



## Hereditary Breast Cancer in the Armenian Population

### Interview with Mike Mkhitar Moradian, PhD & Davit Babikyan, PhD

**Dr. Mike Mkhitar Moradian** has received his BS degree in Microbiology and Medical Technology with honors from CSULA, his MS degree in Bioinformatics and PhD in Molecular Genetics from UCLA. Dr. Moradian is a board certified Clinical Laboratory Bioanalyst with the States of California and New York, a Molecular Genetics Scientist from American Board of Bioanalysis, a High Complexity Laboratory Director, and a Clinical Consultant from ABB. He has worked as research scientist and laboratory Director for over a decade developing Genetics assays and setting up laboratories, he is currently the Director of Operations at Kaiser Permanente Regional Molecular Genetic Pathology Laboratory. He is a certified Lean Healthcare expert from Systems Engineering schools of MIT/LMU combined program and a certified laboratory inspector by the College of American Pathologists. He also serves as a senior scientist and consultant for Morava Inc. scientific and technology services leading a research on Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF). His works on FMF were published in Nature's Journal of Human Genetics, in Nature's Journal of Genetics in Medicine, and in the Journal of Molecular Genetic and Genomic Medicine. In 2018 the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) granted him an adjunct professorship in the clinical genetics department where he is leading the Armenian Breast Cancer Genetic Project. The first article of this project is under review. During COVID19 pandemic he has set up several molecular diagnostics assays to identify SARS-COV-2 pathogen and has lectured for about the virus's genome evolution for Kaiser Permanente laboratory system and for the YSMU genetics department. He serves as the president of the California Association of Bioanalysts, State's only laboratory director organization.

**Dr. Davit Babikyan** is a medical geneticist leading the genomic medicine service and the laboratory of cancer genetics at the Center of Medical Genetics in Yerevan, Armenia. Dr. Babikyan has received his Master Degree in Genetics with honors from Yerevan State University, and PhD in Genetics from the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He worked as a research scientist at the Institute for Molecular Medicine, CA, USA and did his postdoctoral research at the International Agency for Research on Cancer, France. He is a European board-certified in Clinical Laboratory Genetics. Dr. Babikyan is an associate professor at the department of Medical Genetics of Yerevan State Medical University. He was a coordinator of difference International research and development projects in medical genetics, and currently is acting as an executive manager of the European Commission Horizon2020 project Twinning for the Armenian Research Infrastructure on Cancer Research.

**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.