

The Armenian American Medical Society's 35th Anniversary Gala Celebrated its Legacy and Raised Funds for New Scholarship Program



Universal City, CA, November 20, 2021 – The Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS) celebrated the organization's legacy at their 35th Anniversary gala, held Saturday, November 20, at the Sheraton Universal Hotel. The event, postponed from last year due to COVID-19 concerns, made a triumphant return, drawing nearly 300 attendees, including members, their guests, and friends of the AAMS. The evening included a cocktail reception, dinner, and entertainment.

Funds raised from this event will benefit the new AAMS scholarship program, which will provide full tuition for eligible students in Armenia who are pursuing a career as a healthcare provider and enrolled in a professional healthcare school in Armenia. These scholarships aim to remove the barriers to attending professional healthcare school in Armenia—namely tuition cost—and nurture a new generation of healthcare providers. Students awarded a scholarship will receive full tuition to cover the entire five years of their education.

“It’s important for us, as medical professionals, to support and teach future generations. It was important to my medical education, and I am certain it was important to all of our members,” noted Kevin Galstyan, MD, FACOG, president of the AAMS. “This scholarship is just one of many ways we can support these students and help educate them. It is our opportunity to pay forward the support and encouragement we received in our training.”

The Armenian Medical International Congress (AMIC), the coordinating body for Armenian medical associations around the world, received this year’s Excellence in Armenian Service award. The organization was honored for its more than 30-year history of humanitarian aid to improve healthcare in Armenia. The AAMS has a long history of collaboration with AMIC. Most recently, the AAMS was part of AMIC’s response to Armenia’s pandemic needs, including facilitating training and procuring medical supplies. In addition, we collaborated to provide humanitarian and medical aid to Artsakh during the war and helped raise funds to purchase a Cryogen Center/Oxygen Generator for the country.

AMIC President Vicken Sepilian, MD, FACOG, accepted the award on AMIC’s behalf. Dr. Sepilian is also an AAMS past president and board member. He received a surprise commendation for his leadership of AMIC, especially during the dual crises of the pandemic and the war.

The keynote speaker was Ani Aprahamian, PhD, a renowned nuclear physicist. She is director of A. Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory of Armenia and a Frank M. Freimann Chair Professor of Physics at the University of Notre Dame.

Professor Aprahamian was also honored for her outstanding leadership and dedication in expanding the capacity of the scientific and healthcare sectors of the Republic of Armenia.

“The Cryogen Center/Oxygen Generator project was one of the largest projects the AAMS has ever funded,” said Garni Barkhoudarian, MD, FAAP. “Professor Aprahamian was the person responsible for this project. Because of her, Armenia now has enough liquid oxygen for the entire country in all sectors for at least fifty years. We couldn’t think of a more deserving recipient.”

The evening’s entertainment was provided by The Allen G. Orchestra. Evelyn Baghdasraian Barkhoudarian, MD, FAAP, and Garni Barkhoudarian, MD, FAANS, kept the evening moving as Mistress and Master of Ceremony.

“This evening was meaningful in many ways. It was the first time since the start of the pandemic we could gather in person to celebrate the AAMS,” said Elizabeth Zoryan, RN, BSN, PHN, gala co-chair. “It was an opportunity to acknowledge the important work of AMIC and its leadership. Last but certainly not least, we raised monies for the new Fund-a-Scholar program—a project that is near and dear to our

hearts. We are grateful for our members, friends, and sponsors who made this event so special and so successful,” said Jenia Jasmine Tahmasian, PharmD, gala co-chair.

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The AAMS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and presently has over 500 members nationwide whose areas of practice cover the entire spectrum of allied healthcare. The AAMS is the largest Armenian medical society in the Diaspora, and its directory of practitioners is a vital resource for patients seeking care in various health-related disciplines and specialties. The AAMS is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), and the Dental Board of California, ensuring that AAMS members maintain their competence of new medical and dental knowledge through Continuing Education activities to improve quality care for patients and their communities.




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