



Structural and Valvular Heart Disease and Procedures

Interview with Sarkis Kiramijyan, MD, FACC, FSCAI

Dr. Sarkis Kiramijyan is an Interventional and Endovascular Cardiologist and a formal fellowship-trained Structural and Valvular Heart Disease Specialist. He is the Founder and Director of the Structural Heart Disease Program at Adventist Health White Memorial in Los Angeles, CA. He is also the founder and director of Saint Gregory Heart and Vascular Center and holds clinics at Adventist Health Glendale and Adventist Health White Memorial Hospitals, and currently practices mainly at both hospitals. Dr. Kiramijyan completed his undergraduate education at UCLA, medical school education at the George Washington University in Washington, DC, and internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He also served as chief fellow. He completed his two-year interventional and endovascular cardiology fellowship at Georgetown University and Washington Hospital Center under the supervision of world-renowned operators and serving as a chief interventional fellow. Subsequently, he completed an advanced structural and valvular heart disease interventional fellowship at Yale University under the supervision of world-renowned mentors. While in fellowship training on the east coast, he took part in the main investigational research trials of both the Edwards Transcatheter Aortic Valve and the Medtronic Transcatheter Aortic Valve, both of which are the main transcatheter valves used currently in the United States. Dr. Kiramijyan's expertise includes cardiovascular diseases; complex and high-risk coronary interventions; advanced transcatheter minimally invasive therapies for valvular, structural, and congenital heart disease; and peripheral endovascular interventions. Dr. Kiramijyan's strong academic background includes extensively published original research and being an annual faculty moderator and panelist at leading interventional cardiac conferences. He is one of only a few

cardiac operators in Los Angeles County with this much depth, experience, and expertise in advanced structural and valvular heart disease. Dr. Kiramijyan knows that each patient is unique. Therefore, he works to honor each patient's specific goals and wishes. He is known for his compassion, respect, integrity, and quality of work. One thing he emphasizes with every patient is education. "I firmly believe patients must be well educated about their disease in order to make informed decisions regarding their treatment plan," Dr. Kiramijyan says. He also speaks Spanish and Armenian. Dr. Kiramijyan is also very passionate about humanitarian work and transferring knowledge and skill to his colleagues in Armenia. He holds an associate professor in medicine position at the Mkhitar Heratsi Medical University in Yerevan. He has conducted annual Humanitarian medical missions to Armenia and Artsakh since 2017, and just last year, in 2022, he helped start the structural heart disease program in Armenia at the Mkhitar Heratsi University Hospital with the completion of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacements (TAVR) for 2 patients with critical valve disease with the generous help of the Medtronic Corporation and his dear colleagues in Armenia.

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.