

# ABMDR

ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

## 2025 NEWSLETTER



**Our distinct DNA and HLA,  
our devoted donors,  
and the road ahead for  
finding more matches**

**Rallying communities worldwide  
to join the ranks of ABMDR and help save lives**



FREDERICK J. COHEN, MD

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

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



DR. BRIJESH BAJAJ



# LOS ANGELES CANCER NETWORK

[www.LACancer.net](http://www.LACancer.net)  
[www.facebook.com/lacancernetwork](http://www.facebook.com/lacancernetwork)

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

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The future of ABMDR is already here, and it has every reason to be as exciting as our organization's first 25 years. That's because our future will continue to be fueled by two powerful factors: our commitment to growing, innovating, and collaborating as a global medical organization; and the support which the worldwide Armenian community is capable of providing for our activities.



The ABMDR Lab in Yerevan remains the heart of our work in Armenia. Our Lab is the only one of its type in the Caucasus, and the only facility in the region to be accredited by the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI). As such, the ABMDR Lab will continue to perform its critically-important work, including HLA-typing; bone marrow stem cell harvesting, which has facilitated 43 transplants to date; and DNA cryopreservation. Having introduced cutting-edge molecular testing in Armenia, our Lab will likewise continue to improve the country's DNA-based medical technologies, for

enhanced diagnosis, treatment, and survival of patients. As importantly, by functioning as a reference lab for solid-organ kidney transplantation, it will continue to help reduce the risk of organ rejection and post-transplant failure.

What stands behind these accomplishments is our wonderful Yerevan staff, which, year after year, helps ensure ABMDR's status as a dynamic national registry. Our approach to continually maintaining that status is two-pronged, comprising technological advancement and professional growth. Just as we will continue to adapt new technologies, our Yerevan staff continues to make strides by acquiring advanced skills and knowledge, as well as institutional recognition through the earning of diplomas and specialized licenses. As I write these lines, I am delighted to note that ABMDR is now eligible to receive accreditation by the World Marrow Donors Association (WMDA), having fulfilled all of the latter's criteria. This is a highly prestigious turning point.

It is thanks to such achievements that our Lab was recently designated by EFI as a regional training hub. For the same reason, our Lab will continue to be a training ground for not only local university students, but those from the Diaspora as well. This year, for instance, many students from the US, including members of our vibrant youth group, NextGen, will intern at our Yerevan Lab.

Today, as we look ahead to the next chapter of our beloved organization, our profound gratitude goes to our benefactors, Board members, and volunteers for making all this a beautiful reality. At the same time, it is our strong hope that more and more segments of the global Armenian community, including organizations, churches, and schools, will join our cherished mission of saving lives, particularly through youth activism.  
Frieda Jordan, PhD, President

## MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

As you will read across the pages of this Newsletter, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry has been making significant strides throughout 2024 and the early part of 2025, encompassing every aspect of its work, and staying laser-focused on its goals. Today, I join the global Armenian community to applaud our selfless volunteers, our marvelous Lab staff, including our doctors, researchers, and technicians, as well as our donors, benefactors, patient families, and the incomparable Armenian youth, for empowering ABMDR's life-saving mission like never before. Thank you all for your heartwarming dedication!

Bella Kocharyan, MD

Honorary Chair, former First Lady of Armenia



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



**Q. As ABMDR has completed a quarter century, how would you characterize it now?**

A. I would characterize it as vibrant and mature. Within Armenia, ABMDR is acknowledged as the organization that not only brings hope to patients afflicted with blood illnesses like leukemias and lymphomas, but also one that introduced the practice of fact-based medicine and DNA-based technologies that help local doctors diagnose and/or treat many illnesses. Internationally, ABMDR is highly respected by immunogenetics and transplantation communities across the world, recognized for its excellence, treated as a colleague among equals, and held as an example to new countries trying to start their own registries.

**Q. Is a global presence important for ABMDR?**

A. Absolutely. Any patient's chance of finding a match is greatly enhanced by the close collaboration between registries. But in the case of Armenian patients, who are dispersed all over the world, close collaboration with all registries and transplant centers within the global community is an absolute must.

**Q. How do you navigate this global network of registries and transplant centers?**

A. By working with them hand in hand, keeping our memberships active, participating in meetings and conventions, and, mostly, by keeping our standards very high. ABMDR has been a long-time member of Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide (BMDW), World Marrow Donors Association (WMDA), American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI), and the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI).

Our laboratory is set up and operates according to the highest standards required by these bodies. We are regularly inspected and accredited by EFI. This year, having fulfilled all criteria in terms of number of donors provided annually, donor traceability software, number of transplants facilitated, and overall performance, we are eligible to apply for WMDA accreditation. This will bring us into an elite group of registries, and will greatly enhance our ease of operating with transplant centers and registries throughout the globe. We already have two members of our team serving as EFI inspectors, and recently we were asked by the EFI Board to mentor and supervise two candidates from Georgia who are training and working towards getting their EFI technician's licenses.

**Q. What's the secret to keeping your standards high?**

A. The short answer is, "by educating, training, and retraining our staff." Our technicians are trained and re-trained in leading labs in Europe, and accredited by these bodies. For example, Ani, our lab technician, is studying to take her EFI technician's license exam. Alina, our database manager, already an EFI-certified technician, also attained Search Coordinator status, and is now working on her European Specialization in Histocompatibility and Immunology diploma from the European Society for Histocompatibility and Transplantation. Armine, our laboratory supervisor, has had all of these licenses. In addition, a few years ago she passed the required training and exam, and became a designated EFI inspector. She has already inspected several labs in the region and in Europe. This year, Armine also got her European Specialization in Histocompatibility and Immunology diploma, which qualifies her as a laboratory director or co-director. I must point out that each and every one of these diplomas requires serious study, training, and a rigorous exam. It is a lot of work, but it keeps our standards high, and inspires a great deal of confidence in our laboratory.

**Q. Does ABMDR also continue to serve as a regional center for education for many in the field?**

A. Yes, of course. In the past, on three different occasions, we have organized and hosted EFI regional workshops/meetings, which brought together scientists from the Caucasus region, plus Europe and the US. In addition, we have opened our lab to scientists interested in the field, and many students from Armenia and the Diaspora have already spent time in our laboratory to get valuable hands-on experience. This year, we have several members of our NextGen group in the US heading to our lab for their summer internships. We hope to continue and even expand this program in the coming years.

## ABMDR performs 42nd, 43rd, and 44th harvesting procedures

On April 10, 2024, a young Yerevan resident, Garik Petrosyan, donated bone marrow stem cells for an urgent transplant that could help her sister survive a life-threatening blood-related illness, as requested by the German National Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ZKRD).

The harvesting of the donated stem cells was the 42nd such procedure to be performed by ABMDR. The painless, non-invasive harvesting took place at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in the Armenian capital.

Garik said that from the very first day that a donor match was being sought for her sister, who lived in Germany, he had a feeling he would end up being identified as a match, for a chance to save her life. As soon as Garik was notified that he was in fact identified as a matched donor for his sister, he eagerly reported to the ABMDR headquarters, where he underwent the preliminary phase of the stem cell harvesting and subsequently the harvesting itself.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, the Stem Cell Harvesting Center's resident physician. Also present were ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, and other lab personnel. Within mere hours of the procedure, the harvested stem cells arrived in Germany, personally delivered by a specially-licensed international courier.

Less than seven months later, on November 6, 2024, Garik once again donated bone marrow stem cells for his sister. The harvesting was the 44th such procedure to be facilitated by ABMDR (the 43rd harvesting procedure took place in September 2024, as reported on the following page). As soon as the harvesting of Garik's stem cells was completed, they were once again entrusted to a special courier and flown to Germany, to help save the life of Garik's sister through a transplant.

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.



**The stem cell donor for our 42nd and 44th harvesting procedures (fourth from left) with ABMDR staff, including Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan (far left) and Dr. Sevak Avagyan (far right), and the international courier who personally delivered the donated stem cells to Germany. In the photo below, the stem cell donor during the harvesting procedure, pictured with Arevik, an ABMDR nurse.**

## Young man in Yerevan donates his stem cells to help save his sister's life





# Stem cells of young donor harvested at ABMDR Lab to help save the life of a child

**In the photo above: the stem cell donor for our 43rd harvesting procedure, with his wife. In the photo below: the donor and his wife flanked by ABMDR Lab staff, including harvesting specialist Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan (far left), Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan (far right), and the international courier who delivered the donated stem cells to Moscow (second from right).**

In September 2024, ABMDR received a request from the Russian National Bone Marrow Donor Registry for assistance in identifying, typing, and collecting stem cells from an unrelated male potential donor. The stem cells of the potential donor were urgently needed for a transplant that could help save the life of a child in Moscow diagnosed with leukemia. Within a few days, the young potential donor arrived at the ABMDR Stem Cell Harvesting Center to undergo testing. He was identified as a complete match with the recipient, and Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan and his staff lost no time to perform a stem-cell harvesting. The donated stem cells were flown to Moscow the very same day.

Commenting on the procedure, ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan said, "This is a very special and unique case of successful collaboration between two internationally recognized bone marrow donor registries, with positive and satisfying outcomes for both parties. As such, this harvesting procedure demonstrates the critical importance of close cooperation between countries, toward the twin goals of saving patients' lives and maintaining professional partnerships."



## ABMDR becomes training hub for technologists at EFI-accredited labs



From left: trainees Ekaterina Zaratiani and Tamara Vardiashvili with ABMDR's Armine Hyusyan and a colleague during a recent conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, October 5, 2024.

ABMDR has been granted one more prestigious role by the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI), by becoming a regional training hub for technologists working in EFI-accredited labs. The purpose of the training is to enable technical staff to demonstrate knowledge and competence within their workplace. The training program for the Caucasus region, consisting of an intensive online course, is conducted and supervised by ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan and ABMDR Laboratory Supervisor Armine Hyusyan. The training program, developed by the EFI Education Committee, is known as ETHIQ, which stands for European Technical Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Qualification.

## ABMDR participates in international conference in Tbilisi, Georgia



From left: ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Thermo Fisher Regional Representative Nino Maisuradze, and ABMDR Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan at the conference.

ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and ABMDR Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan participated in an international conference titled "Innovations in Personalized Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities," which took place on October 5, 2024, in Tbilisi, Georgia. The conference was organized by the ABM company, which is the official representative of Thermo Fisher Scientific and One Lambda in the republics of Georgia and Armenia. Thermo Fisher Scientific provides advanced testing services, offering precise analysis of genetic markers and biomarkers. One Lambda develops tests to improve how laboratories match and monitor transplant recipients and donors.

## Armine Hyusyan conducts inspection of laboratory in Rijeka, Croatia



As an official EFI inspector, Armine Hyusyan conducted an inspection of the HLA-typing Laboratory of Rijeka, Croatia. Hyusyan conducted the inspection on September 18, 2024, together with fellow EFI inspector Dr. Alexandra Siorenta of Greece (third from right in the photo above). ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan is also an EFI inspector, and to date has inspected several labs throughout Europe.

## ABMDR Lab makes strides as Armine receives two prestigious diplomas



In terms of advanced know-how and certification, the ABMDR Lab made great strides in 2024 and 2025. Armine Hyusyan, our Lab supervisor, has received two distinguished diplomas: with the first, she is now recognized as a Fellow of the European Board of Surgery in Transplantation Immunology, while the second diploma attests to her European Specialization in Histocompatibility and Immunology.

# ABMDR Lab featured during KLD Weekend, at Yerevan State Medical University

On November 3, 2024, a team of ABMDR Lab staff members participated in the annual KLD Weekend, a conference for clinical-laboratory doctors that was held at Yerevan State Medical University. The ABMDR team comprised Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan, Database Manager Alina Sirunyan, and Lab Technician Ani Azaryan. As one

of the conference's featured speakers, Hyusyan made a presentation on the ABMDR Lab's experience in international medical and research activities and the accreditation process, as well as the Lab's achievements, the challenges it faces, and prospects for continued growth, particularly in terms of advanced training and education.



The ABMDR team at the conference. In the photo above, Alina Sirunyan (center) and Ani Azaryan (far right); in the second photo, Armine Hyusyan during her talk.

## Medical students gain first-hand experience at ABMDR Lab



In 2024, the ABMDR Lab continued to play an important mentorship role for university students. Guided by Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan, medical students from Yerevan State Medical University spent time at the Lab and gained first-hand knowledge of its technical resources and activities. These include stem-cell banking and harvesting, DNA and other forms of testing, and various types of medical research.

## Supporters visit ABMDR Lab, are familiarized with activities



Above: ABMDR Board member Hayk Davtian with Lab Supervisor Armine Hyusyan, May 31, 2024. Below: from left, Vicken Derderian, an ABMDR bone marrow stem cell donor, and Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, July 3, 2024.





**ENGEL & VÖLKERS®**

Local and Global Real Estate



[Paulette.Malekian@EVRealEstate.com](mailto:Paulette.Malekian@EVRealEstate.com)

*Paulette*

*your Realtor since 2008*

DRE#01848544

**Cell: 1-818-795-1454**

**ENGEL & VÖLKERS Real Estate**

214 E. Magnolia Blvd.

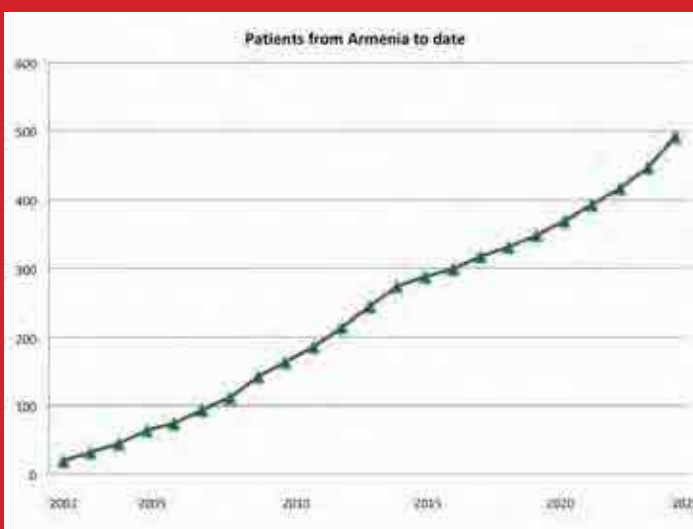
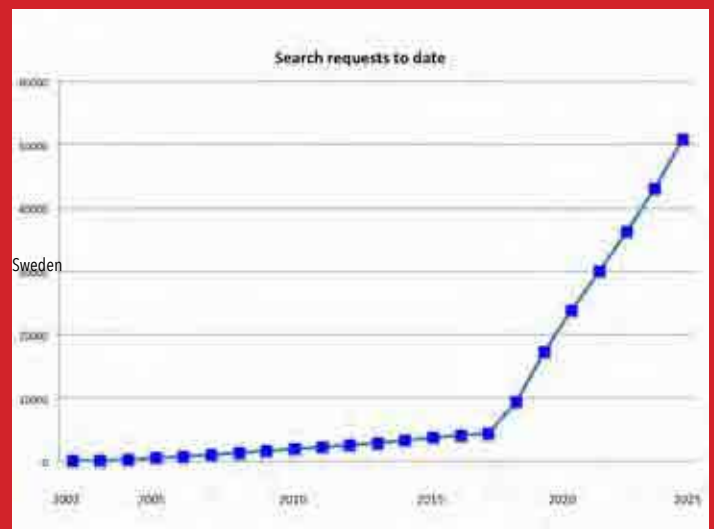
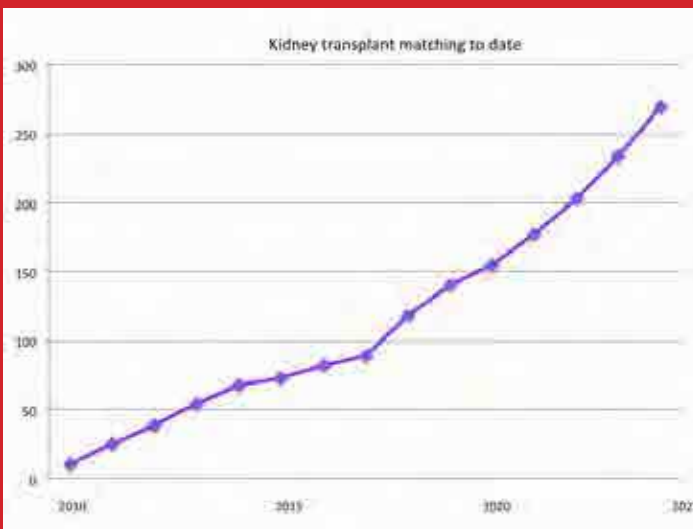
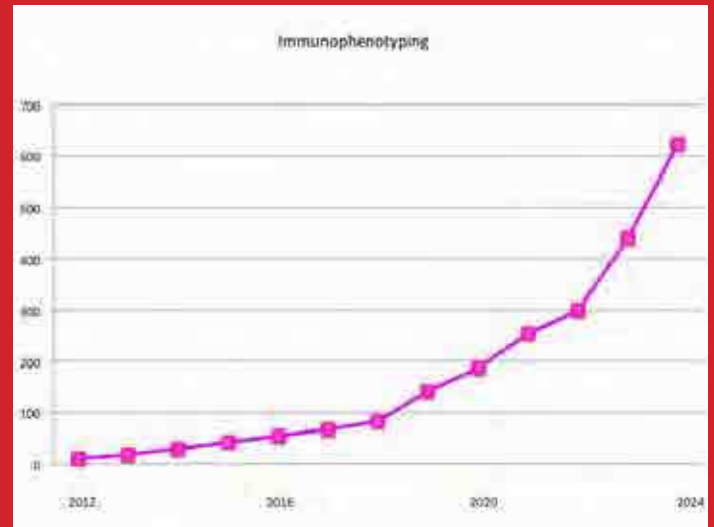
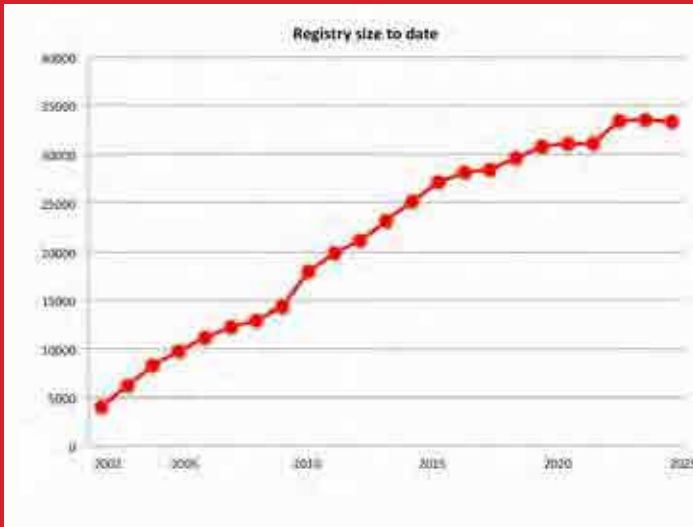
Burbank, CA 91502

U.S.A





# The work of ABMDR in 2024: a snapshot



## ARMENIA

**January 8, 2024:** Recruitment at Karen Demirchyan Subway, Yerevan.  
**February 20, 2024:** Recruitment at Vaskenian Seminary, Sevan.  
**April 26, 2024:** Recruitment at Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy, Yerevan.  
**September 10, 2024:** Recruitment at the Electric Architects company, Yerevan.  
**January 8, 2025:** Recruitment at Anania Shirakatsy Lyceum, Yerevan.  
**January 17, 2025:** Recruitment at Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) SMART Center, Lori.  
**February 22 and 23, 2025:** Recruitment at Woods Center, Yerevan.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**August 11, 2024:** Recruitment during the St. Stephen's picnic on the grounds of the church, Watertown.  
**September 21, 2024:** Recruitment during the 13th annual ABMDR Walk of Life, organized by ABMDR New England, in Watertown.

## CALIFORNIA

**October 5, 2024:** Recruitment during ABMDR's 19th annual Walk of Life in Glendale.  
**November 22, 2024:** ABMDR NextGen recruitment at UCLA.  
**December 8, 2024:** Team Alex Toy Drive and recruitment for all ABMDR patients, St. Leon Cathedral, Burbank.  
**December 15, 2024:** Hye Riders Toy Run and recruitment for all ABMDR patients, Pasadena.  
**February 3, 2025:** Recruitment for all ABMDR patients, St. Leon Cathedral, Burbank.  
**February 6, 2025:** Recruitment for Maral Boyadjian as well as all other ABMDR patients, Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church, Pasadena.

## LATEST ABMDR STATS

- Over 33,000 donors
- Over 50,000 patient requests
- 491 patients from Armenia
- 3,200 follow-up patient requests
- 43 transplants
- Over 3,300 HLA-disease association tests
- 622 immunophenotyping tests
- 270 kidney-transplant compatibility tests
- 42 crossmatches
- 335 cord-blood banking
- ABMDR Lab functioning as a regional hub for training students and scientists



Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy, Yerevan, April 26, 2024



Vaskenian Seminary, Lake Sevan, February 20, 2024



**Electric Architects company, Yerevan, September 10, 2024**



**Shirakatsy Lyceum International Scientific-Educational Complex, Yerevan, January 7, 2025**



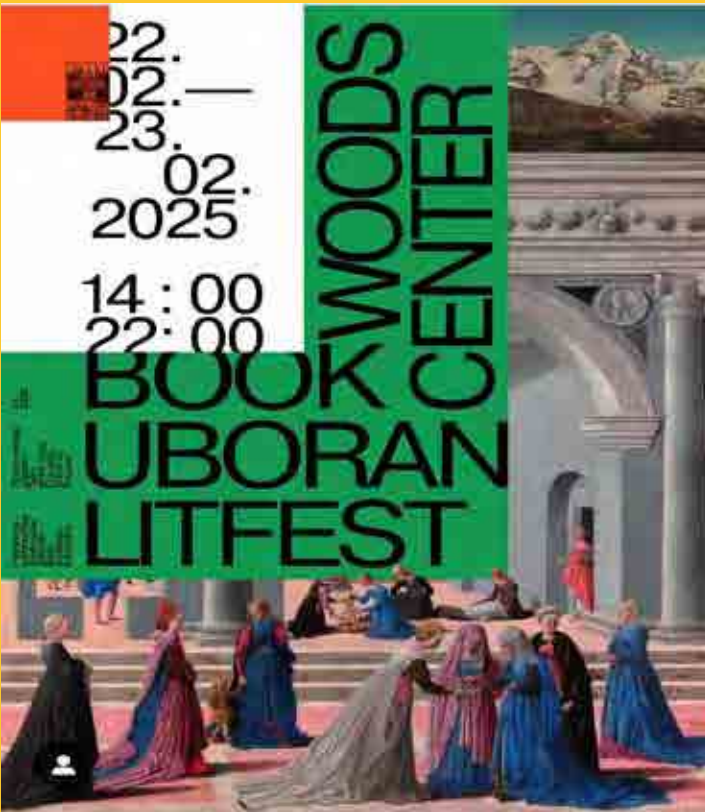
**Children of Armenia Fund SMART Center, Lori, January 17, 2025**



# Book Uboran Litfest Book Festival, Woods Center, Yerevan, February 22 and 23, 2025



In the photo above, from left: *Book Uboran* event organizers Inga Tumanyan and Artur Abrahamyan, Woods Center art director Vahan Stepanyan and creative manager Marina Somkhyan, and ABMDR Lab technician Ani Azaryan. Also on hand at the recruitment were ABMDR's Zara Hovhannisyan (top left photo), and Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Alina Sirunyan, and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan (bottom photos).



## ABMDR NextGen recruitment at UCLA

On November 22, 2024, ABMDR NextGen held a recruitment drive at UCLA, helping raise awareness of the Registry's life-saving mission and recruiting potential bone marrow stem cell donors. During the event, which was organized in collaboration with UCLA's Armenian Students' Association, 27 young men and women joined the ranks of ABMDR as potential donors.



### Welcome, our newest NextGen members



**LIANA ARTUNIAN** – Liana serves as a Physical Therapy Aide at Aspire Physical Therapy and Sports Performance, and is pursuing a career in physical therapy. As a third-generation ABMDR volunteer, she is deeply committed to giving back to her community.



**ROBERT KHATCHADOURIAN** – Robert is a Financial Analyst at Pacific Clinics, the largest provider of mental health services in California. He attended his first ABMDR walkathon at five years of age and is proud to be a third-generation volunteer.

# Team Alex Toy Drive, Hye Riders Toy Run

In December 2024, the Armenian community of Los Angeles enthusiastically participated in two toy drives, held in Burbank and Pasadena, respectively. Apart from bringing holiday cheer to children, and families, both events helped benefit ABMDR's life-saving mission.

The first event, the Team Alex Toy Drive, which collects toys for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, was held in honor of 16-year-old cancer survivor Alex Darbinyan. It took place on December 8, at St. Leon Cathedral of the Western Diocese.

During the event, a team of ABMDR Board members and volunteers was on hand to answer questions about the Registry and administer a simple, painless swab test, as part of the process of joining the organization. ABMDR also participated in the Hye Riders Toy Run, held in Pasadena on December 15 and likewise dedicated to Alex Darbinyan. During the Toy Run, which featured music, food, and raffles in a fun family atmosphere, attendees donated toys while a team of ABMDR volunteers familiarized them with the work of the organization. Commenting on the success of the Team Alex Toy Drive, Rosie Diremsizian, Alex's mother, said, "When Alex was diagnosed with leukemia at six years old, it was the hardest time of our lives. During our long stays at the hospital, we discovered that the



**At the Team Alex Toy Drive, Alex Darbinyan flanked by supporters and family. In the photos below, clockwise from left: Dr. Jordan with members of the Hye Riders Armenian Motorcycle Club at the Toy Run; volunteers and members of the Hye Riders at the Team Alex Toy Drive; Dr. Jordan and Rosie Diremsizian, as well as volunteers and organizers, at the Team Alex Toy Drive; and volunteers and organizers at the Hye Riders Toy Run.**

only thing that could light up Alex's face was a toy handed to him by the hospital staff. For every blood draw, procedure, or round of chemotherapy, Alex received a new gift. While nothing could take away the pain of his treatments, these small gestures brought him moments of joy and comfort. Seven years ago,

we started Team Alex's Toy Drive to spread that same joy to other children. The event has grown year after year, becoming a beautiful tradition that brings our community together. It serves as a powerful reminder for parents and children alike to cherish their blessings, their health, and their happiness."

## A big Thank-you to Alex's family for donating lottery proceeds to ABMDR, and for its continued support!



# 200 join ABMDR for a chance to save the lives of Maral Boyadjian and others

In February 2025, ABMDR held two donor-recruitment drives in the Los Angeles area, to find donor matches for patients in the US and abroad who urgently need bone marrow stem cell transplantation for a chance to survive their illnesses.

On February 3, ABMDR held a recruitment at St. Leon Cathedral, in Burbank. On February 6, ABMDR held another recruitment, at the Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church, in Pasadena, for Maral Boyadjian as well as all other ABMDR patients. The Pasadena event was organized jointly by Boyadjian's family and ABMDR.

Boyadjian, the principal of Sahag-Mesrob School, suffers from Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), a type of blood cancer. Her only chance for survival, like all ABMDR patients, is to have a bone marrow stem cell transplant, which would be possible only if she is matched with a compatible stem cell donor.

At the recruitment drive in Burbank, 24 supporters signed up as potential bone marrow stem cell donors. At the Pasadena event, 176 supporters joined the ranks of ABMDR.

"Becoming a donor is a simple, safe, and painless process, and promises the deeply rewarding chance of saving someone's life," said ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan. "I'd like to thank everyone, including our new donors, our volunteers, St. Leon Cathedral and Arch. Hovnan Derderian, as well as the Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church, for enabling us to hold such vitally important community events." Dr. Jordan further stated that anyone between the ages of 18 and 50 and in good general health can join ABMDR to become a donor for a chance to help save someone's life.



On this page: scenes from the recruitment at St. Leon Cathedral; and organizers, supporters, and volunteers.







**Maral Boyadjian urgently needs a bone marrow donor match for a transplant that can save her life.**



**Above: the Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School team at the Pasadena recruitment, which took place at the Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church. In the photos below: scenes from the Pasadena recruitment, and organizers, supporters, and volunteers.**



# ABMDR's first-ever Golf Tournament supports life-saving mission

On July 29, 2024, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor held its first-ever Charity Golf Tournament, at the La Canada Flintridge Country Club Golf course, in Los Angeles. Benefiting ABMDR's life-saving mission, the tournament brought together golf enthusiasts and supporters from throughout California, including 56 accomplished golfers, as well as a dynamic team of volunteers, most of whom represented NextGen, ABMDR's recently-established youth group.

The eagerly-awaited tournament was co-chaired by ABMDR Board members Armond Mehdikhani and Hutch Postik. The entire organizing committee, including ABMDR Board member and longtime supporter George Titizian, Steve Chelebian, Alan Artunian, Hovig Garabedian, and Masis Moradi, directly contributed to the success of the tournament. ABMDR's inaugural Charity Golf Tournament was made possible by the generous donations of the following: Gold Sponsors: CDMS (California Dermatology and Mohs Surgery Specialists) and Sol Sciences (Regenerative Skincare); Silver Sponsor: Hart Design Build; and Bronze Sponsors: Triple X Fraternity Orange County chapter, Triple X Fraternity Los Angeles chapter, MidGate, Inc. (property management and mortgage solutions), Alan Artunian, George Titizian, and Irma Amirian.

Mark Geragos, Esq., Chairman of the ABMDR Board of Directors, presented the trophies to the top three golf teams, as follows: First Place: Alan Artunian, Hagop Khatchadourian, Ara Bedros, and Hovig Garabedian; Second Place: George Titizian, and Mark, Nicholas, and Kristopher Mikaelian; and Third Place: Babken, Zareh, Armen, and Nareg Amirian.

Reflecting on the event, Dr. Frieda Jordan said, "Our heartfelt thanks go to our generous sponsors, the tournament committee, participating golf players, and all of our Board members, volunteers, and supporters!"



Members of the organizing committee, including longtime ABMDR supporter George Titizian (third from left).



Above: registration volunteers. In the photo on the right: George Titizian, of Trex Fraternity Los Angeles.



Golf trophies, ABMDR hats and golf balls; volunteers representing NextGen, ABMDR's youth group.



From left: the tournament's first-place, second-place, and third-place winning teams. Pictured in the photo on the far right are members of the Titizian-family team.



The event's lottery winners. All proceeds benefited ABMDR's life-saving mission. The tournament brought together golf enthusiasts from throughout California.

# ABMDR Casino Night: a win-win for the cause

Over 100 supporters attended our much-anticipated Casino Night, which was held on October 25, 2024, at the Stars on Brand banquet hall, in Glendale, California. Our guests enjoyed delicious foods, drinks, and, of course, exciting poker and bingo tournaments. The 2024 Casino Night was graciously hosted by longtime ABMDR supporters Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Amy Boyadjian, of the Tri-Tech Restoration Company. Michael and Amy, who is a member of the ABMDR Board of Directors, have hosted our Casino Night for many years in the past. The 2024 event also received generous support from several sponsors.



Amy and Michael Boyadjian, pictured here with their daughter, Natalie, graciously hosted the event.



Poker-tournament winners Kevin Ouzounian, third-place; Elise Berberian, first-place; and Harout Kozian, second-place. Photo above: the Casino Night Committee.





**Become a volunteer with ABMDR,  
for the deeply-rewarding experience  
of helping others in our community.**

**EAST COAST:** Contact Shant at (781) 879-8102 or [shantdt@gmail.com](mailto:shantdt@gmail.com)

**WEST COAST:** Call (323) 663-3609, or email Iline at [ilinbogy@yahoo.com](mailto:ilinbogy@yahoo.com)



# Laughter for Life features outstanding lineup of comedians

Close to 300 supporters attended the 20th annual Laughter for Life, ABMDR's much-anticipated Comedy Night. One of our organization's most popular benefit events, Laughter for Life took place on November 24, 2024, at the iconic Comedy Store, in West Hollywood, California. As ever a showcase for cutting-edge comedy, Laughter for Life featured a lineup of nationally-renowned comedians, including Adam Carolla, Darren Carter, Jeff Dye, Sam Tripoli, Maz Jobrani, and Tehran Von Ghasri. Sam Tripoli also co-organized and hosted the beloved event with fellow Committee member Lara Yeretsian, Esq., as the two have done ever since co-founding Laughter for Life in 2002.

**Top photo:** Maz Jobrani flanked by the Comedy Night Committee. **Second row:** Adam Carolla and Maz Jobrani. **Third row:** the featured comedians, from left, Adam Carolla, Darren Carter, Jeff Dye, Sam Tripoli, Maz Jobrani, and Tehran Von Ghasri; Lara Yeretsian and Sam Tripoli in front of The Comedy Story; and a scene from the event. **In the bottom row:** Lara Yeretsian welcoming the audience; Samantha Creed, The Comedy Store's director of programming, delivers remarks after being presented with the ABMDR 25th-anniversary appreciation plaque. (Black-and-white photos courtesy of Elizabeth Viggiano.)





# Walk of Life Los Angeles

On October 5, 2024, more than 350 supporters gathered at the plaza of the Glendale City building, in Glendale, California, to participate in the 19th annual Walk of Life in Los Angeles. In addition to individual teams of walkers, there were several teams representing local schools, among them AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, Ferrahian High School, Providence High School, and Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School.

During the opening ceremony, remarks were delivered by Walkathon Committee co-chairs Dr. Christina Garabedian and Hratch Postik. Garabedian acknowledged the presence of community leaders and other dignitaries, including Arda Tchakian, a representative of California State Senator Anthony Portantino. Garabedian went on to thank the walkathon's sponsors, including major sponsor Feral Cosmetics/Arpine Zohrabyan.

The invocation was performed by Fathers Yeghia Isayan and Ardak Demirjian. Also delivering remarks were ABMDR's co-founder and president, Dr. Frieda Jordan; Rosie Diremsizian, an avid ABMDR supporter and the mother of young cancer survivor Alex Darbinyan; and Lori Mehdikhani, vice chair of ABMDR NextGen.

Prior to the start of the walkathon, awards were presented to Team Arpine Zohrabyan as the team that had raised the most funds; and the Providence High School team, led by ABMDR Board member Sona Ashjian, 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, Feral Cosmetics / Arpine Zohrabyan for most funds raised!**



Thank you, ABMDR Board member and longtime supporter **Sona Ashjian**, for your extraordinary contributions to Walk of Life, and particularly your enthusiasm in leading teams from Providence High School. You are an inspiration to us all!





**A big Thank-you to our sponsors: Feral Cosmetics (Gold Sponsor); USC Mann School of Pharmacy; Mission Wine and Spirits; Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; Tamara Ice Cream, for their yummy ice cream; Softline Solutions; Dr. Vergine Madelian, for donating her lovingly-handmade Christmas ornaments and cards; Print On All; Evlyn Avanesian, MD, Inc.; and Sidon Travel. And thank you, Aleko Boghoskhanian, for photographing the walkathon for many years. Also thank you, Porto's Bakery, for providing delicious pastries; and McDonald's, for providing our walkers with fresh coffee and cookies.**





# HART | CUSTOM HOMES

THE **CUSTOM HOME** DESIGN +  
BUILD SOLUTION FOR YOU



(818) 612-2410  
[info@hcustomhomes.com](mailto:info@hcustomhomes.com)  
[@ hartcustomhomes](https://www.instagram.com/hartcustomhomes)

# Walk of Life New England

On September 21, 2024, supporters from throughout New England converged on Watertown to take part in ABMDR New England's 13th 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 in 2012, Walk of Life New England has received support and sponsorship from several large and small businesses, organizations, and individuals, including PROMETRIKA, LLC, of Cambridge; the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Armenian Women's Welfare Association; Anoush'ella Restaurant; Watertown Savings Bank; Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association; ThermOil, Inc.; Varjabedian and Bedrosian families; 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 Armenian Museum of America.

At the opening ceremony of the walkathon, which took place on the grounds of the Charles Mosesian Center, Manneh Ghazarians of the ABMDR New England Walkathon Organizing Committee welcomed the participants. Ghazarians conveyed the committee's gratitude to St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Pastor Arakel Aljalian, and Yn. Natasha for generously hosting the commencement of the walkathon. Ghazarians went on to acknowledge Maral Tanielian Der Torossian, who has served as ABMDR New England's recruitment officer and was a recipient of the 2024 ABMDR Volunteer of the Year Award.

Young Telo and Rubina Ghazarians, Sossy Yogurtian, and Miganush Stepanians of PROMETRIKA, LLC, were awarded the Gold, Silver, and Bronze top-fundraiser awards, respectively. It was also announced that for the 12th consecutive year, the Armenia Tree Project was to plant commemorative trees in Armenia in honor of the walkathon winners, as part of the #LivingCentury initiative.

In her closing remarks, Narini Badalian of the Organizing Committee extended its appreciation to the event's sponsors for their continued support, year after year, and brought the participants' attention to the logos and names of sponsors printed on their T-shirts. Badalian 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 patients throughout the world."

The walk concluded at Saltonstall Park, in Watertown Square. At the ABMDR booth set up at the park, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute representative Kidest Mequanen handed out information about the institute, while ABMDR volunteers answered questions from attendees and provided pamphlets about the Registry. The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been partnering with ABMDR for the past several years.



Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian blessing the walkers; young Telo and Rubina Ghazarians with the Gold Award.



Sossy Yogurtian and her Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association colleagues received the Silver Award.



Dana-Farber Cancer Institute representative Kidest Mequanen (seated, second from left) and ABMDR New England volunteers and supporters at the ABMDR booth at Watertown Square.



Above: the Organizing Committee. In the photo below: walkers and volunteers.



## A letter from Alec Der-Sirakian

*In 2014, when we held the third annual ABMDR New England walkathon, Alec Der-Sirakian was not only one of our youngest participants, but our youngest fundraiser as well, having secured \$350 in donations. Ever since that year, Alec, like his family and friends, has been a supporter and an avid participant in all our walks. Alec is now a college sophomore. Although he was not able to take part in our 2024 walkathon, he graciously made a donation nonetheless and sent out a letter to his sponsors from previous years, asking them to support the walk. Here's his letter:*

As many of you know, for the past ten years, I have proudly participated in the ABMDR Walk of Life. This annual event has been incredibly meaningful to me, both as a way to support this vital cause and as a personal commitment to our community.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, I will not be able to participate in this year's Walk of Life. However, there is a special request I'd like to make instead. I want to encourage you all to consider directing your support to Alvard Badalian, who has been a driving force behind ABMDR New England, as well as an outstanding supporter and advocate throughout my journey with the organization.

Your support will help further the mission of ABMDR, providing hope and help to countless individuals and families. Thank you so much for your understanding and support. Even though I won't be there in person, your generosity and encouragement mean the world to me. I hope to see you all very soon.

Alec Der-Sirakian

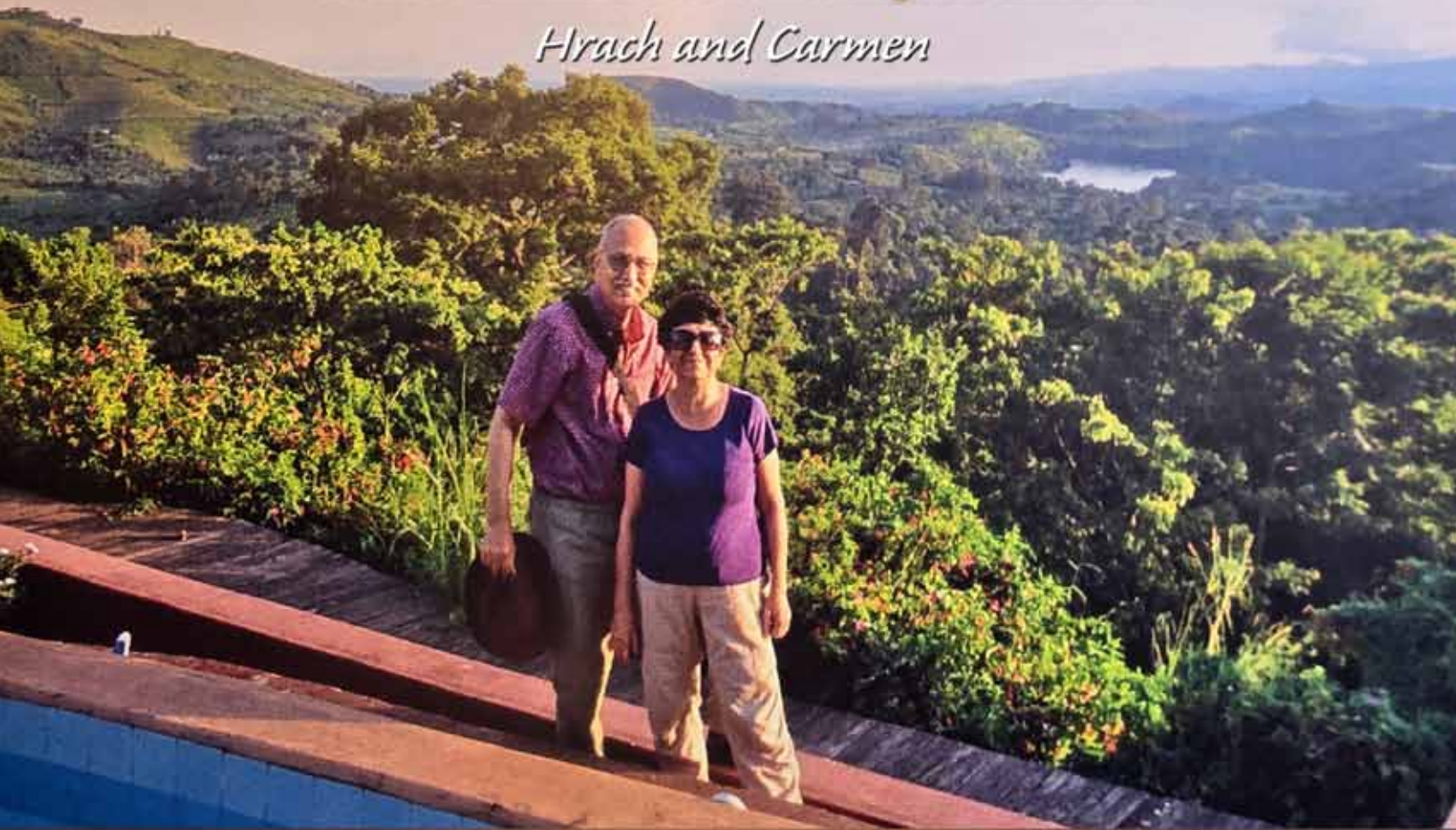


Above: Alec was the youngest top fundraiser at our 2014 walkathon. In the photo below: at our 2023 walkathon, Alec accepting the Gold Fundraising Award.



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

*Hrach and Carmen*



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

Photos by Hrach Lukassian

# Uganda, the Pearl of Africa



On August 25, 2024, ABMDR celebrated its 25th anniversary with a jubilant event. The Match for Life Gala, held at the Glendale Hilton, in Glendale, California, was attended by more than 300 supporters.

The silver-jubilee award recipients included Serj Tankian, while media personalities appearing at the event included Araksya Karapetyan and Amanda Salas. The Gala's MC was Dr. Vicken Sepilian, president of the Armenian Medical International Committee.

ABMDR's life-saving mission was commended by several featured speakers, including California State Senator Anthony Portantino, who presented ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the California Senate.

The Gala's major sponsors were Drs. Arpenik Avagyan and Evgeni Sokurenko, and the Persian American Cancer Institute. Other sponsors included Closet World, Adventist Health Glendale, Foundation Lab, L.A. Cancer Network, Dr. Vergine Madelian, RaMa Drugs, and Tri-Tech Restoration. Sponsors also included Mission Wine and Spirits, J'adore Les Fleurs, Raffi's Catering and Banquet, Nava Market, Lena Boyadjian, and Custom Props.

# 25<sup>TH</sup>



## MATCH FOR LIFE GALA



**Thank you, Drs. Arpenik Avagyan and Evgeni Sokurenko, as well as Dr. and Mrs. Sadler / Persian American Cancer Institute, for your generous support as major sponsors!**





# Congratulations, ABMDR award recipients!



"Happy 25th anniversary, ABMDR. I am grateful for all the work you guys do. We have lost a lot of donors over the years because of the depopulation of Artsakh. It's all the more reason for us to become donors and help this wonderful organization save lives."  
Serj Tankian,  
ABMDR Visionary Award



**Top row: Serj Tankian, the ABMDR Visionary Award recipient (Tankian's remarks were presented in a recorded video); Inspiration Award recipient Dr. Alique Topalian. Second row: Legacy Award recipient Diana Artunian; Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Stepan Vartanian. Third row: Woman of the Year Rosie Diremsizian; Man of the Year Armond Mehdikhani. Fourth row: Sam Tripoli accepting the Business of the Year Award on behalf of The Comedy Store; Volunteer of the Year Gayaneh Kostikyan. Also receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award was Maral Tanielian Der Torossian, who could not attend the Gala.**

Gala photos by Shahe Melelian, Arka Photography





**Western Diocese visit, January 31, 2024**



**Western Prelacy visit, August 20, 2024**



**Diocese Prayer Day for ABMDR patients and families, March 17, 2024**



**ABMDR presentation in Los Angeles**



On June 12, 2024, ABMDR Board members Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Vergine Madelian, and Armond Mehdikhani presented the work and mission of ABMDR at the meeting of the Triple X Fraternity Los Angeles chapter.

**Dr. Madelian's lecture in San Francisco**



**Dr. Madelian and the ARS Garin chapter's Houri Aintablian.**

On October 13, 2024, at the invitation of three chapters of the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) of Northern California (Garin, San Francisco; Erepouni, Oakland; and Agnouni, San Jose), Dr. Vergine Madelian gave a lecture at the Saroyan Hall of San Francisco's Armenian Cultural Center. The lecture included an overview of blood illnesses, an explanation of the role of bone marrow transplantation as the ultimate life-saving procedure for many patients, and a description of ABMDR's crucial role in making it possible. We thank members of ARS for their warm welcome, interest, enthusiasm, and support of ABMDR.



**Clockwise from left, Fr. Artsakh Badoyan, Dr. Gohar Momjian, Dr. and Mrs. Rostom and Houri Aintablian, and Dr. Madelian.**

**Recruitment during picnic in Watertown, Massachusetts**



The recruitment drive took place on August 11, 2024, during the St. Stephens Church picnic, on the grounds of the church, in Watertown, Massachusetts.

**New England Support Group hosts visit by Dr. Jordan**

In January 2025, the ABMDR New England Support Group hosted a visit by Dr. Frieda Jordan, in Boston. Our gracious East Coast colleagues and Dr. Jordan discussed the New England Support Group's most recent accomplishments, and plans for 2025. Also during her visit, Dr. Jordan presented the 2024 ABMDR Volunteer Award to East Coast Recruitment Officer Maral Tanielian Der Torossian, who could not attend the ABMDR Gala in 2024, when the award was announced.



**ABMDR featured on TV show "Good Day LA Plus"**



From left: Jennifer Lahmers, Sandra Endo, Dr. Frieda Jordan, Araksya Karapetyan, Amanda Salas, and Arpine Zohrabyan. Dr. Jordan and Zohrabyan were interviewed by Karapetyan and Salas.

On August 24, 2024, ABMDR Board members Dr. Frieda Jordan and Arpine Zohrabyan were featured on the Fox 11 TV channel's "Good Day LA Plus." Dr. Jordan and Zohrabyan were interviewed by co-host Araksya Karapetyan and "Good Day LA" reporter Amanda Salas. Zohrabyan, who has helped save the life of a child by donating her bone marrow stem cells, spoke about the profoundly-rewarding experience of being a donor, while Dr. Jordan familiarized viewers with the work and mission of ABMDR.

**ABMDR Appreciation Award conferred on longtime supporter and advocate, CA State Senator Anthony Portantino**



On November 9, 2024, the last day of his tenure in the California State Legislature, Senator Anthony Portantino was presented by Dr. Frieda Jordan with an ABMDR Appreciation Award, in recognition of his outstanding advocacy of the Registry's life-saving mission. For the past many years, Senator Portantino has been a wonderfully encouraging and inspiring presence at our outreach and recruitment events, including our annual walkathons and Galas. As importantly, Senator Portantino has tirelessly helped raise awareness of our cause. Thank you for your unwavering support, Senator, and we hope to continue to see you at our events!

## European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) Conference, Geneva, Switzerland



In the photos above and top right: Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan with colleagues at the EFI Immunogenetics Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, which took place on May 19 and 20, 2024.



The ABMDR team, comprising Armine Hysuyan, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, and Dr. Frieda Jordan.

## Armenia-Diaspora Healthcare Summit 2024, Los Angeles



Armenia's Minister of Health, Anahit Avanesyan, flanked by conference participants, including Armenian Medical Society of California president Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian and ABMDR Board members. The Armenia-Diaspora Healthcare Summit took place on March 2, 2024, at UCLA.

## EFI Balkan EPT Meeting



ABMDR's Ani Azaryan (left) and Alina Sirunyan at the European Federation of Immunogenetics EPT Meeting, which was held on November 15 and 16, 2024.

**AAMS Conference, Las Vegas, September 27, 2024**



**Dr. Frieda Jordan, ABMDR Board member Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian Barkhoudarian, and her husband, Armenian Medical Society of California (AAMS) president Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian, at the conference.**

**National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) conference, Indianapolis, November 7-9, 2024**



**In the first photo above: ABMDR Board member and West Coast Recruitment Officer Fimi Mekhitarian; NMDP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vice President Elias Lemon; and ABMDR Board member and stem cell donor Arpine Zohrabyan. In the second photo: Mekhitarian and Zohrabyan with NMDP Chief Medical Officer Steven Devine, MD.**



ABMDR West Coast Recruitment Officer Fimi Mekhitarian and fellow Board member Arpine Zohrabyan participated in an international health conference, the ONE Forum by NMDP (National Marrow Donor Program), which took place from November 7 to 9, 2024, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference brings together the global cell-therapy community. By doing

so, it highlights the latest innovations in cell therapy, and provides a forum for healthcare professionals to discuss practical strategies and best practices in delivering cell therapies for patients with blood cancers and diseases. Participants get to connect with peers and learn from experts in the industry to break down barriers and expand access to treatment for more patients.

*The Beauty of Clean Beauty™*

17-FREE FORMULATION  
FREE OF PARABEN · PHTHALATES · LANOLIN · GLUTEN  
VEGAN · PeTA CERTIFIED · ANIMAL CRUELTY-FREE · MADE IN USA

ella+mila

ella+mila Nail Polish  
ella+mila  
ella+mila Sheer

available at

[www.ellamila.com](http://www.ellamila.com)

@ellamila @empolish @ellamila @ellamila @ellamila\_

**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.

**Hoori and Dr. Charles Sadler, Persian American Cancer Institute**



Thank you, Hoori Sadler and Dr. Charles Sadler, of the Persian American Cancer Institute, for your continued and generous support, and thank you, Hoori, for your wonderfully inspiring speeches at our annual Galas.

**Dr. Arpenik Avagyan and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko**



Thank you, Dr. Arpenik Avagyan and Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko, for being enthusiastic and longtime supporters of the Registry, including as generous sponsors of our annual Match for Life Gala.

**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. Carolann and George Najarian**



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

**Lara Yeretsian, Esq., 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.

**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.

**Amy and Michael Boyadjian**



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

**Stepan and Linda Vartanian**



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

**Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian**



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 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.



**Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian**



"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

**Alex Darbinyan and family**



Alex Darbinyan and his family (mother, Rosie Diremsizian; father, Artem; and sister, Emily) are among ABMDR's most avid supporters. In 2024, Rosie and Artem, owners of RaMa Drugs, once again organized the Team Alex

Toy Drive, benefiting Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and, like the year before, donated all proceeds from the event's raffle to ABMDR. RaMa Drugs was also one of the sponsors of our 2024 Match for Life Gala.



**George Titizian**

Thank you, George Titizian and Trex Fraternity L.A. chapter, for your ongoing and generous support.

**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 great design of this issue's cover.



*Thank you for in lieu of flowers*

**In loving memory of**

- Emmik "Meda" Abrahamian
- Arpik Azizian
- Grand Faroukhians
- Odette Edith Garabedian
- Shant Gharibian
- Mariana Kazarian
- Hrach Lukassian
- Artemis (Armik) Mirzatury
- George Postik
- Hilda Selemi
- Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
- Arlene Titizian



Mariana Kazarian



Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian



Arlene Titizian



Hrach Lukassian



George Postik



Hilda Selemi



Shant Gharibian



Emmik Abrahamian

### Board meeting, summer 2024



### Gala Committee



### Congressman Adam Schiff hosts reunion for recipients of Woman of the Year Award



On August 29, 2024, at the Wilshire Ebell, in Los Angeles, US Representative Adam Schiff honored the over 100 women from communities in California's 30th Congressional District (CA-30) who were named Women of the Year between 1997 and 2023. The honorees at the reunion included ABMDR Board members Lara Yeretsian, Esq., and Dr. Frieda Jordan.

### Vehanoosh Grigorian and Megan Harabid receive Women Achievers Awards



Vehanoosh Grigorian (in the photo above) and Megan Harabid (below) were honored with *Business Life Magazine's* Women Achievers Awards. The awards were presented by the magazine's publisher, John Krikorian.



Vehanoosh Grigorian and Megan Harabid were among a group of outstanding women who were honored with *Business Life Magazine's* Women Achievers Awards. Grigorian and Harabid were presented with their awards by *Business Life* publisher John Krikorian, during the publication's 35th Women Achievers Celebration, held on October 11, 2024, at Noor Events, in Pasadena, California. Harabid also received a County of Los Angeles Commendation for her dedicated service to her community as well as her many contributions to the residents of Los Angeles County as a whole. Vehanoosh Grigorian is the owner and director of First Eagle Realty and Finance, and a recipient of the ABMDR Woman of the Year Award. Megan Harabid is an attorney, a member of the ABMDR Board, and a recipient of the ABMDR Volunteer of the Year Award.



ABMDR Board members and supporters at the Women Achievers Celebration.

## ABMDR Annual Planning Retreat, February 22, 2025, Los Angeles



Our Planning Retreat was held at the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Western US center, in Glendale. Thank you, the ARS team, including ABMDR Board member Jasmen Jerahian, for graciously hosting the event!



Jasmen Jerahian of the ARS (center) with Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Ramella Markarian.



Dr. Vergine Madelian.



Lori Mehdikhani.



Lara Yeretsian.



Hratch Postik.

## Training of ABMDR NextGen recruiters, March 16, 2024, Los Angeles



NextGen's newest members received their formal training as recruiters by Fimi Mekhitarian, West Coast Recruitment Officer; and Dr. Vergine Madelian, Outreach and Education Officer. The event was hosted by Dr. Evlyn Avanesian. NextGen activities coordinator Dr. Ramella Markarian was also present.



NextGen members David Bagdasarian, Raffi Boghossian, and Jeffrey Balian with NextGen founding board member Emineh Hacopian. Enthusiastic and highly dedicated, these exemplary activists went on to help organize a NextGen donor-recruitment event at UCLA, on November 22, 2024.



ABMDR CHRISTMAS PARTY — DECEMBER 19, 2024, VIVALDI VENUES, GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA



# 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.

## Our comprehensive services include:

- Screening and diagnostic mammography
- Lymphedema screening
- Multidisciplinary breast tumor board
- Genetic counseling and testing
- Patient navigation
- Comprehensive cancer treatment
- Clinical trial enrollment
- Breast wellness clinic
- High-risk clinic
- Surgical Intervention
- Psychosocial support/ Support groups
- Survivorship planning and survivorship clinic

## Contact Us

To learn more or make an appointment, call 818-630-8680

**The Sam and Grace Carvajal Comprehensive Breast Center**  
1505 Wilson Terrace,  
Suite 370  
Glendale, CA 91206

## MEET OUR EXPERT TEAM:



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



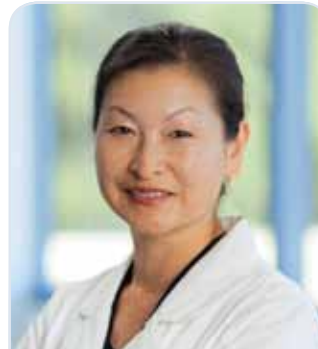
**Peter Ashjian, MD**  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon



**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

1509 Wilson Terrace  
Glendale, CA 91206  
818-409-8000



[AdventistHealthGlendale.org](https://www.AdventistHealthGlendale.org)



Adventist Health Glendale is a non-profit, tertiary care hospital, nationally acclaimed for advanced clinical programs and patient safety. As the flagship of the Adventist Health System, we have proudly served Southern California for 120 years.

Primary services and programs include: behavioral health, cancer, cardiovascular, emergency, interventional gastroenterology, interventional pulmonology, labor and delivery including a neonatal intensive care unit, neuroscience/stroke, orthopedics/sports medicine, spine, women's health, and more.

Our 772 physicians, 1,900 associates, 24 medical residents and hundreds of volunteers deliver world-class care to Glendale, Montrose, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Burbank, Pasadena, Los Angeles and surrounding communities.

- 515-bed acute care hospital
- Innovative Structural Heart program
- 17 clinics and 7 medical office locations
- Advanced robotic-assisted procedures
- Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Leader in national and international clinical trials

### Our Mission

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

### 2024 Highlights

Hospital discharges **18,315**

Deliveries **1,884**

Emergency Room visits **60,980**

Physician/Provider visits **129,710**

Outpatient visits **115,815**

### Quality and Performance Awards

**Five consecutive CMS 5-Star Ratings** (2020-2024)

**20 consecutive "A" Grades for Patients Safety** from the Leapfrog Group (2015-2024)

**Gold Plus 2024 Quality Achievement Award + Target Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus**  
American Heart Association

**Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program**  
Accredited by the ACS Commission on Cancer

**Comprehensive Stroke Center**  
Accredited by DNV-GL Healthcare USA, Inc.

**ANCC Magnet-Designated** for Nursing Excellence

**Pink Ribbon Facility** designation by Hologic for Breast Health Excellence

## Board of Directors

**Bella Kocharyan, MD,**  
Honorary Chairperson  
**Frieda Jordan, CHS, PhD,**  
President  
**Mark Geragos, Esq.,**  
Chairperson  
**Armond Mehdikhani,**  
**CLS, MBA,**  
Secretary  
**Frank Melkonian,**  
Treasurer  
**Diana Artunian,**  
Deputy Treasurer  
**Sevak Avagyan, MD,**  
Executive Director, Armenia  
**Vergine Madelian, PhD,**  
Outreach and Education Officer  
**Naz Atikian**  
**Evlyn Avanesian, MD**  
**Alvart Badalian, MBA**  
**Boris Bagdasarian, DO**  
**Evelyn Bagdasarian, MD**  
**Nubar Boghossian, MD**  
**Amy Boyadjian**  
**Christina Garabedian,**  
Pharm D  
**Salpi Mankerian**  
**Ramella Markarian, PhD**  
**Carolann Najarian, MD**  
**Hratch Postik**  
**Alique Topalian, PhD**  
**Lara Yeretsian, Esq.**  
**Arpine Zohrabyan**



**abmdr.am**

### ABMDR Los Angeles

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

### ABMDR Yerevan

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

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

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

ABMDR Newsletter designed and edited by Ishkhan Jinbashian.

## Board of Advisors

**Medik Aghamalian**  
**Varoosh Alaverdian, MD**  
**Aramais Andonian**  
**Sona Ashjian**  
**Susanna Avagyan**  
**Ani Azar**  
**Arax Badalian**  
**Tatoul Badalian**  
**Harmik Baghdasarian**  
**Stella Baghdasarian, DDS**  
**George Bashirians, PhD**  
**Iline Boghoskhanian**  
**Lena Boyadjian**  
**Hayk Davtyan, PhD**  
**Maral Tanielian Der Torossian,**  
East Coast Recruitment Officer  
**Shant Der Torossian**  
**Hilda Gourdikian**  
**Megan Harabid**  
**Jasmen Jerahian**  
**Mariette Keshishian**  
**Taleen Khatchadourian**  
**Karine Khudikian**  
**Gayaneh Kostikyan**  
**Carmen Lukassian**  
**Paulette Malekian**  
**Marina Manoukyan**  
**Tatev Manukyan**  
**Eric Markarian**  
**Arpa Mehdikhani**  
**Lori Mehdikhani**  
**Fimi Mekhitarian,**  
West Coast Recruitment Officer  
**Razmik Moghadesian**  
**Mihran Nazaretyan, MD, PhD,**  
Medical Director  
**Sonia Nersissian**  
**Anita Petrosyan**  
**Annette Postik**  
**Michele Seyranian**  
**George Titizian**  
**Mariet Toumians**  
**Sam Tripoli**  
**Rubina Varjabedian**  
**Stepan Vartanian, ASCP**  
**Lori Yeterian**  
**Tina Yeretsian**

# Exciting internship opportunity

ABMDR has an exciting opportunity for students eager to learn about modern DNA molecular tests, and gain hands-on experience in performing them.

This is a comprehensive, 1-2 week long, hands-on Internship Program, held at ABMDR's Tissue-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 Tissue-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.*



## In memoriam: Parik Nazarian

In 2024, we were saddened by the untimely death of Parik Nazarian, one of ABMDR's most devoted supporters. For many years, Parik volunteered with the Registry, bringing her wonderful enthusiasm to our outreach and recruitment events and inspiring everyone around her. Parik was equally passionate in her work as an activist and social worker, and was recognized internationally for her concerts and recordings as a highly accomplished folk singer. She will be deeply missed.

# PROLASE

LASER & AESTHETICS

BEAUTY REDEFINED.  
LASER HAIR REMOVAL  
AND BEYOND...

- ✦ Advanced Laser Treatments
- ✦ Botox & Dermal-Filler Injectables
- ✦ Morpheus 8
- ✦ IPL Photofacial
- ✦ Coolsculpting
- ✦ Tattoo Removal
- ✦ Microdermabrasion
- ✦ Leg Vein Treatment

**818.507.0909**

**@PROLASE**

## **GLENDALE**

900 N. Pacific Ave.  
Glendale, CA 91203

## **SHERMAN OAKS**

15030 Ventura Blvd. #12  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

**WWW.PROLASECLINIC.COM**

# ELEVATE HEALTH GROUP



5908 W Riverside Dr. #120  
Toluca Lake, CA 91505

214 N Central Ave  
Glendale, CA 91205

1407 Foothill Blvd  
La Cañada, CA 91011

(818) 246-8000  
elevatehealthgroup.com

## 2023 ABMDR LOTTERY WINNERS



**First  
Prize  
Winners**

**Alfred Davidian**

Two round-trip tickets,  
donated by Sidon Travel



**Second  
Prize  
Winner**

**Varouj Keosseian**

iPad , donated by Paulette Malekian,  
of Engel & Volkers



**Third  
Prize  
Winner**

**S. Papayans**

Google Nest Hub,  
donated by Annette and Hratch Postik

# CDMS

CALIFORNIA DERMATOLOGY &  
MOHS SURGERY SPECIALISTS



### Password manager:

The first-ever passwordless system built that doesn't require any master password.

### MySafe:

Digital safe for your computer that only opens with your face ID, or fingerprints.

### SecureNote:

Every note is protected by your biometrics.

### PrivacyMate:

Dark Web Monitoring

### Authenticator:

Built-in two-factor authenticator.

### Clean-Slate:

Delete cookies and clear your history as you browse to stop companies from spying on you.

### Tru8 Connect:

Social App / Encrypted Messaging

[www.loop8.ai](http://www.loop8.ai)



# TRI-TECH

RESTORATION & CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.

"Restoration Experts You Can Trust"

## FIRE & WATER DAMAGE RESTORATION



**800.900.8448**  
tritechrestoration.com

### OUR SERVICES

- General Construction
- Smoke & Odor Remediation
- Board Up & Vandalism
- Content Pack Outs & Cleaning
- Mold Remediation
- Lead & Asbestos Abatement

3301 N. San Fernando Blvd.  
Burbank, CA 91504