

Armenian Healthcare Association of the Bay Area



From AHABA President

In these last days of the year 2015, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the events of the year that mark the centennial of the Armenian genocide.

Our community came together on numerous occasions, where multiple Armenian organizations, including AHABA, spoke in unison on recognition and remembrance of this crime against humanity.

In February AHABA held a successful Gala featuring world renowned psychiatrist, Dr. Hagop S. Akiskal, speaking on the impact of the genocide on the Armenian psyche. Proceeds from this gala went to support Syrian Armenians.

At this event, we also remembered and honored our late colleague and prominent leader of the Bay Area Armenian medical community, former AHABA board member, Dr. Krikor Soghikian.

In early July a group of Bay Area Armenian physicians traveled to Yerevan to participate in the 4th International Medical Congress of Armenia (IMCA). Convened at the Marriott Hotel on the Republic Square in Yerevan, the Medical Congress brought together 2,629 participants from Armenia, NKR and the Diaspora. Held every four years in Armenia, the Congress unites Armenian and diaspora professionals for three days of productive collaboration, lectures, and workshops. Our presentations regarding prevention of cervical cancer and STDs in Armenia were well received. We also participated in meetings and discussions on diabetes management, nutrition, iodine deficiency and osteoporosis. The IMCA alternates every two years with the diaspora Armenian Medical World Congress. The 12th AMWC will be held in May 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This year of turmoil for Armenians in Syria has once again reminded us of the terrors of the Armenian genocide. It was a year when we felt an even stronger bond between us, trying to reach out.

We at AHABA want to congratulate and thank every member of our diverse Armenian Bay Area community for your interest, involvement and generous contributions toward our programs and participation in our events. We are committed to delivering strategic projects that benefit Armenians facing social and medical challenges, in Armenia as well as in the diaspora.

*Elena Sagayan, MD, MPH
on behalf of AHABA Board of Directors*

**AHABA mission –
Foster collaboration among Armenian healthcare
professionals in the Bay Area to support healthcare
programs in Armenia and locally.**

Diabetes Project



From its inception AHABA has been working with AAMS (Armenian American Medical Society, headquartered in Southern California), Muracan Children's hospital of Yerevan State University and Yeraz Foundation to improve care of children with type 1 diabetes. We have been helping to organize and run diabetes camps for children with diabetes. Each year about 30-40 children receive an education and training in proper care of their disease.

There are 450 children under 16 years of age and about 13,280 adults with type 1 diabetes in Armenia where the health care capacity is inadequate. Glucose control and access to proper care in diabetes is imperative. Thanks to AHABA and other organizations' efforts, including Yeraz Charitable Fund, this year for the first time children under 16 are receiving 2 glucose strips per day from the government free of charge.



This year a group of Bay Area physicians and their families visited the diabetes camp in Arzni and were very satisfied with results of the hard work of the Yeraz Foundation and local diabetologists and nurses. AHABA donated \$2,500 to the camp in Arzni.

Syrian Armenian projects

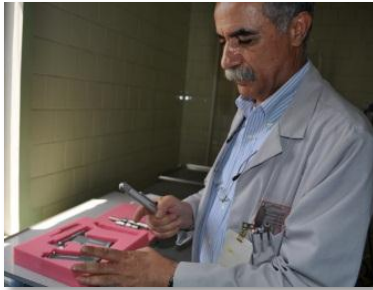
Armenians who once lived happily in Syria are now forced to abandon their homes. Our grandparents went through deportations, walked miles, lost loved ones on that road and had to start from nothing. Today thousands of Armenians of Syria and millions of innocent Syrians are losing their homes and running from bombs and bullets.

Approximately eight thousand Armenians remain in Aleppo, mostly the elderly and frail who cannot leave, families with children, and some young people. Syrian Armenians need food, shelter, vaccinations, medications. We need to keep them in the center of our attention.



To date, AHABA has provided support for Armenians in Syria through organizations like AGBU and the Karagheusian Fund.

A beneficiary of our gala in February, the Karagheusian Fund was also the recipient of AHABA support on November 20 at an event featuring Irina Lazarian, managing director of the Karagheusian Fund who spoke on the work of the Fund in Syria. Music was provided by Armenian pianist/composer, Tatev Amiryanyan. The benefit raised \$6,500 for the Karagheuzian Fund to help Armenians in Syria.



Pediatric Hospital In Yerevan

Dr. Garen Koloyan is well known in Armenia. For the last 26 years he has been treating children with congenital and developmental skeletal problems, frequently without charge. Together with his supporters from the USA and France, he founded Project HOPE.

Dr. Koloyan's Department of Pediatric Orthopedics at the Arabkir Joint Medical Center in Yerevan provides services for 70% of the children with congenital and acquired orthopedic problems in Armenia and Karabakh.



There are four orthopedic surgeons, a part-time hand surgeon, an anesthesiologist, operating room nurses, a physical therapist and two residents in-training. When the Department's main operating instrument, a saw used to cut and fix the bones, was broken, AHABA responded by donating \$1500 for the drill and the saw parts.

SOGHIKIAN LIBRARY AT AUA

AHABA contributed \$1,500 to the Public Health Library at the American University of Armenia in honor of our beloved colleague, Dr. Krikor Soghikian. The donation allows the library to fund its 2015-2016 annual subscription to the HINARI (Health Inter-Network Access to Research Initiative).

The HINARI database provides access to 14,000 medical and health journals, up to 46,000 e-books, and various resources and electronic reference works on the latest developments in public health and other matters pertinent to health care professionals.

According to AUA Library Director, Bella Savakian, "faculty and students have made very good use of HINARI. It is also very important that the library provides web-based databases that allow our students and faculty to conduct their research off-campus."

Ninth Osteoporosis Symposium

For the last 9 years Dr. John Bilezikian, chief of Endocrine Division of Columbia University has organized Osteoporosis Symposia to raise awareness of fracture risks, osteoporosis prevention and treatment. Thanks to his efforts, there are 7 bone densitometers in Armenia. AHABA physicians: Drs Mariam Manoukian, Elena Sagayan, and Nona Pashinian (from LA) participated with over 200 Armenian physicians and in the symposium and led specialty workshops in Yerevan on the American University of Armenia campus on October 23, 2015, and for the first time, on October 24 a symposium was held in Gyumri. We plan to participate in the 10th Osteoporosis Symposium, which will take place in Yerevan and Vanadzor in 2016.



BLOOD DRIVES IN THE BAY AREA

On this occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, some of our colleagues living in Switzerland organized the idea of the Blood for Memory project. Blood drives to remember and honor the 1.5 million lives lost have been held worldwide.

In partnership with the Stanford Blood Center, St Vartan Church in Oakland collected 35 units of blood on August 23, while St Andrew Armenian Church in Cupertino collected an additional 12 units on September 27. Kudos to Dr. Stephen Sarafian and Pamela Abaci for organizing these drives.



We plan a blood drive at the KZV School in 2016.

Meanwhile, individual donors may register their donations online at www.BloodforMemory.org

Please consider sending your tax deductible
contribution to support our projects.
Tax ID: 46-5168594

Save the date: January 10, 2016

AHABA community appreciation party
Please join us for an afternoon with jazz
by saxophonist Martin Ulikhanyan

Special bonus - presentation and sale of Nairian
cosmetics - premium, natural cosmetics entirely
produced in Armenia by our local Bay Area
entrepreneurs Anait and Ara Markosyan.
10% of the proceedings will be donated to AHABA.

Location - the residence of Gregory Matsoyan and
Elena Sagayan: 3722 Mohr Ave, Pleasanton, CA

www.9amwc.org/social

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2500 Hospital Drive, # 4A
Mountain View, CA 9404

Tel: 650-961-2013

