



AAMS Attends 6th International Medical Congress of Armenia: **A Meaningful Journey of Connection and Impact**

The Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS) has completed its significant visit to Armenia as part of the 6th International Medical Congress of Armenia, shedding light on the organization's humanitarian and educational efforts.

Garni Barkhoudarian, MD, FAANS, President; Jenia Jasmine Tahmasian, PharmD, Vice President; Elizabeth Zoryan, RN, BSN, PHN, Secretary; and Vicken Sepilian, MD, FACOG, current Executive Board member and Past President of AAMS; other past presidents and members were among the delegation. The congress gave them the opportunity to reconnect with past projects sponsored by AAMS and further strengthen their commitment to improving the medical infrastructure and education in the country.

Dr. Barkhoudarian shared, "Our mission is to make a lasting and positive impact in the lives of Armenians in Armenia and the Diaspora. Seeing the fruits of our projects thrive and the difference they make in the lives of Armenians is a profound experience. The dedication and support of our AAMS members make these endeavors possible."

AAMS Members Honored

During the congress' opening ceremony, awards were presented to individuals in recognition of their outstanding collaboration to aid their Homeland during the pandemic and 44-Day War. Recipients included AAMS Past President Kevin Galstyan, MD, FACOG, and AAMS Past President and current AMIC President Vicken Sepilian, MD, FACOG.



A Visit to the Memory Cafe

First up was a trip to the Memory Café Yerevan, founded by longtime AAMS member Dr. Jane Mahakian, founder of the Alzheimer's Care Armenia. The café provides a safe and supportive environment for individuals affected by dementia, offering them the opportunity to socialize and enjoy a cup of tea with others on a similar journey. During their visit, the AAMS members witnessed the invaluable role these interactions play in improving the quality of life for those with dementia.



Meeting Scholarship Recipients

A highlight of the trip was a reception hosted by the Armenian Educational Foundation. There, the AAMS delegation met the first recipients of their scholarship program for Armenian students pursuing healthcare-related studies. The recipients are veterans of the Second Artsakh War studying medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy.



Visiting A.I. Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory

The delegation also visited the A.I. Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory, where they observed the newly installed oxygen generator in operation. AAMS collaborated with member organizations of the Armenian Medical International Committee (AMIC) to raise a combined \$750,000 to purchase this essential piece of equipment that will help fulfill the country's medical oxygen needs for at least the next fifty years.



The Library at Homeland Defender's Rehabilitation Center "Չիսկորի սուս" Wounded Soldiers of Karabakh



Prior to departing Yerevan, they visited The Library at Homeland Defender's Rehabilitation Center Wounded Soldiers of Karabakh "Չիսկորի սուս" in Yerevan, for which the AAMS raised \$100,000 for renovations. This space is crucial for training specialists in rehabilitative medicine and providing resources for the soldiers injured in Artsakh.



AAMS Acknowledged for Providing CMEs at Congress

The AAMS CME planning committee successfully organized and implemented the CME program for the congress, including 10 plenary sessions and 8 specialty sessions. The AAMS was presented with a certificate of appreciation, recognizing their exceptional efforts.

Vicken Sepilian, MD, FACOG, President of the AMIC and AAMS board member, commented, "This Congress has brought together a panel of experts to address the medical conditions of top concern to Armenia and Artsakh, bringing the latest advances in medicine and science. As

our Congress slogan states, 'Together We Can Do More.' We all have a vital role in enriching our homelands by sharing our unique expertise and knowledge. Everyone parted ways with the congress with a renewed commitment to work together to make this a reality."

AAMS is proud to witness the growth and impact of its initiatives and is committed to its mission of supporting and uplifting the Armenian medical community.