDR New England volunteers at the ABMDR booth at the Watertown Faire on the Square festival.



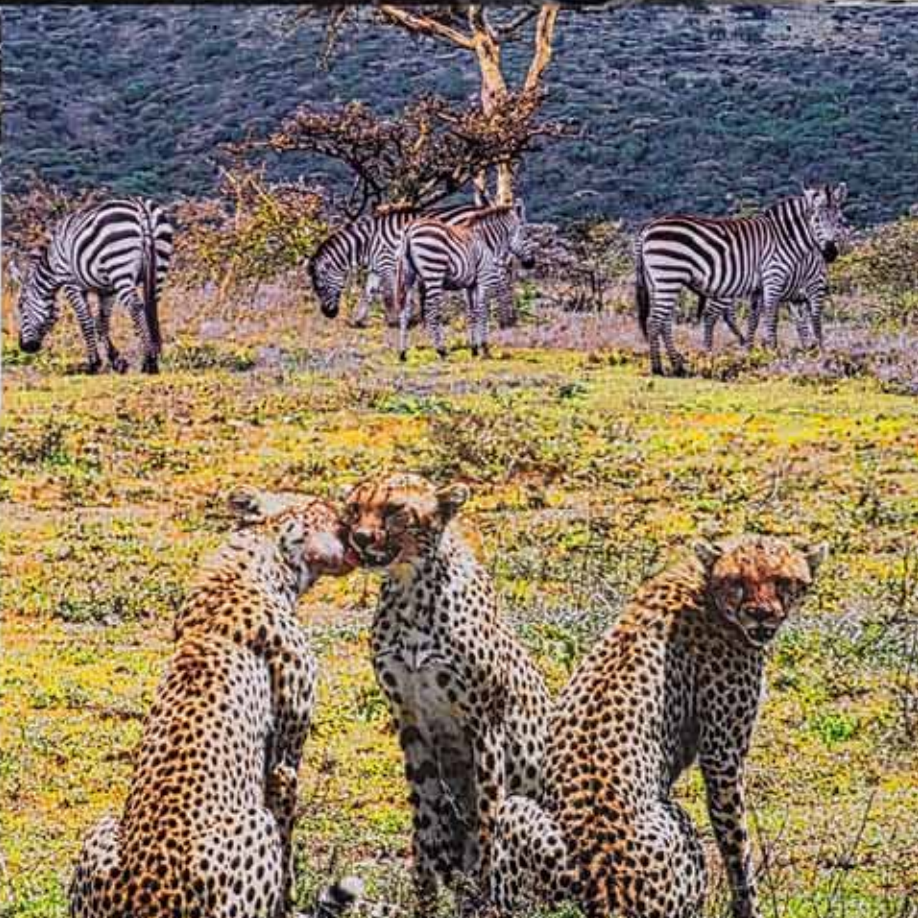
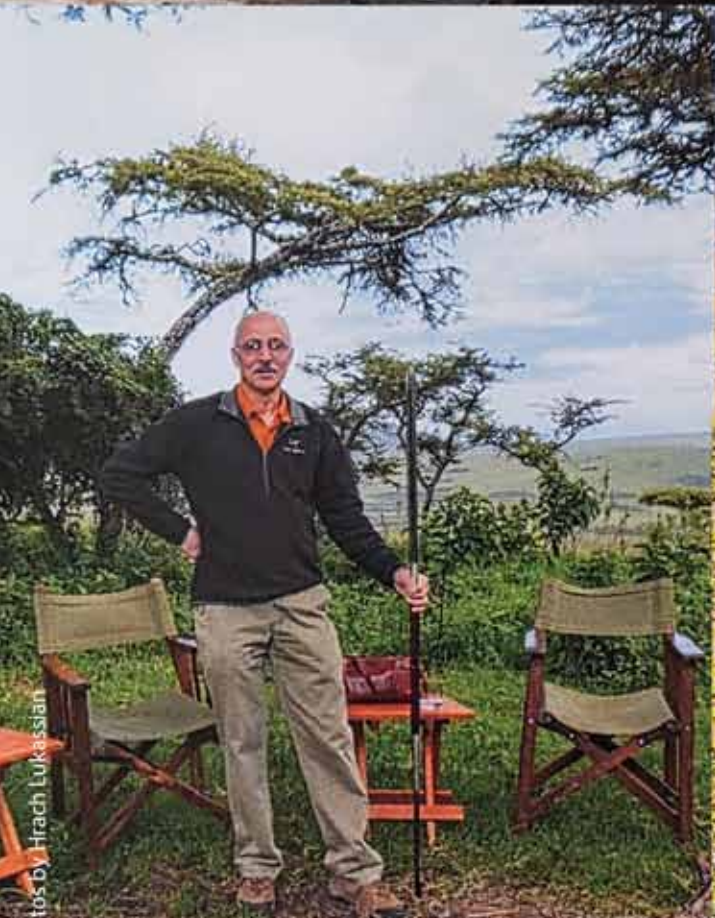
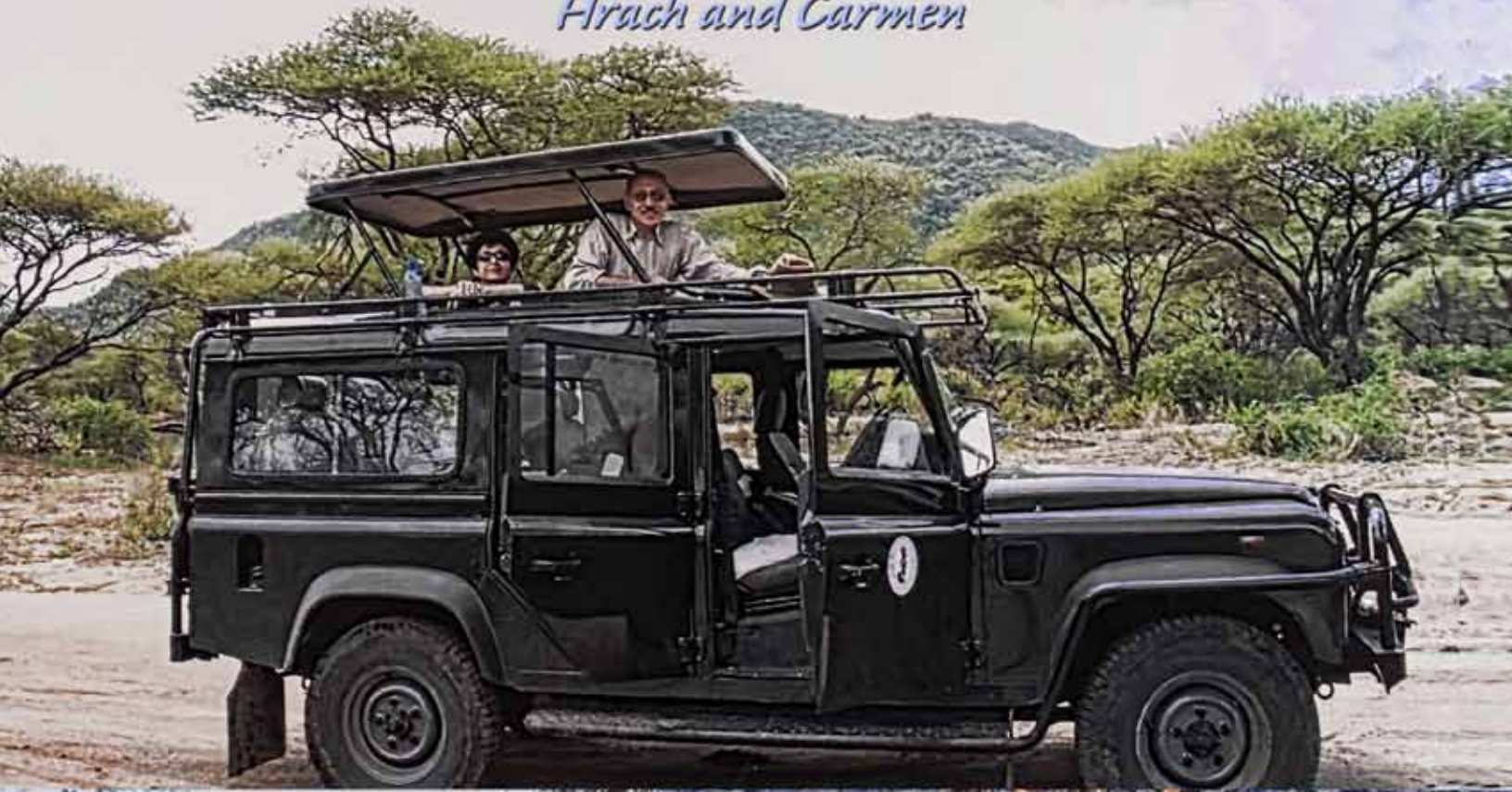
Walkathon supporters and participants.



From left: Telo Ghazarians receiving the Gold Award on her and her sister Rubina's behalf; Alec Der Sirakian accepting the Silver Award; and Sossy Yogurtian accepting the Bronze Award, along with colleagues from the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association.

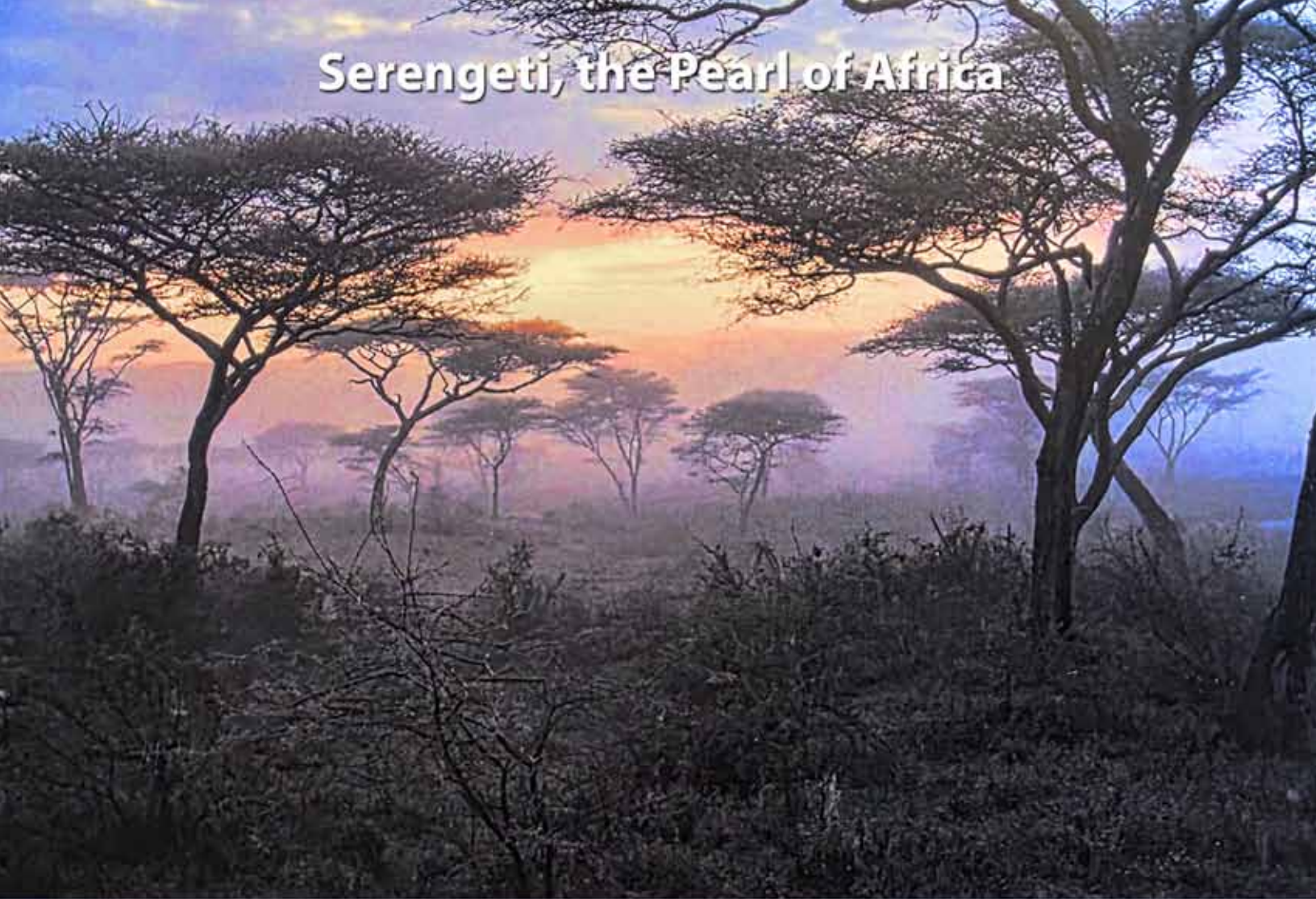
# Unforgettable, Historic Memories, Celebrating a Life Immersed in Exploration.

*Hrach and Carmen*



This and the facing page are sponsored by Carmen Lukassian and family.

# Serengeti, the Pearl of Africa



# PRE-GALA DINNER

Hosted by Iline and Aleko Boghoskhanian at their residence, in Los Angeles, August 22, 2025



# THE ENDURING LEGACY OF *Dr. Aida Shirinian*

*Dr. Aida Shirinian was a devoted wife, mother, pharmacist-turned-physician, sister, and friend whose life was defined by service.*

*From the earliest days of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, she helped lay the foundation for what would become a life-saving institution for Armenians worldwide.*

*She was also part of the first graduating class of just seven students at Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School. In later years, she supported fundraising efforts that strengthened Armenian education, including the growth of Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School. She believed deeply in preserving identity through education, language, and community.*

*Though her life was cut short by heart disease, her legacy lives on powerfully through her children. Paul and Sean Kaloostian completed neurosurgical residencies, and Dr. Carolyn Kaloostian has served as a geriatrician and family physician at Keck Medicine of USC.*

*Now a candidate for Glendale City Council in 2026, Carolyn continues her mother's commitment to healing – in medicine and in public service.*

*A life of service. A legacy of healing. A commitment to community.*



**Young Carolyn and her mom, Dr. Aida Shirinian.**

**Dr. Carolyn Kaloostian.**

On August 24, 2025, ABMDR celebrated its 26th anniversary with the Match for Life Gala. The festive pan-Armenian event was held at the Glendale Hilton, in Glendale, California, with more than 300 supporters in attendance.

Attending dignitaries and special guests included California State Senator Sasha Renee Perez, who presented ABMDR with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the California Senate; California Congresswoman Laura Friedman; Glendale City Council members Elen Asatryan, Vartan Gharpetian, and Ardy Kassakhian; author Aram Saroyan; and several media personalities, including Araksya Karapetyan. The Gala's Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Vicken Sepilian, president of the Armenian Medical International Committee.

The Gala's major sponsors were the Daglian Law Group; and Naz Atikian / Family Rescue Fund. Other sponsors included Adventist Health Glendale, Dr. Evlyn Avanesian, First Eagle Realty, the Gadimyan family, Mark Geragos, Esq., the Gourchounian family, Dr. Vergine Madelian, Mrs. Janet Parsanj, Rama Drugs, Tri-Tech Restoration and Construction, TRU Med Spa, L.A. Cancer Network, St. James Armenian Church, and Carmen Lukassian.

# 26<sup>TH</sup>



## MATCH FOR LIFE GALA



**Thank you, Daglian Law Group and the Family Rescue Fund, for your support as major sponsors!**





# Congratulations, our 2025 award recipients!



**TOP ROW:** ABMDR Inspiration Award recipient Amanda Salas; Business of the Year Award recipient Gary Daglian, founder and CEO of Daglian Law Group. **SECOND ROW AND FIRST PHOTO OF THIRD ROW:** Volunteer of the Year Award recipients Ardemis Minassian, Arsineh Karabedian, and Arpa Mehdikhani. **THIRD ROW, SECOND PHOTO:** Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Michele Seyranian. **FOURTH ROW:** Woman of the Year Dr. Evlyn Avanesian and Man of the Year Harut Sassounian. **FIFTH ROW:** the first crop of ABMDR's Summer Internship Program, including Zara Ovanessian, Emily Davoodian, and Vahan Gadimyan, all three from the Providence High School Medical Program, as well as Alexander Galstyan (not pictured), from Ferrahian School, received Certificates of Accomplishment. **FIFTH ROW, SECOND PHOTO:** Dr. Vicken Sepilian was presented with a Certificate of Special Recognition issued by US Senator and longtime ABMDR supporter Adam Schiff.

# Experience excellent breast care close to home.

Trust the experts at the **Sam and Grace Carvajal Comprehensive Breast Center** to help you navigate every step of your breast health journey. From screening to diagnosis to treatment, our team works with you to create a comprehensive care plan tailored to your needs.

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- Surgical Intervention
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Glendale, CA 91206

## MEET OUR EXPERT TEAM:



**Dennis Holmes, MD**  
Medical Director, Breast Surgeon



**Peter Ashjian, MD**  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon



**Nina Behdin, MD**  
General Surgeon



**Ani Kanian, NP**  
Nurse Practitioner



**Lana Louie, MD**  
Breast Surgeon



**Sepideh Saber, MD**  
Reconstructive Surgeon



**Premal Sanghavi, MD**  
Breast Surgeon



**Jekwon Yeh, MD**  
Medical Director, Radiation Oncologist



**Linh Chen, MD**  
Radiology/Ultrasound/Biopsy



**Outreach and recruitment at St. James Armenian Church Festival.** Conducted by the ABMDR New England team, on June 8, 2025. A big thank-you to Reverend Father Arakel Aljalian for his invaluable support.



**Outreach at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church.** A heartfelt thank-you to Father Ghazar Bedrossian and the community of Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church of Belmont, Massachusetts, for welcoming our team, on June 16, 2025.



**Outreach and recruitment during Greek Festival.** The ABMDR New England team led outreach and recruitment at the Watertown Greek Festival, which was held during June 20-22, 2025, at the Archangels Greek Orthodox Church.



**Outreach and recruitment at St. Stephen's Armenian Church.** A huge thank-you to Very Rev. Father Hrant Tahanian and the entire St. Stephen's Armenian Church community for welcoming the ABMDR New England team to your wonderful Second Annual Vartavar (Watertown Water Fight - WWF) celebration, on August 17, 2025.



**Outreach and promotion of New England Walkathon.** On June 30, 2025, our team conducted outreach during a Cafe Anoush'ella community event, held at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, in Watertown. The team members also spread the word about the next ABMDR New England Walkathon. The Cafe Anoush'ella events are sponsored by Anoush'ella, a popular chain of Lebanese restaurants in Massachusetts and a major sponsor of our New England Walkathon.

## In appreciation of our colleagues and supporters on the East Coast

On February 22, 2026, an appreciation dinner was held in Watertown, Massachusetts, in honor of ABMDR New England supporters and volunteers. The event was graciously hosted by Rubina and Kegham Varjabedian at their home. Joining the event was ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan, who thanked everyone for their unwavering commitment and support in the past decades. "Our profound gratitude goes to each and every single member of the ABMDR New England team, for their selfless dedication in organizing outreach events and recruitments, for engaging our youth in community activism, and for their exemplary spirit of volunteerism," Dr. Jordan said.



Western Diocese visit, January 29, 2025



Western Prelacy visit, February 26, 2025



Diocese Prayer Day for ABMDR patients, March 16, 2025



Prelacy Prayer Day for ABMDR patients, March 23, 2025



## ABMDR's Summer Internship Program showcased on Shant Television



On the August 20, 2025 episode of the Los Angeles-area television program "Your Health," ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan appeared as the guest of the show's host, Dr. Vicken Sepilian. During their discussion, Dr. Jordan informed viewers about the work of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, and in particular spoke about the organization's recently-launched Summer Internship Program at its Lab, in Yerevan. Dr. Sepilian is the president of the Armenian Medical International Committee. He is also a

longtime supporter of ABMDR and has graciously served as the Master of Ceremonies of the Registry's annual Match for Life Gala for the past several years. A partnership between the Armenian American Medical Society and ARTN/Shant Television, "Your Health" airs on Shant Television on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. The program features healthcare professionals from a broad spectrum of specialties who discuss medical topics pertaining to preventive care and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

## Dr. Jordan featured by Armenians@KP



On October 3, 2025, ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan appeared as the featured guest on the Armenians@KP Community Meetup. During the virtual event, Dr. Jordan spoke about the life-saving mission, activities, and objectives of ABMDR, and urged the audience to join the ranks of the pan-Armenian orga-

## At Medical Society Christmas Party



## At Los Angeles banquet honoring Catholicos



ABMDR Board members Dr. Vergine Madelian and Fimi Mekhitarian attended an extraordinary banquet in honor of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia. The event was held on November 2, 2025, at the Hilton Universal in Los Angeles. Hosted by the Western Prelacy and attended by over 1,000 guests, the banquet celebrated the pontifical visit of His Holiness to the United States and the 30th anniversary of his enthronement.



nization as potential bone marrow stem cell donors. Armenians@KP is an online community of healthcare professionals who work at Kaiser Permanente (KP).

Armenians are well-represented at Kaiser Permanente, especially in Southern California, with many Armenian physicians, surgeons, and specialists serving diverse communities, often speaking Armenian and understanding cultural nuances, and contributing to culturally-sensitive care within the organization. They are involved in various specialties, from urgent care and family medicine to pediatrics, and KP integrates them through its standard quality-care system, leveraging their unique backgrounds for community health.

## Armine Hyusyan and Dr. Gottfried Fischer conduct inspection of laboratory in Istanbul



The staff of the Tissue Typing and Immunology Laboratory, including its director, Dr. Emel Eksioğlu-Demiralp (sixth from left) with inspectors Dr. Gottfried Fischer and Armine Hyusyan (center, in gray suit).

As an official inspector with the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI), ABMDR Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan conducted an inspection of the Tissue Typing and Immunology Laboratory at Memorial Healthcare Group, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Hyusyan conducted the inspection on May 24, 2025, together with fellow EFI inspector Dr. Gottfried Fischer, a professor at the Medical University of Vienna and former EFI president. ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan is also an official EFI inspector, and to date has inspected several labs throughout Europe.

## Armenian American Medical Society Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada



Armenian American Medical Society President Dr. Garmi Barkhoudarian with ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan at the conference, which took place on September 20, 2025.

## International Donor Registry Conference, Quebec City, Canada



ABMDR Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan with Lydia Foeken, CEO of the World Marrow Donor Association, at the International Donor Registry Conference in Quebec, which took place during May 19-22, 2025.



Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan with Professor Johannis Mytilineos, Chief Medical Officer of the German Central Stem Cell Donor Registry, at the conference.



Also representing ABMDR at the conference was ABMDR Lab Database Manager Alina Sirunyan.

# ABMDR participates in 38th EFI conference, in Prague

An ABMDR team comprising Dr. Frieda Jordan, President; Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Executive Director; and Armine Hyusyan, ABMDR Lab Supervisor, participated in the 38th European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference. The prestigious event, organized and hosted by the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI), was held from May 14 to 17, 2025, in Prague, Czech Republic.

During the first segment of the conference, Dr. Frieda Jordan and Armine Hyusyan, as EFI inspectors, took part in the EFI Inspectors' Workshop.

As official EFI inspectors, Dr. Jordan and Hyusyan are responsible for examining national immunogenetics labs in countries across the globe, as a crucial step leading to EFI accreditation.

During the Inspectors' workshop at the conference in Prague, the attendees celebrated the 30th anniversary of the inception of the EFI Accreditation Program, whose mission is to promote and maintain the highest standards of operation in all national laboratories, irrespective of their size and location.

Through the various workshops and presentations of the Prague conference, participants became familiarized with the latest scientific and clinical information with regard to the fields of organ and bone marrow stem cell transplantation.



From left: Armine Hyusyan, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Dr. Sevak Avagyan outside the conference hall in Prague, Czech Republic.



With colleagues from EFI and various national laboratories.



Armine Hyusyan and Dr. Frieda Jordan.

**"Another wonderful aspect of the EFI conference in Prague was the fact that participants had the opportunity to connect with colleagues, and network with delegations from numerous countries. My ABMDR colleagues and I are extremely happy for having taken part in this conference, and proud to have represented Armenia and the worldwide Armenian community at this distinguished event."**

– Dr. Frieda Jordan



In their capacity as official inspectors with EFI, Dr. Frieda Jordan and Armine Hyusyan participated in the EFI Inspectors' Workshop, as part of the conference.

# EFI Region 8 Meeting, Belgrade

ABMDR participated in the annual EFI Region 8 and Balkan EPT Meeting, which took place during October 24-25, 2025, in Belgrade, Serbia. Dr. Frieda Jordan spoke at the prestigious event, addressing colleagues from throughout the world with a presentation titled "ABMDR: 26 years of saving lives through science, outreach, and education." The meeting's EPT component (External Proficiency Testing) is a mandatory part of the EFI accreditation process for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics laboratories such as ABMDR's HLA-Typing Lab, in Yerevan.

**Clockwise from right: Dr. Frieda Jordan during her presentation at the EFI Region 8 and Balkan EPT Meeting; and Dr. Jordan and Dr. Sevag Avagyan with EFI colleagues at the conference.**



**Amy and Michael Boyadjian**



Thank you, Amy and Michael Boyadjian, of Tri-Tech Restoration, for hosting our Casino Night, and thank you, Amy, for your wonderful work for the Gala.

**Alvart Badalian and Aramais Andonian**



Thank you, Alvart, for so capably leading the ABMDR New England Support Group and helping it grow. And thank you, Aramais, for your design of this issue's cover.

**Dr. Carolann and George Najarian**



Thank you, Dr. Carolann and George Najarian, for continuing to be among our organization's most devoted supporters and advocates.

**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!



**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.

**Lara Yeretsian, Esquire, and Hratch Manuelian**



Thank you, Lara Yeretsian, for your pivotal role in the continued success and popularity of Laughter for Life, ABMDR's annual Comedy Night.

**Viken and Salpi Mankerian**



Thank you, Viken and Salpi Mankerian, of Mission Wine and Spirits, for your generous support of our outreach and fundraising events, and thank you, Salpi, for being an invaluable member of our Board of Directors.

**Dr. Charles and Hoori Sadler**



Thank you, Hoori Sadler and Dr. Charles Sadler, for your continued and generous support, and thank you, Hoori, for your wonderfully inspiring speeches at our Galas.

**Doctors Avagyan and Sokurenko**



Thank you, Dr. Arpenik Avagyan and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko, for being longtime supporters of ABMDR, including as generous sponsors of our annual Gala.

**Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian**



Thank you, Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian, for always being there for ABMDR, for your continued and generous support of our mission!

**Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian**



The printing of our Newsletter last year 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 Lukassian, for your years of support of our activities: for being a generous sponsor of our outreach, recruitment, and fundraising events, including the annual Walkathon and the Match for Life Gala. We also convey our gratitude and appreciation to you for being a longtime and dedicated member of the ABMDR Board of Advisors.



**Stepan and Linda Vartanian**



Thank you, Vartanian family, for your unflinching support, and for donating space at the Foundation Lab, thus enabling us to base our US operational hub at the facility.

**Naz Atikian, Family Rescue Fund**



Thank you, Naz Atikian, founder and president of the Family Rescue Fund, for supporting the 2025 ABMDR Gala as a major sponsor.

**Dr. Garni and Dr. Evelyn Barkhoudarian**



Thank you, ABMDR Board member Dr. Evelyn Baghdasarian Barkhoudarian, and Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian, for your inspiring volunteerism and support of our mission.

**Paulette Malekian**



Thank you, Paulette Malekian, of Engel & Volkers Real Estate, for your outstanding dedication to the success of our walkathons and other events, and for your thoughtful and generous support of our Newsletter.

**George Titizian**



Thank you, George Titizian and Trex Fraternity Los Angeles chapter, for your ongoing and generous support of the ABMDR mission through golf tournaments and other events.

**Darbinyan / Diremsizian family**



Thank you, Rosie Diremsizian and her family (husband, Artem Darbinyan; and children, Alexander and Emily) for your unwavering dedication to ABMDR's life-saving mission: for organizing the Team Alex Toy Drive, in support of Children's Hospital Los Angeles; for donating all proceeds from the event's raffle to ABMDR; and for being a sponsor of our Match for Life Gala.

*Thank you for in lieu of flowers*

**In loving memory of**

- Mariana Kazarian
- Hrach Lukassian
- George Postik
- Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
- Arlene Titizian
- Lorik Gerian
- Sophia Barkhoudarian
- Dr. Artoon Tahmasian
- Rafil Parsanj
- Archag Kazandjian
- Stella Kazandjian



**Mariana Kazarian**



**Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian**



**Arlene Titizian**



**Hrach Lukassian**



**George Postik**



**Lorik Gerian**



**Sophia Barkhoudarian**



**Dr. Artoon Tahmasian**



**Rafil Parsanj**

**San Feliz Urgent Care**



A big thank-you to the Ownership Team at San Feliz Urgent Care, for offering free phlebotomy (blood-drawing) services to potential ABMDR donors.

## Board meeting, summer 2025



## Dr. Frieda Jordan honored by British-Armenian community



**Dr. Frieda Jordan receiving award from Dr. Seda Boghossian-Tighe.**

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Medical Association of Great Britain (AMA-GB), Dr. Frieda Jordan received a Special Recognition Award for being a founding member of the institution. The award was presented to Dr. Jordan by AMA-GB chairperson Dr. Seda Boghossian-Tighe, on November 8, 2025.

AMA-GB is a professional and social group for Armenian healthcare workers, students, and supporters in the UK, aiming to promote health initiatives, support colleagues in Armenia, and foster community health awareness through scientific meetings, career development, and aid. Founded in 1984, the association brings together doctors, nurses, dentists, and others in the health sector to support each other and the wider Armenian community in Britain and Armenia.

## Supervisor Kathryn Barger honors three distinguished Armenian Americans, including Dr. Frieda Jordan



**From left: philanthropist Vahe Karapetian, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Dr. Frieda Jordan, and Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian.**

On April 29, 2025, as Armenian History Month drew to a close, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger honored three remarkable Armenian-American leaders from the Fifth District in recognition of their far-reaching contributions to medicine, innovation, and community service.

The honorees comprised ABMDR Co-founder and President Dr. Frieda Jordan, Armenian American Medical Society President Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian, and industrialist and philanthropist Vahe Karapetian. Their recognition took place during the Board of Supervisors' public hearing and highlighted the cultural richness, perseverance, and significant influence of the Armenian community across Los Angeles County and beyond.



**Dr. Frieda Jordan delivering remarks.**

"This month, and every month, we honor the enduring legacy of the Armenian-American community," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "Today, I'm proud to recognize three individuals whose extraordinary achievements have made our county stronger. Their dedication, innovation, and compassion reflect the very best of public service and civic leadership."

Supervisor Barger concluded, "These honorees exemplify unwavering commitment to innovation, service, and the preservation of the Armenian heritage. Their legacies will inspire generations to come and continue to enrich the cultural fabric of Los Angeles County."

**Photos by David Franco, courtesy of Los Angeles County**

# Business Life Magazine honors ABMDR and Board members with multiple awards

"Honoring leadership, vision, and dedication to community and business excellence," the 2025 *Business Life* awards recognized numerous outstanding individuals, civic organizations, and businesses from throughout Southern California. On May 21, 2025, *Business Life* Magazine conferred its Civic and Community Impact Award on the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. The award ceremony took place during the John Krikorian Legacy Luncheon, in celebration of *Business Life* Magazine's 35th anniversary. The event was held at Castaway, in Burbank, California. Accepting the award on behalf of ABMDR was Dr. Frieda Jordan. Also on this occasion, *Business Life* Magazine's John Krikorian Legacy Award was bestowed on ABMDR Board member and Adventist Health Systems vice president Dr. Ramella Markarian. The awards were presented to Dr. Jordan and Dr. Markarian by *Business Life* publisher Greg Krikorian. Some months later, on October 17, 2025, *Business Life* Magazine honored two more



ABMDR Board members, Rosie Diremsizian and Gayaneh Kostikyan, with its Women Achievers Awards. The awards were presented to the honorees likewise by Greg Krikorian, during *Business Life*'s 36th annual Women Achievers Luncheon, also at Castaway.



**AT THE JOHN KRİKORIAN LEGACY LUNCHEON, MAY 21, 2025, AT CASTAWAY, BURBANK, CALIFORNIA:**  
 Clockwise from top left: Dr. Frieda Jordan delivering remarks after being presented by publisher Greg Krikorian with the *Business Life* Civic and Community Impact Award; Dr. Jordan and Dr. Ramella Markarian, who received the John Krikorian Legacy Award; ABMDR Board members and supporters at the event.



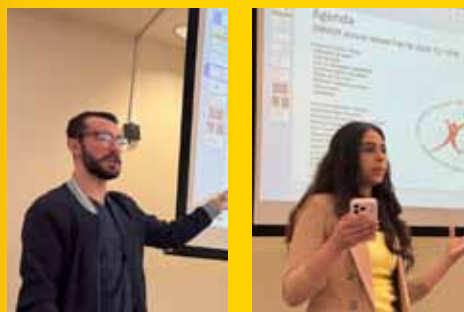
**AT THE WOMEN ACHIEVERS AWARDS LUNCHEON, OCTOBER 17, 2025, AT CASTAWAY, BURBANK, CALIFORNIA:**  
 Rosie Diremsizian and Gayaneh Kostikyan receiving their awards from publisher Greg Krikorian; the honorees with fellow ABMDR Board members and supporters.

## NextGen General Meeting

ABMDR NextGen's General Meeting was held on June 29, 2025, in Glendale, California. With ABMDR Board members Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Ramella Markarian also in attendance, the NextGen team reviewed current and past activities and mapped out its expansion into 2026, encompassing an array of outreach and recruitment events, as well as an ongoing training program.



## ABMDR Annual Planning Retreat, February 7, 2026, Glendale, California



On February 7, 2026, ABMDR held its annual planning retreat, in Glendale, California. The event outlined all ABMDR activities for the next 12 months, including outreach, recruitments, and fundraising, as well as the continued growth of the ABMDR Lab in Yerevan as a full-fledged immunogenetics center, and a hub for professional training and licensing, accredited by the European Federation for Immunogenetics. The many topics discussed during the retreat included advances in medical approaches to stem cell harvesting and transplantation, the recently-launched Summer Internship Program at the Lab, the ABMDR-initiated Military Personnel DNA-Database Project, and ABMDR NextGen's crucially-important role in advancing the ABMDR mission through social media and organizing events at colleges and universities.



# Easter Brunch

Over 150 supporters attended ABMDR's Easter Brunch, on March 29, 2025, at the elegant Chevy Chase Country Club, in Glendale, California. The event was chaired by ABMDR Board member Dr. Ramella Markarian, alongside a dedicated committee of passionate volunteers.

The program featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Harry Balian, who delivered an engaging and informative talk on heart health. A special highlight of the day was a surprise performance by renowned singer Harout Pamboukjian, who graciously donated his time and talent in support of ABMDR's life-saving mission.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our sponsors, whose continued support makes our work possible. And special thanks to Adventist Health Glendale, Vehanoosh Grigorian, and Remedy Liquor for their generosity and long-standing commitment to ABMDR's mission.



ABMDR CHRISTMAS PARTY — FRESCO RISTORANTE, DECEMBER 11, 2025, GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA



*Thank you, Pauline Boghoskhanian, for your beautiful Christmas decorations.*





## ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

# EXCITING INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

This is a comprehensive, 1-2 week long, hands-on Internship Program, held at ABMDR's HLA-Typing Laboratory in Yerevan. It comprises the following topics/techniques:

1. Bone Marrow Donor Recruitment;
2. Bone Marrow Donor Registry Database;
3. PCR Laboratory Basics;
4. DNA Extraction and Analysis;
5. HLA Testing and analysis;
6. Flow-Cytometry Basics;
7. Cord-Blood Banking.

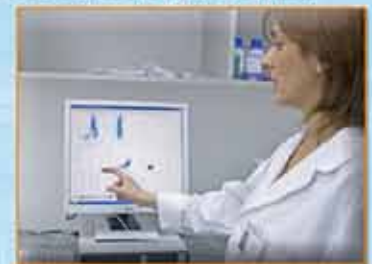
### **The program is:**

- Open to students from Armenia and the Diaspora;
- Suitable for college students (graduate and undergraduate) as well as high-school seniors with the proper course background.

If interested, submit a 1-page request to: [info@abmdr.am](mailto:info@abmdr.am). The request should include:

- A short bio;
- A list of courses taken in the fields of biology and chemistry.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to embark on a journey of discovery and growth in the fields of stem cell transplantation.



*ABMDR's HLA-Typing Laboratory is a state-of-the-art molecular testing facility, accredited by the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI), and recognized globally by all major transplant centers.*

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We are deeply grateful to artist and longtime ABMDR supporter Aramais Andonian, of Boston, for designing this issue's cover.

ABMDR Newsletter designed and edited by Ishkhan Jinbashian.

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## August 30, 2026:

# ABMDR's annual Match for Life Gala

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