



Lifelong Friends Aram V. Chobanian, MD, and Edward Avedisian Namesakes of Boston University's Medical School

Aram Chobanian and Edward Avedisian, each the son of Armenian-born parents, grew up in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, a few houses apart. Chobanian — eight years Avedisian's senior — was friends with his older brother. Although their paths to success were vastly different, their friendship stayed the course.

After graduating from high school, Chobanian left Pawtucket for Brown University, followed by medical school at Harvard. In 1962, he landed at the Boston University School of Medicine as a professor. He rose to Vice-Chairman for Cardiovascular Affairs.

Somewhere in between, Chobanian cemented his reputation as a world-renown cardiologist. In 2002, the Armenian American Medical Society recognized his tremendous achievements by awarding him its Lifetime Achievement Award.



Dr. Aram Chobanian and his wife Jasmine attended the AAMS 17th Anniversary Gala in 2002. Dr. Chobanian was on hand to accept the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2003, Chobanian became president ad interim of Boston University. Several years later, he was named president. He retired from the University in 2005.

Avedisian picked up a clarinet in high school and never put it down. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music at Boston University and went on to become a celebrated clarinetist with the Boston Pops Orchestra.

During his musical career, Avedisian quietly honed his investing skills. He was self-taught, but unbeknownst to many, he amassed a fortune. Avedisian was known as a humble and generous man who quietly donated to schools and hospitals without the expectation of his name being placed on a building.

Over the years, the two were on friendly terms, occasionally crossing paths. It wasn't until Chobanian retired that his friendship with Avedisian blossomed. The two began to socialize frequently, and their wives became friends.

This leads us to September 29, 2022, the day Boston University announced Avedisian's astounding \$100 million gift to its school of medicine. This transformational gift will support scholarships, endowed faculty chairs, and research.

Unsurprisingly, Avedisian did not want the school named after him. Instead, he proposed naming the school in honor of his friend, Chobanian. He also declined, however, for the same reason as Avedisian. Despite their great success, both men remained very humble. Neither felt comfortable having something named after them.

The two men suggested a compromise — their names would be on the building. It only seems fitting. Their lives intertwined over the decades, from Pawtucket to Boston. That connection is made stronger by the Aram V. Chobanian & Edward Avedisian School of Medicine.

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