



ABMDR



ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY SPRING 2009

Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past several months have tested us all, as we feel the anxiety of uncertain economic times. For this reason, it is particularly sweet to be able to have something to celebrate in the New Year.

Over a year ago, the ABMDR launched its campaign to establish a Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan. The goal was ambitious, but the Center was essential in furthering the ABMDR's efforts to save the lives of patients

in need. The response has been overwhelming! Over \$850,000 has been raised to remodel and equip the Center—something we can all truly celebrate.

In times of despair, there are many who retreat, afraid to face the challenges. And then there are those who see the hopeful side of life: the donors to our Center, the many ABMDR volunteers throughout the world, and the more than 14,000 registry donors who have each donated a drop of their blood to bring a drop of hope to those who have little chance of survival without a bone marrow transplant. To you all, I am eternally grateful. I ask for your continued good faith in us as a source of hope for many who can look forward to a brighter, healthier life.

Dr. Frieda Jordan, Ph.D.

President



MESSAGE FROM THE FORMER FIRST LADY OF ARMENIA

The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry has a proud history spanning almost 10 years. Little more than a vision when founded, the ABMDR has now become a significant Pan-Armenian organization, with well-established international networks, targeting its activities toward saving the endangered lives of ethnic Armenians and non-Armenians throughout the world who are suffering from life-threatening blood diseases. As the ABMDR grows in significance, so, too, does our need for support from our friends both old and new. With ongoing volunteer efforts and more funding, together we can make miracles happen.

Dr. Bella Kocharian

Former First Lady of Armenia
Honorary Chair of the ABMDR

Building Blocks



THANKS TO OUR ANGELS, THE ABMDR'S STEM CELL HARVEST CENTER IS A REALITY NOW! page 3

"We set out as our goal to have 10,000 people in our Registry. I am happy to say that we now have over 14,000 registered donors—and we have made many matches that have brought happiness to many families. Now, with the Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan, we can bring even more happiness to so many more Armenians whose loved ones have life-threatening blood diseases."

Mark Geragos,

Chairman of ABMDR Board of Directors



SPONSORS

This publication was made possible by generous contributions from:



SUPER TRADE PRINTER



Interview with ABMDR Executive Director, Dr. Sevak Avagyan



Dr. Sevak Avagyan,
Executive Director of
ABMDR Armenia

“The Stem Cell Harvesting Center is a significant step toward bringing state-of-the-art medical and research technology to Armenia.”

The ABMDR has recently established a Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan.

Why is it so important for Armenians to have this facility?

For the last 8 years, the ABMDR has operated a laboratory in Yerevan with highly specialized tissue typing services. When we have found a tissue match, we have had to go to institutions outside of Armenia for the stem cell harvesting required to conduct the life-saving transplants. This is unlike donors residing in the US and Europe, where we have been able to rely on our partners for cost-effective harvesting services. With over 80% of the Registry's donors from Armenia, and none of the country's medical centers offering stem cell harvesting, it was imperative that we have this Center.

So how exactly does this benefit a family in Armenia with a loved one suffering from a blood disease?

It will significantly reduce the cost of harvesting – and therefore of transplantations – required to treat leukemia and other blood illnesses. The considerable decrease in harvesting expenses will translate into a similar decrease in transplantation expenses. We can now bring this modern day medical miracle of stem cell transplantation within reach of many Armenian families who have often been denied this life saving procedure because of prohibitive costs.

We hear a lot about the medical uses of stem cells. Will there be other benefits of the Center beyond those for patients with blood diseases?

Yes, we are very excited about the broader impact our Center will have in the days to come. As the potential for using stem cells as therapeutic tools to improve survival and even cure various diseases becomes more widespread, in the long-term our Center will benefit a patient population much larger than the core leukemia and blood disease patients.

Any final thoughts?

The Stem Cell Harvesting Center is a significant step toward bringing state-of-the-art medical and research technology to Armenia. It is truly transformational for Yerevan to now be a regional center for stem cell harvesting, bringing not only revenues from other countries in the region, but positioning the Center as a vital and active player among international transplantation centers worldwide. ■

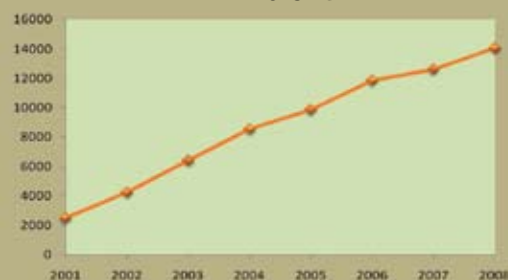


ABMDR lab staff, Yerevan

Demographic Distribution of Donors in 2008



ABMDR Growth



CHARTS of Registry growth and demographic distribution

A State-of-the-Art Stem Cell Harvesting Center In Yerevan



After two years of planning, negotiating with the Armenian government, raising funds, and extensive remodeling, the ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center, with its official opening on April 28, 2009, is now a reality! The Center shares space with the ABMDR's tissue typing laboratory, occupying a site at the Hematology Center in Yerevan. State-of-the art equipment has been purchased to meet the highest standards of the industry. With all systems in place and harvesting procedures performed over a period of time, we fully expect to receive accreditation for the Center by the European Federation of Immunogenetics following their evaluation. ■



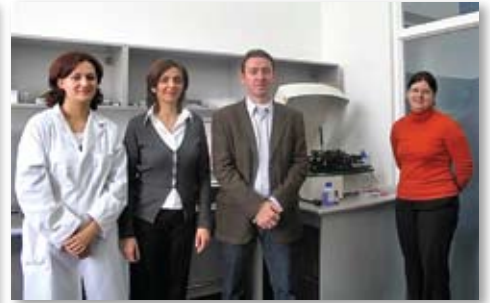
ABMDR Major Sponsors: Ralph Yirikian of VivaCell-MTS, Lincy Foundation, Glendale Memorial Hospital & Health Center, and Carolann & George Najarian



The ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center is a reality now!



Operating the Stem Cell Harvesting machine



ABMDR Staff during training at the new Harvesting Center



Harvesting Center reception area



Harvesting Center Directors and Staff



Medical Director at consultation



Harvesting Center reception and hallway



A view of the Flow Cytometer operation



The Angel Wall

harvesting season

Thank you all who have contributed to the Harvesting Center!

In the earliest stages of planning, AMBDR board member Carolann Najarian saw the importance of the Harvesting Center and made a lead gift, followed by support from an anonymous donor, and Glendale Sunrise Rotary. These gifts, combined with dollars raised at the 5th Anniversary fundraising events, started us on our ambitious project, allowing us to purchase a cell separating apheresis machine. Since then support has come pouring in from the Lincy Foundation, Vivacell, various Armenian organizations, and hundreds of donors responding to the telethon, including the room sponsors listed below. All told, over \$850,000 has been raised – the full amount necessary to remodel and equip our new facility. Thank you all! ■



Conference Room



Immunology Lab with the Flow Cytometer



The Harvesting Room



Medical Director's Room



Pre-PCR Laboratory



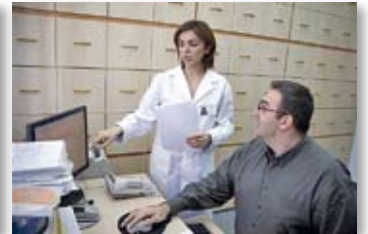
Post-PCR Laboratory



Medical Examination Room



Administration Office



Donor Data Bank Room



Cryobank Room

There is still space for you, or a loved one you wish to honor, on the Angel Wall! Also, there are rooms ready for adoption!

Donors	In Memory of	Room Name	\$ Amount
Dr. Martik Kazarians & Family	Mariana Kazarian	CEO/ Conf. Room	\$20,000
Mrs. Amalia Kiureghian & Family	Dr. Hovik Kiureghian	Immunology lab	\$20,000
Owen & Devorris Families		Harvesting Room	\$20,000
George Titizian & Family	Arlene Titizian	Med. Director Room	\$15,000
Stepan Vartanian & Family	Knar & Asatour Vartanian	Pre-PCR Lab	\$5,000
Linda Vartanian & Family	Ophelia & Tadvos Minassian	Post-PCR Lab	\$5,000
Naz Atikian & Family	Nazeli & Mekhitar Atikian	Med. Exam Room	\$5,000
Armenian Community of Iran		Administration	\$5,000
Western Plelacy of Los Angeles		Donor Data Bank	\$5,000

the little engines that could



To all those who've been involved in saving my life!

Four years ago, while my friends were enjoying their childhood, studying at school and playing around, I was confined to bed, having endless blood transfusions, with no light at the end of the tunnel.

Fortunately, my family and I came across the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry—the organization that gave me my only chance not only for a normal life, but life itself! Now, with my transplant, I am a survivor from a severe disease, a person who has been given a second chance in life. So I'd like to say loudly:

Thank you! Thank you very much, God, for being with me through all these hard times.

Thank you Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry—I wish you much success in helping more people like me!

Thanks to all doctors in Armenia and in Tehran who saved my life and offered me a chance to have a future.

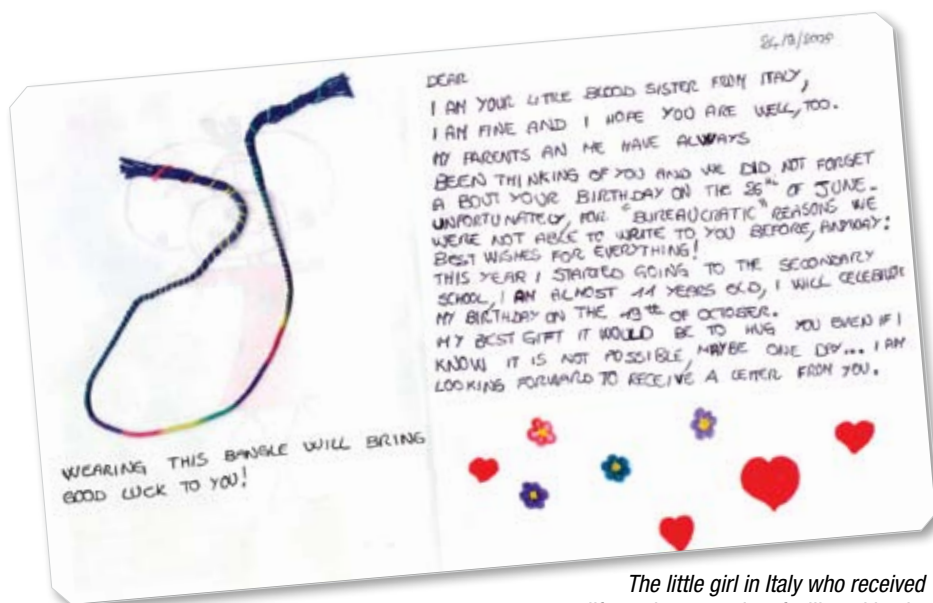
Thanks to the Armenian community in Iran who gave me a home away from home, especially Mariet Tournians!

Thank you Viva Cell in Yerevan, my main financial contributor, led by a very generous person, Mr. Yirikian. Without them my transplant would not have been possible.

I am one of the success stories, and I hope my message helps bring thousands of new donors and contributors around the world so there will be many more success stories!

Yours truly,
Meline

***"I am one of the success stories,
and I hope my message helps bring
thousands of new donors and
contributors around the world so there
will be many more success stories!"***



The little girl in Italy who received a life-saving transplant facilitated by the ABMDR writes to her anonymous donor

DEAR

I AM YOUR LITTLE BLOOD SISTER FROM ITALY, I AM FINE AND I HOPE YOU ARE WELL, TOO. MY PARENTS AND ME HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THINKING OF YOU AND WE DID NOT FORGET ABOUT YOUR BIRTHDAY ON THE 26TH OF JUNE. UNFORTUNATELY, FOR "BUREAUCRATIC" REASONS WE WERE NO ABLE TO WRITE TO YOU BEFORE, ANYWAY: BEST WISHES FOR EVERYTHING!

THIS YEAR I STARTED GOING TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOL. I AM ALMOST 11 YEARS OLD, I WILL CELEBRATE MY BIRTHDAY ON THE 19TH OF OCTOBER. MY BEST GIFT IT WOULD BE TO HUG YOU EVEN IF I KNOW IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, MAYBE ONE DAY . . .

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM YOU.

WEARING THIS BANGLE WILL BRING GOOD LUCK TO YOU!



I'm sorry I couldn't come to the gala this year. The reason is because it was tryouts for my school tennis team (which I made!). This may seem trivial, but as a cancer survivor, every activity I am able to do reminds me of how grateful I am for my life. Through the ABMDR, I know many others—like Meline—will be able to do fun things, to lead an active life. I hope to see everyone next year at the gala!

Alique Topalian,
Cleveland

deliberate acts of kindness

Mariet Tournians



***...they knew
they needed
someone
they could
rely on for
help in Iran.***

As the ABMDR staff began to plan for expansion of its recruitment activities five years ago, they knew they needed someone they could rely on for help in Iran. They could not have found a more capable liaison than Mariet Tournians. As Chief Executive Officer of the Avedsian Clinic in Tehran, Mariet has actively volunteered her time to organize regional donor recruitment for the ABMDR, and to provide intensive and necessary support for transplant patients like Meline and their donors at the Shariati University Hospital.

Born and raised in Iran, with a B.S. in Nursing from the University of Tehran and an M.S. in Public Health Management from Iran University of Medical Sciences, Mariet contributes her medical experience and strong connections, working with the Armenian Diaspora in Tehran to spread the word about the ABMDR and facilitate our efforts. Thank you, Mariet! ■

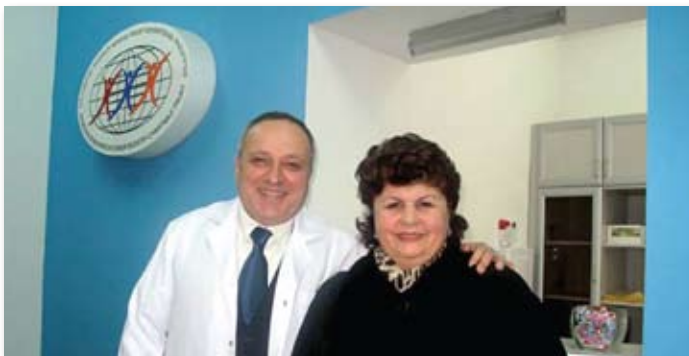
Ralph Yirikian



***Whom does
a family turn
to when the
medical costs
to save their
child exceeds
their ability
to pay?***

Whom does a family turn to when the medical costs to save their child exceeds their ability to pay? In the case of one family in Armenia, that person was Ralph Yirikian. In his professional life as General Manager of VivaCell in Armenia, Ralph has no involvement with the medical field. But through his wife's work as a nurse in the cancer ward of American University of Beirut Hospital, he is well aware of the needs of the patients and families that the ABMDR serves. And as a devoted family man with two children, he understands the anguish parents of sick children feel. When approached by Meline's family, he didn't hesitate, to provide the necessary funding for Meline's stem cell transplant through his company.

Born and educated in Lebanon, with degrees in Economics and Business Administration from the American University of Beirut, Ralph has travelled internationally in his career, working in Lebanon, Qatar, Cyprus, Karabakh, and now, Armenia. How fortunate we are that Ralph has embraced our cause and—through his company—provided for one of our patients in need! ■



Dr. Nazaretyan with donor Mrs. Vardouhe during stem cell harvesting in ULM.

In 2001, a woman working as an X-ray technician in a dental office in Yerevan did one small thing that today, has made a huge difference in the world: she showed up at an ABMDR recruitment drive and registered.

Varduhi, the mother of two adult children and a grandmother, did not know then that she would, indeed, become a life-giving force to someone completely unrelated to anyone in her family, in another country.

When the ABMDR discovered she was a potential donor match for a woman in Greece fighting for her life, Varduhi knew she wanted to help. After a detailed examination and evaluation process, the ABMDR found her to be clinically healthy, and personally committed to being a donor. Varduhi made clear to the ABMDR staff that she felt privileged to fulfill her moral values, to help a person whose life was in danger. Her son and daughter enthusiastically supported their mother's decision to be a donor.

On January 12, Varduhi had her stem cells collected in Ulm, Germany for transplantation to the patient. That one small decision 8 years ago to register with the ABMDR has resulted in the biggest contribution anyone could make in this world: saving someone's life. ■

ABMDR Progress Update

14,144 registered donors
1,305 patient requests
1,033 identified matches
9 transplants

ABMDR Recruitment Officers have worked diligently to assist the ABMDR in setting up donor recruitment drives through Armenian organizations and at churches of all denominations throughout the U.S. In addition, special recruitment drives were scheduled for specific patients in their communities.

March 30, Ferrahian Armenian High School, organized by AYF in memory of Nataline.

April 24, at the Memorial Monument in Montebello.

May 24, First-time recruitment drives held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

May 20, AGBU Manoogian Demirdjian School's Paradon.

May 28, Armenian Independence Street Festival in Hollywood, organized by AYF.

May 24, Armenian Festival in Montebello, organized by Sourp Khatch Church.

June 19, Walk of Life event.

July Recruitment drives in all ten regions (marzes) of Armenia.

September 13-14, Armenian Festival in Orange County.

September 21, Armenian Independence Festival in Glendale, organized by Nor Serount.

September 27-28, Perpoor Festival in Fresno.

October 19, Western Prelacy Armenian Apostolic Church of Las Vegas, organized by the Armenian Relief Society and the Church Board of Trustees.

December 2, Recruitment at the Puynic Center in Yerevan.



Independence Day Recruitment at Verdugo Park



Independence Day Recruitment at Verdugo Park



Meeting and presentation at the Puynic Center, Armenia



Recruitment at Puynic Center, Armenia



Recruitment drives in all ten regions (marzes) of Armenia

TO HELP IN RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES, OR START A DRIVE IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT THE ABMDR
Yerevan Laboratory 01137410-20-8312 abmdr@abmdr.am
Los Angeles Office 323-663-3609 abmdrla@sbcglobal.net

volunteers for life



April 24 Recruitment Drive at the Memorial Monument in Montebello



Recruitment Drive at the Western Prelacy Armenian Apostolic Church of Las Vegas



Recruitment Drive at the Perpour Festival in Fresno



Recruitment Drive at the Armenian Festival in Orange County



Recruitment Drive at the Armenian Festival in Orange County



Recruitment during 2008 Walk of Life

**TO HELP IN RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES, OR START A DRIVE IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT THE ABMDR
Boston Coordinator Nareh Ghazarians 339-223-0825 abmdr.usa@gmail.com
Tehran Coordinator Mariet Toumians 9821-725-645 avedisianclinic@hoornet.com**

2008 telethon

Telethon Kickoff Reception

In the last 8 years, the ABMDR has literally traveled the world in order to establish contacts within the different diasporan communities, and educate all who we meet about the importance of the Registry. Now, with a solid network of friends across the globe, we are seeing the fruits of our labor in the connections being made between donors and patients, and in the tremendous outpouring of donations well beyond the traditional support for our ongoing operations. In addition to conventional fundraising activities, an intensive and highly successful telethon was used this past year, raising over \$250,000 for the Harvest Center, as well as the Registry. ■



Telethon Support Group



Dr. Jordan welcoming the guests



Artin Manoukian



Diana Artinian, Taleen Khachatourian and Louise Gourgian



Armenian Clergy Blessing the Reception



ANA guests Marry Konlanian & Angel Matevosian



At the reception with Guests

can you see me now?

2008 Telethon a resounding success!



Telethon registration team



At the telethon with board and volunteers



Archbishop Mousheg at the Telethon



Drs. Jordan and Avagyan with Lincy Vice-President H. Sasounian



Telethon Volunteers



With volunteer Jasik Jerahian



Birthday girl with teacher and parent, donated her presents



Data entry volunteers



Telethon Director Mark Madoyan



Dr. Baghdasarian with Mrs. Tereza Hacobian



Chris Courtney with the volunteers

Donors for Donors Across the Generations



On June 19, 2008, over 400 supporters gathered at Griffiths Park to participate in ABMDR's Annual Walk of Life. ■



THANK YOU
Glendale Memorial Hospital
for being a Major Sponsor
for the 4th consecutive year

Runners at the Walkathon



Glendale Memorial Hospital Team



AYAC Team



Sebazan H. Derderian



Buirad Moghadesian Angel Team



Bank of America Team



With the Firefighters



Hamlet Tanahan with Ara Agopian keeping the records



Doctors with Dr. Baghdasarian, Chair of '08 Walkathon



Parik Nazarian, ARS Team

Annual Gala, at the Glendale Hilton, August 8, 2008

ABMDR award recipients: Naz Atikian, Woman of the Year; George Najarian, Man of the Year; Karineh Khudikian and Armond Aghakhanian, Volunteers of the Year; Horizon TV, Business of the year; and Razmik Moghadesian, reciving the Inspiration Award.



George Najarian, Man of the Year



Naz Atikian, Woman of the Year



Horizon TV, Business of the year



Armond Aghakhanian, Volunteer of the Year



Karineh Khudikian, Volunteer of the Year



Razmik Moghadesian, Inspiration Award



Taleen Khachatourian



George Najarian's Family at Gala



Armen Titizian sharing his experience



Dr. Evelyn Baghdasarian



Supporters and Guests at the ABMDR Fundraising Gala

moms, parties...

Angels Luncheon, November 16, 2008



Atikian family with host, Mary Apick



Diana Artunian with her guests



Mary Apick with her mother Apick Yousefian and guests



Naz Atikian With Mary Apick and guests



Organizing Committee



Vergin Madelian and Fimi Mekhitarian

Christmas Party, December 2008



Christmas party hosts Iline and Aleko Boghoskhanian with ABMDR friends and supporters



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE ABMDR?

***Instead of receiving gifts
at a birthday party or a
wedding, ask guests
to give to the ABMDR***

***Pass on an award fund or
bonus to the ABMDR***

***Donate materials or services
that the ABMDR needs***

***Host a party at your home or
business and ask guests to
make a donation to ABMDR***

***Sponsor a golf
tournament that
benefits the ABMDR***

***Be an Angel on the Tree
of Hope Send in your
contribution today!***

& knock knock jokes

Laughter for Life at the Comedy Store, November 9, 2008

World famous Comedy Store on Sunset Blvd. was the venue of yet another magical evening of *Laughter for life*. Comedian and supporter, Sam Tripoli, led a group of five very funny comedians, who volunteered their time to make the ABMDR's 6th annual comedy night a great success. A special thanks to the organizing committee—a group of dedicated young professional ladies headed by Lara Yeretzian EsQ. ■



Comedy Night comedians with organizers



Comedy Night committee with comedian Sam Tripoli



Lara Yeretzian promoting special T-Shirts



Comedy Night committee members

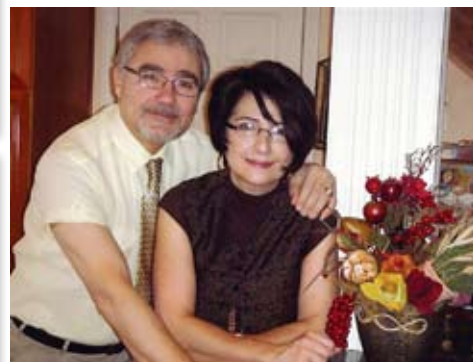
Thank You!



Thank you to Dr. Aida and William Galustian and Shirinian for donating office space to ABMDR in Los Angeles



Volunteer appreciation day hosted by Sophic Zargarian



Thank you to Foundation Laboratory Directors Stepan and Linda Vartanians for their continuous support

Thank You for
in lieu of flowers

Yeghisabet Grigorian
Reno Gabrielian

Jenik Issagholian
Zaven Joukjian
Josephine Kakilian

Hagop Jack Kiledjian
Jofre Toomians



Marie Madelian



Ovsanna Nazarian



Arlene Titizian

partnerships & awards

Meeting with Dignitaries and Community Leaders

An important part of ABMDR's outreach program is meeting with dignitaries and community leaders both in the Diaspora and Armenia. By introducing the mission and goals of the organization a mutual partnership programs are build for the benefit of all Armenian patients throughout world.



*With his holiness,
Katholikos Garegin II*



*At the Western Prelacy with
Sebazan Mousheg Mardirossian*



*With the Prime Minister of Armenia, Mr. Digran Sarkissyan
and Health Minister Dr. Haroutune Koushkyan*



*With Dr. Heranoush Hagopyan at the Ministry of
Spurk, Republic of Armenia*



*At the Western Diocese with
Serbazan Hovnan Derderian*

Annual Los Angeles Trexmen Armenian Open



Thank you, George Titizian, for sponsoring the golf tournament benefit for the ABMDR last spring! Born and raised in Syria, George and his late wife, Arlene, moved with their children to Los Angeles from Canada in 1983. Since then George has been dedicated to many Armenian causes. We are fortunate to be one of them, and look forward to the second golf tournament benefit this spring. Save the date:

Annual Los Angeles Trexmen Armenian Open June 26, 2009

The California Country Club in Whittier, California Fee is \$175.00 and includes golf, lunch, and dinner; many prizes and raffles 50% of the proceeds will benefit the ABMDR. For more information, contact Mel Shanoian: 818-521-2173 or George Titizian: 818-612-5837

USC Armenian Graduate Student Award

On March 16, 2008, The USC Armenian Graduate Association presented their donation to ABMDR during their monthly Luncheon at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank. Thank you USCAG. We are greatly honored to have the support of your organization.



Drs. Jordan and Madelian receiving the USC AGSA Award



conferences worldwide

Professional Activities and Recognitions Around the World



Dr. Nazaretyan with the Director of Austrian Bone Marrow Registry Dr. Rosenmayr



Drs. Jordan and Nazaretyan meeting with Dr. Torsted, Director of Norwegian Registry (center)



Dr. Jordan with Paul Costeas, Director of Cypriot Registry (center)

January, 2008, Hi Benefit Circle, Los Angeles, U.S., ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan and Deputy Treasurer Diana Artunian explained our mission and goals at the organization's January meeting.

June 2008, National Marrow Donor Program, Minneapolis, U.S., ABMDR Laboratory Supervisor Armine Hyusyan attended the New Cooperative Registry Training program.

July 2008, medical and community centers in all ten Marzes (regions) of Armenia, ABMDR staff conducted informational workshops and presentations on stem cell transplantation to local medical and allied health professionals.

August, 2008, Iranian-Armenian Society of Los Angeles Meeting, ABMDR Board member Vergine Madelian, Ph.D., presented an informational session.

September, 2008, Armenia Relief Fund Conference in Dilijan, Armenia, ABMDR's Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan presented at the scientific conference.

October, 2008, Hematological Center, Ministry of Health of Republic Armenia, International Scientific-Practical Conference, "Prospects of Hematology and Transfusion Development" devoted to the 75-th anniversary of foundation of the Center. ABMDR staff assisted in the organization of the conference.

October, 2008, California Armenian Medical Society Annual CME meeting in Las Vegas. Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Vergine Madelian participated.

October, 2008, Bone Marrow Donor Worldwide (BMDW) and National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) meetings in Minneapolis. ABMDR participated as full and cooperative members respectively, by Dr. Frieda Jordan and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan.

EFI Meetings December, 2008, European Federation of Immunogenetics, Region 8 Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Dr. Frieda Jordan represented the Armenian Registry.



With NMDP colleagues. Pam Rabinett, NMDP manager (right)



With Canadian colleagues



Dr. Madelian at Iranian-Armenian Society Meeting, LA



California Armenian Medical Congress, Las Vegas



Drs. Nazaretyan & Avagyan with Board of Advisors member Mrs. Kiureghian at the Conference on Hematology, Armenia



EFI Region 8 meeting in Turkey with Prof. Mahmut Charin of Turkey and Dr. Chryssa Papasteriades of Greece



New Connections In Our Worldwide Community



*With Armen Smbatyan,
Armenian Ambassador Extraordinary to Moscow*



*With Michael Aleksanyan, Medical Director
Hematology Research Center hospital, Moscow*



With Dr. Anahit Melikyan at the reception in Moscow

The ABMDR expanded its reach this year in key new Armenian communities.

Moscow & St. Petersburg, Russia – With over three million ethnic Armenians living in Russia, it was important for the ABMDR to extend its work in this country. To that end, community meetings and a recruitment drive were held for the first time in St. Petersburg. In September, ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan and Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan visited Moscow to meet with Mr. Vorobyov, Director of Hematological Scientific Centre of Russian Academy of Sciences, and Armenian Community representatives to discuss the prospect of future cooperation. In October, Dr. Avagyan met with Ara Abrahamyan, Chairperson of the Armenian Union in Russia, to introduce him to the history, mission and activities of the ABMDR. As a result, more recruitment campaigns are planned for this year in Russia.

Las Vegas, United States – Recognizing the growing Armenian community in Nevada, the ABMDR went to Las Vegas in October, where the Armenian Relief Society and the Western Prelacy Armenian Apostolic Church collaborated in the first recruitment drive. More will be conducted in the months ahead.

Aman, Jordan – In December 2008, Dr. Jordan and Dr. Avagyan introduced the ABMDR to the Armenian Community of Jordan, laying the groundwork for future recruitment in 2009.

Ten Regions in Armenia – During the month of July, the ABMDR extended its reach to all ten marzes (regions) within Armenia. Staff members met with the deputy heads of health departments and medical workers of the regions, and local and national media were invited to help publicize the events. Close to 500 medical workers helped in recruitment drives in all 10 marzes, and more than 100 people registered as donors, as a result of the outreach effort. ■



With the organizers in St. Petersburg



*With First Secretary of the Armenian Consulate General,
Anahit Barseghyan, and the Consulate General, Tigran Balayan*



Armenian community of St. Petersburg



Meeting with the Armenian community of Amman



Head of the Department of Health, Aragatsohn, Armenia



Meeting with Yeghegnadzor Medical staff, Armenia



Armenian Relief Society and the Western Prelacy Armenian Apostolic Church joined recruitment drive in Las Vegas

sidekicks to heroes

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Gala Committee 2008



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Boston Support Group & Board Members



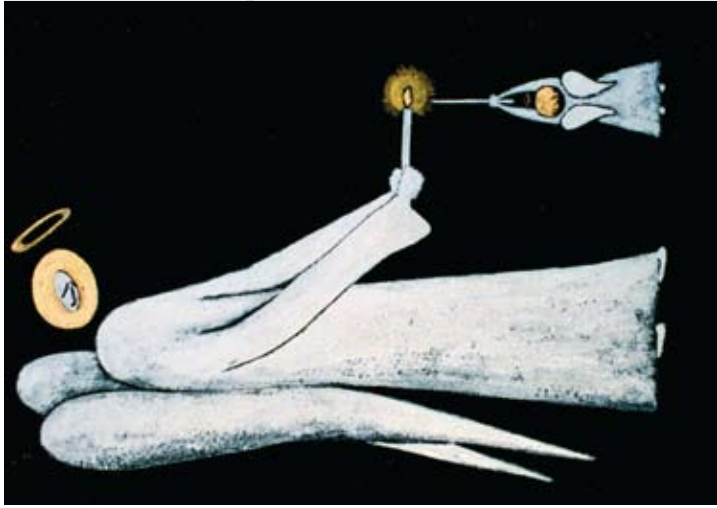
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