



Topic:

Hearing Loss and the Cochlear Implant Program in Armenia

Guest:

Salpy Akaragian, PhD, MN, RN-BC

Ms. Salpy Akaragian, President and Founder of Armenian International Medical Fund (AIM Fund) is the Director of the International Nursing Program, and Nurse credentialing. She received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Nursing from UCLA School of Nursing. She has been working at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center since 1974, and has held positions from staff nurse to administration. She was the US Partner Representative for USAID/AIHA grants from 1995-2004, directed multiple health care projects and initiated reforms in Armenia. In 2004, she established The Cochlear Implant Regional Center in Yerevan with the AIM Fund and the UCLA Medical Team. She is the founder and first president of the Armenian-American Nurses Association in California and in 1996 facilitated the formation of the Armenian Nurses Association in Armenia. She has served on the California Board of Registered Nursing as a board member, served as a Magnet Appraiser for American Nursing Credentialing Center, and is board certified in nursing professional development. Salpy received Regional and National Gem award from Nurse.com and in 2014, she received Ellis Island Medal of Honor. She has presented on various health related topics at National and International Conferences.



Vicken Sepilian, MD, FACOG

"Your Health" host Dr. Vicken Sepilian 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 and his fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Texas. While at the University of Texas, Dr. Sepilian received a Master of Science degree in Reproductive Medicine studying the impact of nutrition on reproductive health. Dr. Sepilian is the founder and medical director of American Fertility Specialists Medical Group and practices in Los Angeles and Glendale. Dr. Sepilian is a current board member and former President of the Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS). In 2008, he launched the AAMS "Your Health" Community Education Program that continues to air

live on TV making house calls to countless Armenian households. In 2010, Dr. Sepilian was instrumental in launching the inaugural Glendale Health Festival and served as the Chairman of the organizing committee for the first two years. In 2012, Dr. Sepilian presided over a collaborative effort with colleagues in Canada of the ACMAO to train, staff and equip the Women's Health Clinic in Stepanakert, Artsakh. This collaborative effort by the AAMS, ACMAO, and the Ministry of Health of Karabagh continues to operate and provide preventative and essential health care to women free of charge. In 2013, as president of the AAMS, Dr. Sepilian Chaired the 11th Armenian Medical World Congress, a quadrennial international multispecialty conference that was very well attended and was one of the most successful ones to date. Dr. Sepilian also serves on AAMS' Continuing Medical Education Committee, focusing his efforts on enhancing the experience for members.

Featuring physicians and health care 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 healthful lifestyle. The program provides an opportunity for the Armenian community to address their concerns with the counsel of bilingual health care professionals. The program also provides viewers with information about the AAMS and our activities in California and Armenia. The AAMS encourages

individuals to contact local social workers to learn whether they are eligible for health insurance. AAMS doctors and nurses encourage their patients to get the insurance they deserve, and to see a physician regularly for the care that they need.