



Gastroenterology 2020: COVID-19, Digestive Health, and Disease Prevention

Interview with James H. Tabibian, MD, PhD

Dr. James Hagop Tabibian is an Associate Professor at the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He is the Director of Endoscopy and Housestaff Research Director for the Department of Medicine at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. His clinical and research interests are in advanced and therapeutic gastrointestinal endoscopy and in training the next generation of technically- and culturally-competent gastroenterologists. Dr. Tabibian grew up in Central California, where he attended UC Davis as an undergraduate. He received his MD degree at UCLA, wherefrom he graduated with Alpha Omega Alpha honors. He completed Residency training in the Osler Medical Housestaff Training Program at Johns Hopkins. Thereafter, Dr. Tabibian became the first joint NIH-ABIM Subspecialty Research track fellow in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Mayo Clinic Rochester. During his Gastroenterology training, he also completed a PhD through Mayo Graduate School, Center for Clinical and Translational Studies (CTSA). Following his training at Mayo Clinic, Dr. Tabibian joined the University of Pennsylvania as an Instructor and Advanced Endoscopy Fellow. At the terminus of his year at Penn, Dr. Tabibian moved back to California to join the faculty at UC Davis Medical Center as an Assistant Professor and Director of Fellow Research. Family needs brought him back to Southern California in 2017. Dr. Tabibian is highly experienced in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), luminal stenting, and enteroscopy, among other advanced procedures. He is highly published in the biomedical literature, has been awarded extramural grants, is a certified expert medical reviewer for the Medical Board of California, and holds numerous editorial positions.

<https://www.uclahealth.org/gastro/research/tabibian-laboratory>



Dr. Vicken Sepilian is a Reproductive Medicine specialist and is the founder and director of American Fertility Specialists Medical Group. He is double board-certified in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Sepilian has been an active member of the Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS) holding multiple leadership positions, including serving as the President from 2009 to 2013. Dr. Sepilian served as the Chairman of the 11th Armenian Medical World Congress and currently is the President of the

Armenian Medical International Congress (AMIC), a nonprofit organization with chapters all over the world, with the aim of coordinating global efforts in improving healthcare in Armenia. Passionate about community education, in 2008, Dr. Sepilian launched the "Your Health" educational TV program aimed at sharing with the community the latest and most important healthcare topics. Since 2008, the show has been making house calls to tens of thousands of viewers helping educate them on preventative care and healthy lifestyles. In 2010, Dr. Sepilian, alongside other civic leaders and the former Mayor of the City of Glendale co-founded the Glendale Health Festival. Dr. Sepilian worked closely with city and state officials and local hospitals to organize this large-scale event with the aim to improve the health of the community. Dr. Sepilian is a strong believer that success and wealth are measured by life's experiences and human interactions and that true happiness and purpose are achieved by giving. Cherished memories include debates about life and death with Dr. Jack Kevorkian, delivering pens to students in villages in Sri Lanka and teaching chess to orphans in Nepal.