



## **Hereditary Cancer Syndromes in the Armenian Population**

### **Interview with Mike Mkhitar Moradian, PhD, Bioanalyst Chief Scientist/Clinical Consultant Molecular Genetics & Diagnostics**

**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 the American Board of Bioanalysis, a High Complexity Laboratory Director, and a Clinical Consultant from ABB. He has worked as a research scientist and laboratory Director for over 15 years, developing Genetics assays and setting up laboratories. He is the Managing Director of Operations Scientific and Technical at Kaiser Permanente Regional Molecular Genetic Pathology Laboratory. As the Managing Director of Operations, Dr. Moradian has overseen the technical, quality management and improvement, operational, scientific and educational, Informatics, and labor relations issues at the laboratory. He has been heavily involved with strategic planning for the expansion of the Molecular Genetic Pathology Regional laboratory and supports a grand vision of a “Genetic Center of Excellence & The Precision Medicine Institute” for

SCPMG. His main goal is to provide the highest quality and affordable testing to the KP members and communities. He is a certified Lean Healthcare expert from the Systems Engineering schools of the MIT/LMU combined program and a certified laboratory inspector by the College of American Pathologists. He is also a senior scientist and consultant for Morava scientific and technology services, leading research on Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF). His works on FMF were published in 4 different Nature affiliated peer-reviewed scientific journals. 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 was published in Human genome variation in 2021. He is the scientific expert on Glendale Adventist Institutional review Board (IRB). He also serves as the president of the California Association of Bioanalysts, the State's only laboratory director organization.

**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.