

# AAMSC

## *REFLECTION ON 2009*

### AAMSC HOLDS 24TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



*Standing, Left to Right):  
Harry Balian; Vicken Sepilian;  
Leo Polosajian; Armen Kassabian;  
Varoosh Alaverdian; Armen Cherk.  
(Seated, Left to Right):  
Nora Papasian,  
Mireille Hamparian,  
Serineh Voskanian.*

#### **2010 Executive Committee Members Elected**

On December 12, 2009, the AAMSC held its 24th General Assembly at Glendale Memorial Hospital. Current AAMSC president Varoosh Alaverdian gave those present an update about the accomplishments of the AAMSC throughout the last year, as well as highlighting several of the projects the organization has undertaken. Following a nomination process, new Executive Committee members were elected.

The 2010-2011 Executive Committee members are: President Vicken Sepilian, M.D., MMS, FACOG; Vice President Serineh Voskanian, M.D.; Secretary Harry Balian, M.D., FACC, FSCAI; Treasurer Armen Kassabian, M.D.; Parliamentarian Leo Polosajian,

M.D.,FACC,MS; and Membership Chair Mireille Hamparian, M.D.

Advisors are Varoosh Alaverdian, M.D., FACOG; Armen J. Cherk, M.D., M.B.A.; and Nora Papasian, M.D.

“The AAMSC is world-renowned for its dedication to providing the best healthcare to Armenians in California, as well as in Armenia,” said incoming president Vicken Sepilian. “As healthcare practitioners, it is an honor for us to be chosen to lead this distinguished organization as it continues to serve Armenians throughout the world.”

# AAMSC Celebrates Christmas at Phoenicia



## 2009 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED



More than 200 AAMSC members took part in the organization's annual Christmas Party at Phoenicia Restaurant in Glendale. After an arduous year of providing the best in healthcare to their patients, the AAMSC members celebrated with an evening of music, delicious food, and dancing.

Joseph Puglisi delivered a brief presentation on the benefits of Electronic Medical Records (EMR).

Mentorship and Scholarship chair Dr. Raffi Tachdjian presented the AAMSC Scholarship to two outstanding students. Aram Shemmassian is currently attending the Tufts University School of Medicine, where he will graduate in May 2010 and apply for residency in either Emergency Medicine or Internal Medicine. Shemmassian has a long record of community service and volunteer work, in which he has been a Sunday School

teacher at First Armenian Church; as well as a clinic volunteer at AMAA. Derik Hossepian is currently attending UCLA as a psychobiology major, and will graduate in June 2013. He has a strong record of community service and volunteer work, including being a tutor at Glendale Community College for four years. Hossepian has also been a mentee in the AAMSC mentorship program since its inception.

"These two young men represent a bright future in the medical field, and the AAMSC recognizes their strong commitment to their studies, as well as their record of community service," said mentorship and scholarship chair Dr. Raffi Tachdjian.

In just over a year, the mentorship program has helped guide students at every level, and helped enroll 4 medical students, 2 residents, and 1 fellow.

Past president Varoosh Alaverdian introduced incoming president Vicken Sepilian, along with the 2010 Executive Committee members.

Vicken Sepilian thanked the members for attending the event, acknowledged the past presidents in attendance – Bedros Kojian, Misak Abdulian, Armen Cherek, and Boris Bagdasarian – and thanked them for their contributions that laid the foundations for the work that the AAMSC continues to do today.

Sepilian recognized several guests from Glendale Memorial Hospital in attendance, including David Mauss, VP of Business Development; Karen Gulbenkian, Vice President Patient Care Services / Chief Nurse Executive; and Arpi Kestenian, Director of Physician/Managed Care Engagement, as well as AAMSC Ladies Auxiliary President Ramella Markarian. Sepilian also thanked the sponsors who made the event possible – ePlatinumMD, Glendale Memorial Hospital, Pasadena Home Health Care, and Faith & Hope Hospice Inc.

The Christmas party was a tremendous success, as guests danced and enjoyed the festivities well into the night.



## AAMSC Hosts Two Networking Mixers in 2009

The AAMSC hosted two very successful networking mixers in 2009. Our January mixer held at the Excelsior Suite in the Americana at Brand, attracted medical professionals at the beginning of their careers. "Our networking mixers are a tremendous resource for medical students and residents, where they can meet practicing healthcare professionals and find mentors who may guide them along," said membership chair Dr. Mireille Hamparian. Our June mixer held at the Center for Experimental Art and Architecture at the Casitas Studios in Atwater Village, was well attended with the added benefit of enjoying beautiful artwork from a local Armenian artist.

" These events provide a wonderful opportunity for our membership as well, to meet one another in an informal setting and strengthen professional bonds. We plan to focus on this demographic further in 2010, in order to grow our organization and will be hosting many more events."

# “YOUR HEALTH” TV Show Continues to Make House Calls for Armenian Community



On December 7 2009, the AAMSC's groundbreaking program "Your Health" moved to USArmenia TV. The program airs on Mondays from 7:00-7:30 p.m., and features physicians and healthcare professionals whose areas of practice cover the entire spectrum of allied health care. "Your Health" is a dynamic resource for viewers interested in improving their health. The program emphasizes the importance of preventative care, and focuses on how people can maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The show provides an opportunity for the Armenian community to address their concerns with the counsel of bi-lingual health care professionals. The show also provides viewers with information about the AAMSC and our activities in California and Armenia. The AAMSC encourages individuals to contact local social workers to learn whether they are eligible for health insurance. AAMSC doctors and nurses encourage their patients to get the insurance they deserve, and to see a physician regularly for the care that they need.

In 2009, guest physicians have discussed such topics as gastroenterology, lung cancer, heart failure, swine flu, glaucoma, thyroid disorders, and asthma, among others.

"Your Health" is hosted by incoming AAMSC President Dr. Vicken Sepilian. He is board-certified in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology. He completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Drexel University College of

Medicine in Philadelphia and his fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Texas. Dr. Sepilian currently practices in Los Angeles and in Glendale.

"The AAMSC is constantly striving to give patients access to information about their healthcare concerns. Through our television program, we are reaching out to the community who may not have the resources to get their questions answered, and encouraging them to seek the healthcare they deserve," said Dr. Vicken Sepilian.

Since June 2009, "Your Health" guest physicians included: Tsoilag Kazandjian, D.C., L.Ac.; Serj Markarian, Pharm.D.; Sarkis Kaakijian, M.D.; Varoosh Alaverdian, M.D., FACOG; Armen Cherek, M.D., MBA; Arpine Kestonian; Mireille Hamparian, M.D.; Serineh Voskanian, M.D.; Mossi Salibian, M.D., FACS; Armen Kassabian, M.D.; Garo Kassabian, M.D., FACS; Raffi Balian, M.D.; Hrair Koutnouyan, M.D.; Nerses Sanossian, M.D.; Tsovinar Tekkelian, M.D.; Harry Balian, MD, FACC, FSCAI; Kevin Galstyan, M.D.; Chris Kaypejian, M.D.; Edward Hambartsumian, M.D., Ph.D.; and David Davtyan, M.D., FACS.

"Our AAMSC member physicians are experts in their fields, and have a tremendous amount of insight to offer to our viewers," said Dr. Sepilian. "The AAMSC owes them a debt of gratitude for taking time out of their busy schedules in order to make these 'house calls' for those patients who ask for their advice through our program."

## AAMSC Holds 7th Annual Off-Site CME Meeting in Las Vegas



From October 23 to 25, the AAMSC held its 7th Annual Off-Site CME Meeting in Las Vegas, at the Wynn Hotel. Approximately 100 healthcare professionals participated in a one-day seminar whose topics included pediatric vaccinations, vascular disease, and psychiatric disorders, among others. During the meeting, Dr. Arsiinee Kalfayan received an appreciation award for her devoted service to the AAMSC while serving on the board. A cocktail reception was held after the seminar, where the members had the opportunity to network and learn more about their respective practices. The Rest Stays in Vegas....

In 2009, the AAMSC continued to hold monthly Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses to its members at various venues on multiple innovative topics.



## AAMSC Participates in 10th Armenian Medical International Congress

More than 350 Armenian health professionals from five continents and ten countries converged at New York's Hilton Hotel from July 1 to 4 for the tenth Armenian Medical World Congress. The Congress featured world famous doctors, and the latest findings on several medical questions. This Armenian World Medical Congress was hosted by the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO).

Many of our members presented lectures, along with taking part in the symposia where topics included comparative health care systems, medical education in Armenia, and endocrinology.



Among the many prominent attendees were the Health Minister of England Lord Ara Darzi; the Health Minister of Armenia Haroutune Kushkyan; the Diasporan Minister of Armenia Hranoush Hagopian; the former Health Minister of Armenia Ara Babloyan, the Health Minister of Karabagh Armen Khachatryan, the President of the American University of Armenia Haroutune Armenian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Armen Martirosyan, and Congressman Frank Pallone.

World renown doctors attended and spoke, including the founder of the MRI Dr. Raymond Damadian who stressed the need for both a sitting and standing MRI, in addition to the lying down version which is commonly used. Also addressing the assemblage was top cancer specialist from Paris, France Dr. Ara Hovanesian who is leading efforts for a cancer cure.

## AAMSC HOSTS 23RD ANNUAL GALA IN BEVERLY HILLS



Over 300 proud members and supporters of the AAMSC gathered on May 3, 2009 for the organization's annual banquet held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The signature event represented a united effort to raise funds for a much needed medical project in Artsakh. Proceeds from the banquet were used to purchase a Mobile Diagnostic and Therapeutic Unit.

According to AAMSC Past President Dr. Varoosh Alaverdian, the Mobile Diagnostic and Therapeutic Unit would allow villagers in the remote areas of Artsakh to be diagnosed and receive treatment for their illnesses, thus alleviating the burden of traveling many hours to Stepanakert—especially in the harsh winter. Guests included Larry Zarian, former mayor of Glendale; Mesrob Shaboyan, Deputy Consul General; and other special guests were on hand to show their support. Frank V. Zerunyan, J.D., served as the master of ceremonies for the evening. In addition to raising funds for the AAMSC project in Artsakh, the annual banquet serves as an opportunity to honor professionals who have made great contributions in the field of medicinal science. Professor Hagop Akiskal was awarded the AAMSC's Lifetime Achievement Award, for his groundbreaking contributions to the field of Psychiatry. Akiskal's main focus has been in mood disorders, specifically chronic depression and early detection of Schizophrenia in young children. He is presently Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the International Mood Center at the University of California at San Diego, where he is also on the faculty of International Health and Cross-Cultural Medicine.

## AAMSC Projects Continue to Thrive in 2009

The AAMSC has a strong history of creating and implementing innovative and groundbreaking projects in Armenia. These projects include the Juvenile Diabetes Project, the Pediatric Epilepsy Project, the Shengavit Maternity Hospital Project, and the Armenian EyeCare Project.

The AAMSC is also committed to establishing clinics in rural villages that border Karabagh and Azerbaijan in order to make the war-torn region more habitable. These clinics have alleviated a tremendous burden for these villages that are largely populated by refugees from Karabagh, as the closest health facilities could be as many as eight hours away. Thus far, the AAMSC has completed the construction of three clinics, in the villages of Aregouni in 2005; Pokr Mazrik in 2006; and Tsapatagh in 2007.

In 2008, the AAMSC began construction of a fourth clinic in the northeastern village of Voskevan. Faced with limited resources, the villagers in Voskevan were forced to convert their kindergarten into a clinic. With the village in need of a school again, the AAMSC stepped in to build a permanent clinic dedicated to providing care to the villagers of Voskevan. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2010.



The Ladies Auxiliary group is formed by AAMSC spouse members, or anyone else that qualifies to become a member according to the By-Laws. The purpose of this group is to assist AAMSC for advancement of medicine and public health, to promote projects of health education and charitable activities that improve the health and quality of life for all people, and assist in any work that shall be approved by AAMSC. If you are interested in joining, please contact Ramella Markarian at (818) 409-8039.

· WALK-INS WELCOMED · MEDICARE AND MEDICAL ACCEPTED ·



SINCE 1997

**VERDUGO  
MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND  
EQUIPMENT**  
OPEN M-F 10am- 4pm

304B N. Verdugo Rd  
Glendale, CA 91206  
Phone: 818 244-5497 Fax: 818 244-2822  
E-mail: Sales@verdugomedicalsupplies.com

ASK ABOUT OUR  
INCREDIBLE SPRING  
SPECIALS!!



- MANUAL & POWER WHEELCHAIRS
- DIABETIC & ORTHOPEDIC SHOES
- FULL LINE OF INCONTINENCE SUPPLY
- SPORTS RELATED SPLINTS

- HOSPITAL BEDS & AIR MATTRESSES
- DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN
- FRIENDLY STAFF



**FREE SAME DAY DELIVERY !**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ VERDUGOMEDICALSUPPLIES.COM

SERVING CALIFORNIA SINCE 1997



## ARMEN A. KASSABIAN, M.D. UROLOGIC SURGEON

2701 W. Alameda Ave. Ste 506, Burbank, CA, 91505  
Telephone (818) 845-0611, Fax (818) 845-0051  
akassabi@hotmail.com

AT DR. KASSABIAN'S OFFICE, WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE STATE OF 'THE ART'  
CARE IN A CARING AND COMPASSIONATE ENVIRONMENT

AREAS of EXPERTISE INCLUDE:

ADULT UROLOGY • MINIMALLY INVASIVE PROSTATE THERAPY  
FEMALE URINARY INCONTINENCE  
KIDNEY STONES • INFERTILITY • MALE SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00-5:00

OFFICE STAFF SPEAKS ARMENIAN, FARSI, ARABIC, and SPANISH  
WE WELCOME MEDICARE, MEDI-CAL and ALL MAJOR INSURANCE PLANS

## AAMSC Welcomes 57 New Members

The AAMSC is dedicated to ensuring that Armenians living in Los Angeles receive the best level of healthcare, and that AAMSC members are part of a thriving network of high-caliber physicians and healthcare practitioners. To that end, AAMSC recruits new members throughout the year. In 2009, the AAMSC welcomed 57 new members:

**Liya Konstantin Abramyan**, M.D., Pathology / Cytology, Long Beach  
**Osep Armagan**, M.D., Orthopedic Surgery, Simi Valley  
**Saro Avakian**, M.D., Family Practice, Glendale  
**Vahe T. Azizian** M.D., Obstetrics Gynecology, Simi Valley  
**Talin Babikian**, Ph.D., Neuropsychology, Los Angeles  
**Evelyn Baghdasraian**, M.D., FAAP, Pediatrics, Woodland Hills  
**Alicia Basmadjian**, M.S.N., P.N.P., R.N., Nursing, Glendale  
**Linda Bedassian**, D.C., Chiropractic / Network Spinal Analysis, Beverly Hills  
**Nubar Paul Boghossian** M.D., Hematology / Oncology, Glendale  
**Berj George Demirjian**, M.D., Pulmonary - Critical Care, Los Angeles  
**Maral Houssig Donabedian**, M.D., Internal Medicine / Hospitalist  
**Saran Ferdinand M.D.**, Family Practice / Geriatric Medicine, Glendale  
**Karine Gabrielian**, M.D., Ophthalmology, Glendale  
**Ani Galfayan**, M.D., Internal Medicine, Glendale  
**Lusine Harutyunyan**, PA-C, Physician Assistant – Cardiology, Glendale  
**Armen Hazrian**, Pharm.D., Pharmacy  
**Haroutun Hovanesian**, M.D., Ophthalmology, Glendale  
**Anahit Hovhannisyan**, Ph.D., Professional Nutrition Specialist, Glendale  
**Alex Jawharjian**, Pharm.D., MPH, Pharmacy - Clinical  
**Katia Karageuzian**, Pharm.D., Pharmacy, Woodland Hills  
**Kristina Karapetyan**, PA-C, Physician Assistant, Glendale  
**Dalita Kebabjian**, Pharm.D., Pharmacy, Toluca Lake  
**Kohar Kesian**, R.N., PHN, MSN, Nursing / Maternity, Glendale  
**Karen G. Khachatryan**, Pharm.D., Pharmacy, Los Angeles  
**Sirvard Khanoyan**, M.D., Family Practice, Glendale  
**Audrey Khatchikian**, Ph.D., Neuropsychology – Clinical, Glendale  
**Greg S. Khounganian**, M.D., Orthopaedic Spinal Surgery, Tarzana  
**Naira Kocharian** M.D., Neurology, Glendale  
**Arthur H. Loussararian**, M.D., F.A.C.C., Cardiology, Mission Viejo  
**Maral Mardiros** M.D., Nuclear Medicine / Internal Medicine, Woodland Hills

**Raffi Margossian**, D.D.S., M.S.D., Dentistry / Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Burbank  
**Sergei Margulian**, M.D., Anesthesiology / Pain Management, Edison  
**Schake J. Matjan**, PA-C, Physician Assistant - Urgent Care, Glendale  
**Arpi Mihranian**, RN, BS, PHN, Nursing  
**Arlen Minassian**, D.P.T., Physical Therapy, South Pasadena  
**Alen Mirzaian**, M.D., Internal Medicine, Glendale  
**Shirley Mirzaian**, M.S., R.D., Registered Dietitian  
**Yveta Mkroyan** Pharm.D., Pharmacy, Van Nuys  
**Manuel P. Momjian**, M.D., Family Practice, Glendale  
**Martin Moradian**, DPM, Podiatry, Glendale  
**Jhanna Nariyants**, D.O., Endocrinology, Montrose  
**John Norian**, M.D., Obstetrics Gynecology, Infertility, Bethesda  
**Adrina A. Ovanessian**, O.D., Optometry, Los Angeles  
**Hrachya Paruyryan**, M.D., Family Practice, Glendale  
**Raffi Papazian**, Pharm.D., Pharmacy, Glendale  
**Armene' Perian**, C.L.S., Clinical Laboratory Scientist / Six Sigma, Black Belt  
**Liana Poghosyan**, M.D., Family Practice, Glendale  
**Helen Rostamloo**, M.D., Internal Medicine, Glendale  
**Armine Sarkisian**, M.D., Internal Medicine / Gastroenterology - Liver Disease, Glendale  
**Grant Sarkisyan**, M.D., General Surgery / Colorectal Surgery, Los Alamitos  
**Melineh Shajanian**, M.D., Family Practice, Glendale  
**Hovhanness Ivan Shnorhokian**, D.M.D., M.D.S., Ph.D., Orthodontics, Encino  
**Lusine Simonyants**, M.D., Pulmonary - Critical Care, Glendale  
**Arpine Tacvorian**, M.D., Pediatrics, Las Vegas  
**Mary Tavidian**, Pharm.D., Pharmacy  
**Gilda Torossian**, D.D.S., M.S.D., Orthodontics, Glendale  
**Artur Vardanyan**, M.D.



**Armenian American Medical Society of California**

AAMSC P.O. Box 32 Glendale, California 91209