



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each time I visit Karabagh, I am humbled by the tenacious spirit of her people, and I feel so proud of her accomplishments in the face of great adversity. Never has this feeling been more poignant than this January, when we were in Karabagh to kickoff the ABMDR's 10th Anniversary celebrations. Being there caused me to reflect on the struggles our Registry has had to get where we are today, and also to affirm that our successes—a registry of over 15,000 donors, a record of facilitating transplants

worldwide, a new Stem Cell Harvesting Center—are the result of dedicated people uniting for a common cause: to save Armenian lives.

This is the Karabagh spirit, and it lives in each of us as we celebrate the last ten years, and summon our strength and conviction for the next ten. This 10th Anniversary year we dedicate to the ABMDR's incredible volunteers—old and new, across the globe—and thank the citizens of Karabagh for providing us with inspiration for years to come. With such support we will not only overcome. We will thrive.

Dr. Frieda Jordan, Ph.D., President



ANNIVERSARY Of Finding Matches & Saving Lives



MESSAGE FROM THE HON. CHAIR

The ABMDR has come a long way in ten years, establishing first-rate laboratory operations in Armenia, and extending its reach to diasporan communities throughout the world. 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 support. Now that the dream of having a stem cell harvesting center has become reality, we can make preparations to take the next logical step, a full-fledged transplantation center, which would give thousands of Armenian patients access to affordable, life-saving stem cell transplants.

Dr. Bella Kocharian
Former First Lady of Armenia
Honorary Chair of the ABMDR



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Ten years ago only a handful of people knew about the ABMDR and its life-saving mission. Now that number has swelled to over 15,000—and growing with each new donor added to the Registry, each new volunteer who is inspired to help. In the next decade, we hope to double our donor base, enable many more transplants through our Harvesting Center, and, ultimately, establish our own transplant center. Under Frieda's leadership, and with the ongoing support of the ABMDR Board of Directors and all of you, we've developed great momentum to carry us through the next ten years!

Mark Geragos,
Chairman of ABMDR
Board of Directors



SPONSORS

This publication was made possible by generous contributions from:



Interview with ABMDR Executive Director, Dr. Sevak Avagyan



*Dr. Sevak Avagyan,
Executive Director of
ABMDR Armenia*

***“It is
absolutely
critical that
we can
harvest,
freeze, and
thaw the
stem cells
successfully.”***

We have heard so much about the importance of accreditation. First, the ABMDR laboratory getting accredited by the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI), and now, working toward getting the new Stem Cell Harvesting Center accredited. Why is this so important?

Accreditation is the stamp of approval from an industry authority that ensures that a laboratory operation meets the standards of cleanliness, safety, and – in the case of the tissue typing and harvesting work – proficiency in doing highly specialized procedures. Working with an accrediting agency gives us the opportunity to fine tune our operations with expertise and input from the peer evaluators, and when accreditation is received, it inspires confidence for those we serve. Donors and patients know they will be in good hands working with us.

What is required to get the Harvesting Center accredited?

The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy has set the international standards for stem cell harvesting. In order for the ABMDR Harvesting Center to meet those standards we must provide detailed documentation on our procedures for collecting and processing stem cells, and how we administer the laboratory. We are required to run ten test cases, which means we harvest the cells of participating individuals and run each of their samples through all the procedures.

How exactly is this done?

Each participant is given a booster to increase their stem cells. Through an IV line, the donor is connected to the harvesting machine which separates the stem cells from the circulating blood. The cells are then evaluated for quality and quantity by flow cytometry, and then frozen in liquid nitrogen in our cryogenic laboratory. Subsequently, the samples will be thawed and reevaluated for quantity and quality again.

Why is this important?

It is absolutely critical that we can harvest, freeze, and thaw the stem cells successfully – it would be devastating if a patient in need was not able to be helped because the cells in storage were not viable. When we receive accreditation, donors will know that their precious cells will be handled with care, and patients will know they can rely on the ABMDR to have healthy, viable cells that give them a chance to be saved by the miracle of a transplant. Also, these frozen samples will be available for researchers, which will advance efforts to cure cancer, and other diseases.

Any final thoughts?

We are feeling quite confident in this accreditation. In 2006, the ABMDR's HLA tissue-typing laboratory passed the EFI inspection. Last May, the laboratory passed the EFI's second inspection “with flying colors.” Our Harvesting Center has the personnel and state-of-the art equipment to meet the highest standards of the industry. With all systems in place and the ten harvesting case procedures performed over the next several months, we fully expect to receive accreditation by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy following their evaluation. ■



*EFI inspectors Prof. Nunez and Dr. Spyropoulou with
ABMDR lab supervisor Armineh Hyusyan*



NMDP Representative, Pam Rabint, (front right) with ABMDR staff in Yerevan

harvesting season

BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!



Dr. Mshetsian and Dr. Nazaretyan performing the first harvesting procedure.

For the first time in the history of Armenia, a stem cell harvesting procedure was performed at the ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan on June 16. "This is an extraordinary milestone for the ABMDR and Armenia," said Dr. Frieda Jordan. "With the successful completion of our first-ever stem cell harvesting procedure and the subsequent life-saving transplantation in Belgium, the decade-long work of our donors, volunteers and staff has once again been rewarded." ■

The New Stem Cell Harvesting Center Grand Opening!

The grand opening of the Stem Cell Harvesting Center on April 28 marked a new era of hope and help for the Armenian community. The much-anticipated event was attended by scores of ABMDR donors, sponsors, patients, physicians, and special guests residing in Armenia, and an ardent group of supporters from Los Angeles who made the long trip to take part in the celebration. ■



*Mr. Ralph Yirikian of Vivacell provided the capstone funding for the Harvesting Center campaign
Thank you Ralph and Vivacell!*



Blessing of the Stem Cell Harvesting Center.



ABMDR Staff on Grand Opening day.



ABMDR Staff at the Harvesting Center entrance.

Stuart Siegel

Director, Children's Center for Cancer & Blood Diseases Children's Hospital L.A.



"To be able to have a harvesting center in Armenia, where individuals there graciously agree to be part of the Registry and have their bone marrow harvested, is critical because that bone marrow and those stem cells can be sent throughout the world to help children and adults who desperately need them to save their lives." ■

Armond Mehdikhani

ABMDR Board of Advisor, MBA, CLS, MT (ASCP)



"I had the pleasure of visiting the ABMDR Harvesting Center in September when I validated the functionality of the equipment and reproducibility of processes. Dr. Mshetsian successfully performed the cryopreservation process, repeating it multiple times to ensure reproducibility. I am extremely impressed with the ABMDR Harvesting Center." ■

Letters of Appreciation

Dear Dr. Jordan:

About a year ago, just before my 35th birthday, I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. This was devastating news to me and everyone in my life. After two rounds of chemotherapy, my oncologists advised that due to the aggressive nature of my disease and a high risk of relapse, a bone marrow transplant would be recommended. My family, existing friends and new friends from the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry were there to support me in any way possible. Both of my siblings were tested and I was fortunate that my sister was a 100% match. My sister Lara saved my life.

However, many of our Armenian brothers and sisters who are diagnosed with this illness don't and will not find a match. Many lives could have been saved if they only had a donor. Unfortunately many of us are not informed about this process. I certainly did not know much about what a transplant involved. Many donors don't know how simple it is to donate their stem cells. Many think it's a painful, invasive process. However, in many cases, the transplant procedure is a non-invasive process. My sister was discharged the same day to go home. She was told her body would replenish the marrow they extracted within a couple of days.

Leukemia is treatable and it can also be cured. If Lara was not a perfect match, my only hope would have been an unrelated donor from a registry. In this case, my chances of finding a match would be much higher going through a registry whose entire database is made of donors of my own ethnicity. Therefore, it is imperative that we actively increase the number of potential donors in the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

With my transplant, I was given a second chance in life. I thank God everyday and thank organizations like the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and all its supporters for being an angel and helping in giving someone the gift of life. I am one of many success stories of a bone marrow transplant. I hope my story inspires and encourages individuals to register to become a potential donor.

I look forward to the expansion of the registry and supporting this worthy organization.

—Carlo

"I hope my story inspires and encourages individuals to register to become a potential donor."

Our Latest Transplant



ABMDR's 11th transplant patient, Gayane, with farconi anemia received BMT on June 23rd, 2010 in Moscow. Donor was identified by ABMDR during extended family search

Hi Boris,
How are you?
We have been so pleased to receive news from you, glad to hear that you had come to Italy, too!
Thanks a lot for the gifts you sent, your drawing has been put beside your blood sister's bed.
We wish you all the good for your next graduation exam, what is it about?
We send you our best wishes for your next coming birthday on the 26th June, we will toast you, hoping that maybe one day it will be possible to do it together with you!
We are all fine.
Your sister in blood is sorting out very good at school, still she has not made up her mind on the future path she is going to take. Sometimes she tells us she would become a biologist and work with dolphins, but it still takes two years before taking a decision.
We are looking forward to receiving another letter from you and maybe one more drawing, because you are very good at it! Congratulations!
A big hug, speak soon.



P.s. We are sending you the fancy sweet-box for your sister in blood's first Communion and a little present for you.

From mother of the Italian transplant patient to her Armenian donor



The exhausted princess waging a war on cancer is now healthy and happy.

"Ten years ago when the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry first started I didn't really understand the importance of its mission or all that it would become. For me it was nice to know that a lot of people were trying to find a way to help me get well and that I was going to help by being a spokesperson for the ABMDR. Today I fully understand the importance of being a bone marrow donor and how critical it is in helping to save the lives of those suffering from a blood related cancer, and many other illnesses. I want to congratulate Dr. Jordan and everyone who has helped to make the ABMDR a success. By helping to find a match for other people, especially kids, you give them a chance to grow up, go into the world and do great things. The ABMDR will always have special meaning in my life and I thank everyone involved."

Alique Topalian, Cleveland, Ohio

"Today I fully understand the importance of being a bone marrow donor and how critical it is in helping to save the lives of those suffering from a blood related cancer, and many other illnesses."



"I never dreamt 10 years ago when Dr. Jordan and I first talked about the need for an Armenian bone marrow donor registry that it would grow into the organization that it is today. As the mother of a daughter stricken with leukemia, I felt hopeless after learning there was not a suitable bone marrow match within our family or the National Marrow Donor Program to help make Alique well. The doctors told her dad and me that our best hope would be another Armenian. We put out a plea for help and the Armenian community responded not only for Alique, but for the hundreds of other Armenians around the world who were also in need. Alique is considered a miracle because we never found a match for her and today she thrives as you can see in the pictures: the exhausted princess waging a war on cancer is now healthy and happy. We have been blessed, and we must never stop trying to find matches for others in need. Dr. Jordan, you have my gratitude and that of all the other families who have been helped or are yet to be helped by the ABMDR. Thank you, and all of those who continue to dream that one day anyone in need will find their match for life."

Michele Seyranian, Alique's mother, Cleveland, Ohio

Profiles of Recruitment Personnel

Meet Some of the People who Make Stem Cell Donation Possible. Behind every life-saving transplant are the people with the expertise to guide each step in the process: Setting up recruitment drives, collecting DNA samples, performing medical tests, and counseling and encouraging stem cell donors. Here are some of the folks that make it all possible.

West Coast Recruitment Team



Fimi Mekhitarian

ABMDR Role: West Coast Recruitment Officer

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: “The ABMDR has become a genuinely pan-national project. I relish helping further boost the life-saving mission of the registry. Last year we were contacted by the family of a 21-year-old Armenian man diagnosed with acute leukemia and requiring an urgent stem cell transplant. I helped his family organize a nationwide donor recruitment, coordinating ABMDR recruitments in San Francisco, Chicago, and Florida. The outpouring of grassroots support was amazing.”



Karineh Khudikian (Clinical Laboratory Specialist)

ABMDR Role: Recruitment Drive Coordinator

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: I think perhaps a poem expresses it best: There are things my mind tells me that need to be done; there are things that my heart is in; there are things that my gut tells me—it's the right thing to do. To the question “Why am I a part of the ABMDR?” the answer is simple—all of the above.



Marina Manukian (LVN Nurse)

ABMDR Role: Recruitment Drive Coordinator

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: “I am a faithful believer in this organization's mission. It's an honor to be part of such a noble, life-saving cause which fosters hope for so many children. The ABMDR has an incredible and dedicated team, whose strong leadership is an inspiration to all of us.”



Razmik Moghadesian

Razmik is the father of Buirad, who lost his battle with leukemia in 2007; even though a stem cell donor was found through the ABMDR at that time, a relapse in the child's condition prevented a transplant.

ABMDR Role: Volunteer; counselor to donors with questions about donating their stem cells

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: “I see the ABMDR as an insurance policy for everyone. If everyone had a donor through the Registry, everyone would be safe.”

making it all possible



Susana Avagyan (Registered Nurse, Glendale Memorial Hospital)

ABMDR Role: Phlebotomist for donors making final preparations to contribute stem cells

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: “Assisting the ABMDR has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. And a big part of that fulfillment has to do with the knowledge that our volunteer work—whether through stem cell donor recruitments or follow-up health tests—helps save lives, especially those of young people.”

East Coast Recruitment Team

Narreh Ghazarians and Marilyn Bazarian began helping with recruitments on the East Coast in 2004. This April, 130 new potential donors turned out for a recruitment drive initiated by the family of Aram, a 24-year-old Detroit resident suffering from acute leukemia.



Narreh Ghazarians

ABMDR Role: Volunteer East Coast Recruitment Drive Officer

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: “It is truly touching to see men and women, friends and total strangers who hear about a patient in need take the time to come and join the Registry. I am so pleased to see an outpouring of support from new east coast Armenian communities and I hope we continue to grow and celebrate our 10th anniversary with a record breaking number of new donors.”



Marilyn Bazarian (Nurse)

Marilyn is an Irish-American married to an Armenian.

ABMDR Role: Recruitment drive organizer

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: “You never know when tragedy will strike you, your family, or friends, necessitating a bone marrow transplant. I feel volunteering for the ABMDR is absolutely the right thing to do. It is truly rewarding to see the eagerness and concern on the faces of those so willing to help people they don’t even know.”

Global Recruitment



Mariet Toumians (Nurse)

ABMDR Role: Volunteer Recruitment Representative

Chief Executive Officer of the Avedsian Clinic in Tehran, Mariet has 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.

Why I am dedicated to the ABMDR: “It is a great satisfaction to be able to use my expertise to help the ABMDR expand its reach and save lives.”

the incredible...

ABMDR Progress Update

15,000 registered donors
1,705 patient requests
1,033 identified matches
11 transplants

Over the past year, ABMDR Recruitment teams worked with diverse Armenian organizations, schools and churches throughout the U.S. to implement recruitment drives, including some special efforts for specific patients in their communities.

2009

March 1 Pasadena High School,
organized by AGBU
March 25 Bank of America, Glendale
March 29 Holy Cross Armenian
Church, Montebello
April 4 Armenian Sisters Academy,
Lexington, MA
April 5 St. Mary's Armenian Church, Glendale
April 5 AYF, San Francisco
April 5 St. Stephen's Armenian Church, Boston
April 18 ARS and ARF Center, Arizona
April 24 Martyrs Monument, Montebello
April 26 St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, New York
May 1 St. Stephen's School Bazaar, Boston
May 8 Hamazkain, Boca Raton, Florida
August 23 AYAC, Glendale
September 13 Armenian Festival,
Orange County
September 20 Armenian Independence
Day Festival, Glendale
September 20 Ararat Homentmen, Glendale
September 27 St. Paul Armenian Church, Fresno
October 1 Walk of Life, Verdugo Park, Glendale

2010

January 8 Karabagh
February 11 Consulate General
of Armenia, Glendale
March 24 ARF Nikol Aghbalyan
Student Union Bone Marrow Drive
at the ABMDR center Yerevan
March 28, 2010 at St. Gregory
Armenian Church, Pasadena
March 25 Russian Armenian
Slavonic University, Yerevan
March 26 Bone marrow Drive at the
"Heritage" Party headquarter in Yerevan
Ongoing: Recruitments on Wednesdays
5-7PM at the ABMDR Offices in Glendale



Recruitment at Avedissian Clinic, Tehran



Recruitment at Mary Manoukian School



Recruitment at Iraqahay Center



At Montebello Church



With patient Suren at ABMDR Center, Glendale



At the Russian Armenian Slavonic University, Yerevan



TO HELP IN RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES, OR START A DRIVE IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT THE ABMDR

Yerevan Laboratory 37410-20-8312 abmdr@abmdr.am

Los Angeles Office 323-663-3609 abmdrla@sbcglobal.net

volunteers for life



Recruitment in Boston, Massachusetts



Recruitment in Boston, Massachusetts



At the Armenian Consulate, Los Angeles



Recruitment at Homenetmen Ararat Chapter, Glendale



Recruitment in San Francisco



San Francisco Recruitment Team



Recruitment at Pasadena High School



Recruitment at St. Mary's Church, Los Angeles



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

10th Anniversary

So many have made significant contributions to the ABMDR. A few stand out for their early support

The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry A decade of finding matches, saving lives



"During these first 10 years, the ABMDR established a strong foundation, giving a clear vision of purpose. As each level of development was reached higher goals were set and achieved in every aspect of this monumental undertaking—from the fundamental issues of setting up the labs and recruiting donors, to the more complex problems of matching donors and patients, expanding technical capabilities to include stem cells, and, above all, meeting internationally set standards. The future will be no different as more and more lives are saved. Congratulations to Dr. Jordan, Dr. Avagyan, and your magnificent team—your achievement is truly remarkable!"

—Dr. Carolann Najarian, Board of Directors ABMDR



"The ABMDR has a lot to celebrate, with the tenth anniversary soon approaching. It has made tremendous leaps over the past decade under the leadership of Dr. Frieda Jordan and its exemplary group of supporting individuals. We are elated to now have the capability of stem cell harvesting in Armenia. During the next decade we are confident that the Bone Marrow Transplant Program in Armenia will become a center of excellence in the management of hematologic and oncologic diseases in not only saving Armenian lives, but other nations in great need of similar treatments."

—Dr. Boris Baghdasarian, ABMDR Board of Directors

In its first 10 years of operation the ABMDR has made tremendous achievements:

- Recruited over 15,000 donors in three continents • Established a presence in 11 countries – Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, Greece, Iran, Jordan, Karabagh, Lebanon, Russia, Syria, and the US • Identified over 1,300 patients
- Found over 1,000 potential matches • Facilitated 11 bone marrow transplants • Established and operated a world class tissue typing laboratory • Established a state-of-the-art stem cell harvesting center in Yerevan

January 1999:

Dr. Frieda Jordan is contacted by Alique Topalian's parents—Michele Seyranian and Mourad Topalian—who cannot find a donor match for their daughter from existing bone marrow registries; it becomes clear that the worldwide Armenian community urgently needs its own donor registry.



July 1999:

The Armenian government recognizes and accredits the ABMDR as an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization. The Board of Directors is: Dr. Bella Kocharyan became the honorary Chair, Mark Geragos, Esq. the Chair, Dr. Frieda Jordan, President, and Dr. Sevak Avakyan, Executive Director, and Alvar Petrossian (Armenia).



August 2000:

First fundraising committee formed in the US and the first event organized at Mihran and Dalida Keureghlian's residence and at Spazio's Restaurant sponsored by Arthur Zakarian.



1999

2000

June 1999:

The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Charitable Trust is founded; in the US it receives non-profit status under the auspices of the Armenian Health Alliance with the help of its director Dr. Carolann Najarian, and Attorneys Mark Geragos and Armen Janian. Aramais Andonian designs the ABMDR signature Logo.



September 1999:

First Charity event in Armenia at Paronyan Theatre.



December 2000:

ABMDR laboratory and office open in Yerevan and first press conference held.



Retrospective

and commitment to our vision. We would like to pay special tribute to these special visionaries.

Dr. Bella Kocharyan Former First Lady of Armenia and Honorary Chair of the ABMDR

Dr. Kocharyan supports many charitable causes, most notably the ABMDR. She has served as Honorary Chairperson since ABMDR's inception. She was the first to register as a potential donor, inspiring many to follow her example. ABMDR's "Woman of the Year," she has hosted events, visited patients, and helped pave the way for the ABMDR to occupy its current laboratory and harvesting center in Yerevan.



January 8, 2001:
First donor recruitment in Armenia. First Lady Bella Kocharyan registers as the first donor.



March 2001:
Announcement of first grant awarded by the Lincy Foundation.



February 2001:
First lady of Republic of Armenia, Dr. Bella Kocharyan, visits Los Angeles for the launch of the opening of the ABMDR head office in the USA at the Foundation Laboratory, and recruitment center at Glendale Memorial Hospital.

May 2001:
Armenian government presents ABMDR with Presidential Award.



2001

February 20, 2001:
ABMDR establishes its first board of directors in the United States and Armenia.



February 2001:
First major fundraising events at the Glendale Hilton and the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Varand and Hour Melkonian.



April 24, 2001:
First major recruitment drive held in Armenia and at Montebello Genocide Memorial.



December 2001:
First Benefit Concert in Paris.

10th Anniversary

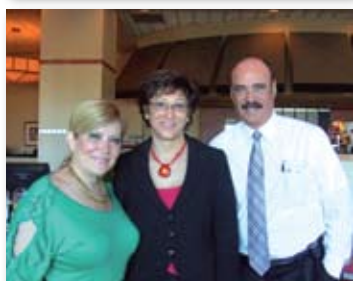


Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center

A member of CHW

In year 2001 GMH VP and COO Patrick Petre first committed the hospital to helping the ABMDR, and it has continually done so since, at various times funding equipment, fundraising and publicity, establishing a recruitment center at the hospital, consistently subsidizing tissue typing and providing nurses for recruitment drives. **Key supporters**

in the administration over the years include CEOs Arnie Schaefer, Catherine Pelley, and now Mark Meyers and David Mauss; and GMH representatives Vaz Abtekian, Ramella Markarian, and Arpie Kestanian. In 2003 the hospital was awarded the ABMDR "Organization of the Year."



January 8, 2002:

January 8 is declared as 'Donor Day' by decree of the Government of Armenia.

May 2002:

First visit to Karabagh—Honorary Chair Bella Kocharyan, President Jordan, Executive Director Avagyan and Glendale Memorial Hospital representative Vazrik Abdekian; a mass recruitment campaign yields 500 registrants in one day.



September 2002:

First recruitment in NY.



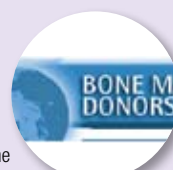
January 2003:

First fundraising event in Armenia—a concert and reception in Yerevan under the patronage of the First Lady of Armenia, to celebrate the anniversary of the registry and Donor's Day.



August 2003:

ABMDR joins Bone marrow Donors Worldwide and Bone Marrow Donor Association Bone Marrow Donor Association.



April 2003:

Recruitment in Torrance, CA.

September 2003:

First transplant in Los Angeles.

2002

May 2002:

First outreach to Armenian community in Iran following Human Genome conference attended by ABMDR President Jordan and Executive Director Avagyan.



Summer 2002:

First recruitment among the armed forces of Armenia; more than 400 donors are recruited.

September 2002:

Dr. Frieda Jordan is awarded "Woman of Science and Technology" by Senator Jack Scott and Assembly members Dario Former and Carol Liu.



2003

February 2003:

First recruitment in Fresno and Homenetmen Ararat in LA.



October 2003:

Glendale Mayor, Frank Quintero, and his wife Jani, visits the ABMDR laboratory in Yerevan.



Retrospective

Foundation Laboratory

From the beginning, Stepan Vartanian has donated the use of his laboratory space for preparing U.S. donor samples for tissue typing in Yerevan. In addition, he—and his wife Linda—and their children Lara, Taleen and Ara have assisted the ABMDR tremendously with our fundraising efforts. In 2003 Stepan was recognized by the ABMDR for his generosity as “Man of the Year.”



Diana Artunian

Among our first volunteers, Diana has been, and continues to be, a true believer. Each and every year over the last decade you have seen her sparkling presence at virtually all of the ABMDR's events. And behind the scenes she works her godmother magic—taking charge where she is needed, encouraging others to join and support our cause—a volunteer extraordinaire! These shining attributes earned her “Volunteer of the Year” in 2004.

November 2003:
“Hard Hat” party at Mark and Paulette Geragos residence.



March 2004:
First recruitment drive in Lebanon. Aram A Catholikos becomes first registered donor.



2003

November 2003:
First Comedy Night Fundraiser organized by Sam Tripoli and his committee.



2004

January 2004:
Second major fundraising event was in Yerevan celebrates the anniversary of the registry and the Donor's Day.



March 2004:
Second, third, and fourth transplantations.



September 2004:
First meeting with Armenian Society of Kaiser Permanente.



10th Anniversary



Aida Shirinian Galustian MD

Aida has donated much of her time, talent and resources to the ABMDR over the years: From medical advice to the office space of our Los Angeles operations. In all her volunteer activities she brings tremendous energy, cheering all of us on with her hearty, "Bravo".



Tereza Hacopian

Every instance when Tereza volunteers—which have been many over the years—those who work side-by-side with her are inspired. As a cancer survivor herself, she is the spirit of our organization, and as such, was awarded "Volunteer of the Year" in 2003.



Jasik Jerahian

Amidst the technical and scientific aspects of our work, Jasik brings beauty to our organization. A dedicated supporter of ABMDR. Besides her work helping to organize the annual gala events, each year Jasik donates the stunning centerpieces to the delight of all who attend. An eye for beauty from a beautiful mentor and supporter.

We pay tribute to Our volunteers who continue to be true believers of ABMDR's mission and a driving force for the organization and its staff.

September 2004:
Recruitment in Boston



January 2005:
Recruitment at the Armenian Prelacy and at the Armenian Congregational Church of LA.



March 2005:
ABMDR moves into new office in Yerevan.



February 2005:
Fifth transplantation.

2004

2005

October 2004:
Dr. Jordan receives the "Woman of Heart and Excellence" award from the Glendale YWCA.



February 2005:
ABMDR opens its new Mariana Kazarians Center in Los Angeles—Space donated by Dr. Aida Shirinian Galustian.



November 2005:
First recruitment in Canada.



Retrospective



Patricia LaCroix

Referred to the ABMDR by Mariana Kazarians years ago, Patricia contributes her expertise by procuring grants for the organization, and has also helped on publicity and publications. An "odar" no more, she has embraced not only the mission of the ABMDR, but the Armenian community; she has studied the Armenian language and visited our operations in Yerevan.

***Ten years of
commitment***

and hard work!

Thank you

to all our

volunteers.



Steve Artinian

Steve early on brought his graphic design expertise to the ABMDR, producing the first organizational brochure. His talents don't stop there: Steve pioneered the ABMDR Walkathon, which has become a highly successful fundraiser that engages supporters of all ages. Steve just this last year received a well-deserved "Volunteer of the Year" award.



Carmen Lukassian and Iline Boghoskhanian

Two sisters with more than one thing in common: siblings of ABMDR President Frieda Jordan, and equally committed to the cause. Backbones to Frieda and the whole ABMDR from the beginning, with their families, they have volunteered their time, their homes, and their good spirits.

April 2006:

First outreach to Armenian communities in Syria and Greece.



August 2006:

Benefit Concert in Glendale.



September 2006:

Traditional picnic at the Geragos residence.



November 2006:

First fundraising luncheon at the Gardens of the World in LA.



2006

May 2006:

ABMDR receives accreditation from the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI).



July 2006:

First "Walk of Life" walkathon at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.



10th Anniversary

ABMDR 10th Anniversary Kickoff Event in Karabagh



Archbishop Pargév Martirosyan prelate of the Karabagh Diocese becoming a donor

The ABMDR 10th anniversary celebrations started in Karabagh in February with a major kickoff event and recruitment. Several community leaders and government officials were among the volunteers joining the registry.



Health Minister of Karabagh Armen Khacatryan is joining the Registry



Karabagh National Assembly Member & Speaker of House, Ashot Ghulyan, joining the registry



Recruitment at the Kick off event



Cultural and Youth Minister Narine Aghabalyan, joining the registry



Recruitment at the Kick off event

September, 2007:
ABMDR's seventh transplantation.



November, 2007:
ABMDR forges full partnership with Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

December, 2007:
First recruitment drive in Bulgaria.



January, 2008:
ABMDR renovation of the Stem Cell Harvesting Center starts in Yerevan.



May, 2008:
ABMDR joins the National Marrow Donor Program Cooperative Registries.



2007

October, 2007:
ABMDR visit to Lyon, France and London, GB



November, 2007:
Dr. Jordan receives Business Magazine's "Women Making a Difference" award and Glendale Armenian Chamber of Commerce President's award.



2008

April, 2008:
Telethon to raise funds for the Harvesting Center,



Retrospective

ABMDR 10th Anniversary Kickoff Event in Los Angeles



THE NEXT 10 YEARS *At the Threshold of a New Decade*

Although thousands of donors have joined the ABMDR Registry, there are still not enough matched donors to meet the needs of all patients. To kick of its second decade, ABMDR has the following goals:

- 1. Increase the size of the Registry by 10,000 new donors**
- 2. Raise funds to type all donor samples recruited**
- 3. Educate Armenian families within the communities where we have a presence**
- 4. Expand into new countries with sizable Armenian communities**

May, 2008:
First visit to St Petersburg
and Moscow.



September, 2008:
First visit to
Las Vegas,
Nevada;
Phoenix
Arizona,
and
Florida.



January, 2009:
ABMDR's ninth
transplantation.



June, 2009:
Jazz for Life
Benefit Concert
by Datevik
Hovanesian
in Boston.



January 8, 2010:
ABMDR kicks off the
10th Anniversary
celebration in
Karabagh with a
concert; 150 people
are recruited.
President Jordan is
officially recognized
for her leadership
of the ABMDR by
the government of
Nagorno Karabakh
Republic.

2008

2009

2010

June, 2008:
In coordination with regional deputy heads of
health departments and medical professionals,
ABMDR joins the highly publicized recruitment
drives in 10 regions of the Republic of Armenia
resulting in over 500 new donors.



December, 2008:
First outreach to
Armenian community
in Jordan.



April 28, 2009:
The new Stem Cell
Harvesting Center opens in
Yerevan, thanks to support
from hundreds of donors
worldwide.



February 9, 2010:
10th Anniversary
celebrations begin
in the US at the
Phoenixia Restaurant
in Glendale; Consul
General of the
Republic of Armenia
in Los Angeles
Krikor Hovanesian
is guest of honor.

The ABMDR is fortunate to have the enthusiastic participation of young people. The ABMDR has formed youth support communities as an outgrowth of the highly successful Comedy Club and Walk Of Life events, which have attracted more young people to register as donors, as well as raising funds for the ABMDR.

Blood-related diseases can strike people of all ages and the ABMDR stands ready to help all patients seeking a donor. And while healthy donors of all ages are encouraged by stem cell donor registries, a younger donor base is a benefit—a patient in need can surface many years from now, so the 20-year-old registrant today who is a match 20, 30 years from now is still a viable donor. According to Dr. Vergine Madelian, the ABMDR's outreach and development officer, 50% of our Registry's donors are below 28 years old, making the ABMDR internationally recognized as one of the world's most dynamic—and healthiest—registries.

One reason for this is that a significant segment of our donor base is comprised of our soldiers in the armed forces in Armenia and Karabagh. Early in the ABMDR's recruitment drives, these young men—who understand so well the spirit of giving of themselves for an important cause—joined our ranks as donors. To date, several thousand soldiers are registered with the ABMDR. ■

Laughter for Life at the Comedy Store, November 9, 2009



Comedy Night Committee Members and Volunteer Comedians

Thanks to Sam Tripoli and all participating comedians, Novemebr 9 Comedy Night was another great success.



Soldiers in Armenia and Karabagh answering the call of duty



December 2009 recruitment in Armenia



An Armenian soldier who donated his stem cells

walkathon

Walk for Life, Glendale, October 3, 2009



***Thank you Glendale Memorial Hospital
for your continued sponsorship***



Annual Gala, at the Glendale Hilton, July 12, 2009

ABMDR award recipients: VivaCell general manager Ralph Yirikian, Man of the Year; Volunteers of the Year Steve Artinian, VP of advertising at Closet World and Chairperson of Homenetmen Western U.S.; Susanna Avagyan, a registered nurse at Glendale Memorial Hospital; and Taleen Khatchadourian, executive director and franchisee of Sylvan Learning Center of Studio City/Sherman Oaks; The Comedy Store of Los Angeles, Business of the Year.



Steve Artinian with Award



Susanna Avagyan with Award



Taleen Khachdourian with Award



Be an Angel Save a Life Young Volunteers



Comedy Store Award



ABMDR Board with survivors



ABMDR Volunteers



With Armenian Medical Association



Los Angeles Mayor with ABMDR Board members and guests



Winner Ramella Markarian with lottery sponsor and event Chair Naz Atikian



Nectar Kalajian with the lottery bowl numbers.



Gala Committee members jubilation



Building Tree of Hope

when angels party...

Angels Luncheon, November 22, 2009



Diana Artunian with her family



Naz Atikian, organizer, with committee members



Arpi Kestenian, Dr. Jordan, and Karineh Khudikian



Event hostess, Mary Basteguiian, with guests



Sophie Zargarian, Dr. Jordan and Mary Apic k



Ani Azar, Ani Manoukian and Mariette Keshishian

Christmas Party, December 2009



Christmas party hosts, Aleko, Karene, Pauline and Iline 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 to ABMDR**
- **Host a party at your home or business and ask guests to make a donation to ABMDR**
- **Sponsor a benefit golf tournament**
- **Be an Angel on the Tree of Hope. Send in your contribution today!**

New Connections In Our Worldwide Community

Los Angeles – In the last few years the organization has made a concerted effort to reach out to schools and youth organizations to educate children and families about the ABMDR, inviting those too young to be donors now to get involved and plan on joining the Registry in the future. Dr. Vergine Madelian represented the ABMDR at the following venues, giving her lecture on “Stem Cells: The Science Behind Transplantation”:

- Alex Philobos School, Sept. 24, 2009
- Mesrobian School, Sept. 25, 2009
- Glendale Noon Rotary Club, Sept. 27, 2009
- Chamalian School, Oct. 2, 2009
- Alex Philobos Career Day, Dec. 1, 2009

At the Walk of Life event teams from Glendale community colleges, schools and scouts joined in to help raise awareness and funds for the ABMDR. On March 5, 2010, Dr. Stella Baghdarsanian, Dr. Vergine Madelian, and Ms. Narineh Arabian served as judges at Chamalian School Science Fair.



At Chamlian School Science Fair



At Alex Philobos School



At the Armenian Nurses Association



At the Glendale Noon Rotary Club



Yerevan – The ABMDR's most ambitious outreach effort ever occurred in October with a marathon, 8-hour benefit concert at the famed Lover's Park. ABMDR representatives presented information about the Registry to hundreds of attendees, and recruited 200 new stem cell donors.



Artist Michael Boghosian registering as a donor



ABMDR Staff and volunteers at the Lover's Park



Singer Forsh is becoming a donor



Dr. Nazaretyan at the HSBC Bank in Yerevan



Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Dr. Nani Oskanian with Komitas Chorus visiting ABMDR Center

**Thank you to all
our volunteers
and supporters
worldwide for their
dedication and
hard work**

new old friends

Awareness and Support Grows...

Boston — Awareness and support of the Registry reached a new level in Massachusetts this year, thanks to the efforts of long-time ABMDR volunteers Narreh Ghazarian, Marilyn Bazarian, Arax Badalian, Alvar Badalian, and a growing number of Armenian organizations in the area. Activities started with a recruitment drive in April for a Detroit area leukemia patient; 130 responded to the call for help by registering.

Encouraged by the momentum building from this event, the ABMDR deepened its connections with the Massachusetts Armenian community later in the summer through a highly anticipated event: the “Jazz for Life” benefit concert by famous Armenian jazz singer, Datevik Hovanesian, and her Trio for from New York. The benefit concert was cosponsored by Amaras Art Alliance of Watertown and Armenian Cultural Foundation in Arlington. Richard Boyajian, R.N., of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute—a survivor of leukemia thanks to a bone marrow transplant—was a special guest speaker. “I am impressed by the achievements of ABMDR,” said Boyajian. “The harvesting center in Yerevan is equipped with the latest technology and state of the art equipment. That is not an easy accomplishment”

“Our goal at Amaras is to expose our youngsters to the Armenian culture and heritage,” said Amaras President, Arax Badalian. “But what good is culture where there is no health? ABMDR is doing a tremendous work in securing our children’s health. We are honored to be able to help ABMDR in this undertaking.”



Datevik Hovanesian in concert



Datevik with a group of ABMDR volunteers after Jazz for Life concert



Volunteer Lara Koraian and ABMDR recruiter, Narreh Ghazarian, at the Jazz for Life concert



ABMDR Board members Alvar Badalian and Dr. Vergine Madenlian, with Melene Ouzounian, Grand Matron of the Daughters of Vartan Grand Council

Additionally, ABMDR board member Dr. Vergine Madenlian presented a workshop at the 69th Grand Convocation of the Daughters of Vartan, where participants learned more about the registry’s work. The Daughters of Vartan, a long time supporter of ABMDR, intend to further the momentum of the ABMDR in Massachusetts—and nationwide—by organizing bone marrow donor recruitments in their communities in the future.

Tehran — Also in October, the Armenian-Iranian community responded enthusiastically to the outreach by ABMDR volunteer Mariette Tounians, who coordinated recruitment of 250 donors at the Avedissian Clinic.



Donor recruitment at Avedissian Clinic



ABMDR Recruitment Team at the Avedissian Clinic in Tehran



ABMDR volunteer Mariette Tounians from Tehran receiving appreciation award from Dr. Agvagian

partnerships & awards

Meeting with Dignitaries and Receiving Recognitions

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.



Dr. Jordan with ABMDR Hon. Chair Dr. Bella Kocharian



At Sourp Edchmiazin for Armenian Chrismass



At the Armenian Catholic Diocese



Western Prelacy with Serbazan Mousheg Mardirossian



Western Armenian Diocese with Serbazan Derderian



With Council General Krikor Hovanesian



Serbazan Hovnan presenting a gift to ABMDR president

ABMDR recruitment team at the Armenian Councelate of L.A.

Heath Minister of Armenia Dr. Harutune Koushkiyan visiting ABMDR center



ABMDR received award from Karabagh government



Sharing award received from Spurk Ministry



Dr. Frieda Jordan receiving Gold Medal and Award

conferences worldwide

Professional Activities and Recognitions Around the World

July 2009, Armenian International Medical Congress, New York, U.S. ABMDR President Dr. Jordan, Executive Director Dr. Avagyan and Board members Dr. Baghdasarian and Dr. Oskanian attended the meeting; the ABMDR was awarded a Gold Medal for it's achievements by the Minister of the Diaspora, Dr. Heranoush Hakopyan.

September 2009, American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, San Francisco, U.S. Dr. Frieda Jordan attended the meeting.

October 2009, National Marrow Donor Program, Minneapolis, U.S. ABMDR recruitment officer Fimi Mekhitarian and Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan attended the NMDP annual council meeting and workshop.

October 2009, World Marrow Donor Association, Minneapolis, U.S. Dr. Jordan and Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan attended the meeting.

October 2009, Evangelismos Hospital, Athens, Greece. ABMDR laboratory supervisor Armineh Hyussyan attended a continuing education program.



Dr. Jordan at the ASHI conference in San Francisco



At the EFI Region 8 meeting in Istanbul



At the WMDW meeting Minneapolis



At the WMDW meeting



Dr. Avagyan presenting at the AMIC in NY



Fimi Mekhitarian and Dr. Nazaretyan at the NMDP



Armineh Hyussyan at training in Athens



With Dr. Baghdasarian at the AMIC congress in NY



Dr. Jordan, Dr. Azadian, Dr. Boghosian with Lord Ara Darzi



With Minister of Diaspora Heranoush Hakopyan



Drs. Badalian, Jordan, Baghdasarian and Avagyan



With Dean of Yerevan Medical University Gohar Kalayan



Board members, Drs. Avagyan, Oskanian and Jordan

thanks a million

ABMDR Planning Retreat, December 5, 2009

On December 5, 2009, ABMDR held its first ever planning retreat at the residence of Dr. Vergine Madelian. The day long event was facilitated by Mariette Keshishian and was attended by more than 25 members. Through animated discussions and brainstorming, participants mapped out a plan for the continued operations and expansion of the ABMDR, and set up a list of events to better reach and serve the public. ■



Annual Los Angeles Trexmen Armenian Open



Thank you, To Triple- X- Fraternity and our Board member George Titizian, for sponsoring the golf tournament benefit for the ABMDR last spring! George has been dedicating his resources to many Armenian causes. We are fortunate to be one of them, and look forward to the third golf tournament benefit this spring. Save the date:

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

By partnering with ABMDR you can help save a life!

- Host a bone marrow drive in your community
- Organize an educational event within your community
- Raise funds to cover tissue typing costs



Sophia Sevana Aghazaryan's birthday present were donated to ABMDR

Armenian Youths of NY donated part of their proceeds from their annual Thanks Giving Eve Party to ABMDR

Arda and Vana celebrating their 20th birthday and donating their presents to ABMDR

Mrs. Anahit Janoyan and Dr. Jordan. The Janoyan family sponsored a room at the ABMDR center in Yerevan

Thank You for
in lieu of flowers

Arsham Aftandilian
Margarit Arsenian
Hasmik Aslanian

Bonnie Dagney
Varouj Garabetian
Haygazouhi Jalakian

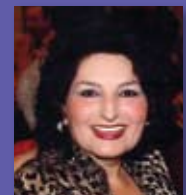
Mariana Kazarian
Arlene Titizian



Mariana Kazarian



Margarit Arsenian



Arlene Titizian

sidekicks to heroes

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ABMDR Board of Directors, 2009



ABMDR Executive Director updating the Board July 2009



ABMDR Board Meeting July 2009



Board Member Alvart Badalian and ABMDR Advisor Arax Badalian with Medical Director, Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, and staff at the Harvesting Center in Yerevan



Boston Committee and Supporters



Mariette Keshishian, ABMDR event coordinator at the harvesting Center in Yerevan



Kickoff event in Karabagh ABMDR with Artists and supporters



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