



The Latest on COVID Vaccines in the USA

Interview with Jack Der-Sarkissian, MD & Hasmig Ekmekdjian, PharmD, APH

Dr. Jack Der-Sarkissian is board certified in Family Medicine and Obesity Medicine and is a partner with the Southern California Permanente Medical group at the Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center (LAMC). He began his higher education at UCLA, received his medical doctorate from USC Medical School, and completed his Family Medicine (FM) residency at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center (LAMC). He has served as the KP LAMC FM Residency Associate Program Director, Lead LAMC FM Quality Physician, LAMC FM Assistant Chief of Service, KP Regional Physician Lead for Adult Weight Management and Bariatric Surgery, Two Terms on the SCPMG Board of Directors, and just completed a term as an LAMC Assistant Area Medical Director. He currently serves as an attending faculty member for the KP LAMC FM Residency program. Dr. Der-Sarkissian is an advocate of healthy living. In his spare time he enjoys drawing and art, music, and writing about Armenian history. Join the conversation on <https://twitter.com/DrJDS> and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/drjds/>

Dr. Hasmig Ekmekdjian is an Advanced Practice Pharmacist and Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Supervisor at Kaiser Permanente, Woodland Hills Medical Center. She began her higher education at UCLA, earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at USC, and completed her pharmacy residency at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center. During her time at Kaiser Permanente, she has served on the following committees: Interregional Medication Adherence, Reconciliation, and Safety Titratable Medications group, Venous Thromboembolism Performance Improvement Team, Southern California Anticoagulation Leaders group, as well as Anticoagulation PI Collaboration group. She is also involved in the pharmacy residency program at Kaiser Permanente, Woodland Hills, as the Residency Coordinator and part of the Residency Advisory Committee. Finally, Dr. Ekmekdjian is a proud member of the Kaiser Permanente Armenian Connection, an organization with over 1000 members. She currently serves on the National board as the Director of Communications and Membership.

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.