



Topic:

Hospice Care and End of Life Matters

Guest:

Alen Voskanian, MD, MBA

Alen Voskanian, MD, MBA, is the regional medical director for VITAS® Healthcare in California, and assistant clinical professor of medicine at David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles. He is board certified in hospice and palliative medicine and family medicine and an HIV specialist certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine. His primary interest is increasing awareness regarding end-of-life care and addressing the barriers that prevent timely access to hospice and palliative care programs. His work focuses on educating and training physicians to improve the quality of end-of-life care. He has taught end-of-life care in HIV-infected patients and has been involved in numerous research studies in the field of HIV, both as primary investigator and sub-investigator. He co-wrote the chapter titled "End-of-Life-Care for Patients with AIDS" in *End-Of-Life Care: A Practical Guide* by Barry M. Kinzbrunner and Joel S. Policzer (2011). He also authored a chapter on palliative care and healthcare reform in *Readmission Prevention* by Josh D. Luke (2015), and a chapter on pain management at the end of life in patients with AIDS in *HIV/Chronic Pain*.

Dr. Voskanian is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UC Irvine Medical School. He completed his residency at UCLA, followed by a fellowship in HIV at AIDS Healthcare Foundation. He earned his Business of Medicine MBA from Indiana University, Kelley School of Business. In recognition of his high scholastic achievement, he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in medical school, and Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society in business school. Dr. Voskanian was selected from a pool of more than 900 applicants to be an innovation advisor by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). His project at CMS/CMMI is based on providing outpatient palliative care in order to provide better end-of-life care. Dr. Voskanian is the recipient of Cunniff-Dixon/Hasting Center's physician award in 2013 for excellence in end-of-life care.

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"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 the 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 currently serves on the Continuing Medical Education Committee, focusing his efforts on enhancing the experience for members.



Vicken Sepilian, MD FACOG

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 bi-lingual 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.