



**ARMENIAN AMERICAN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ORGANIZATION  
OF NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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**In Memoriam**

**Raffy Hovanessian, M.D.**

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Dear AAHPO Supporter:

This letter serves to update you about the AAHPO-Dr. Raffy Hovanessian Medical Education Program (Med Ed Program). Since this program's inception, thousands of patients have benefited from over 40,000 hours of medical education that your donations helped provide to the Artsakh physicians. However, given the unfortunate change in circumstances with Artsakh, the program has, in the last two years, made a hard pivot in its services to Artsakh physicians. Today, in the Med Ed Program we can see the fruits of our labor – and your donations – in the resettlement of Artsakh physicians and their families, in Armenia and their assimilation into the Armenian health care system. I invite you to read more about these changes in the enclosed article.

The current Med Ed Program will continue through June 30, 2026, and beginning on July 1, 2026, the updated program, which is a logical advancement of the existing program, will commence.

I am pleased to share that the Med Ed Program Committee, led by Ara Tekian, PhD, MHPE, John Bilezikian, MD, PhD, and Sam Badalian, MD, PhD, has formulated plans for a more intensive, years-long training program for young Armenian physicians. This program fulfills an educational void and may be a model for the future of medical education in Armenia. Details will be announced at a special event to be held on November 15, where our field director from Armenia, Hambardzum Simonyan, MD, MPH, will be an honored guest.

You have every reason to feel proud of the accomplishments of the Med Ed Program, and to believe strongly in its future. In the words of AAHPO Board member Samuel Badalian, MD, PhD: "The Med Ed Program is more than education—it is dignity restored. It has allowed displaced physicians to not only to continue their profession, but also to heal their own community in Armenia."

Together, we have provided the gift of hope for a healthier future to thousands of Armenians whom we never have met. Going forward, the Med Ed Program needs your support more than ever. If you can donate at this time, please do so at [AAHPO.org](http://AAHPO.org).

We look forward to being with you at our November 15th event, the details of which will be announced shortly.

Yours in service and gratitude,

Lawrence V. Najarian, MD  
AAHPO President  
On behalf of the AAHPO Board

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