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Professor the Lord Ara Darzi of Denham Presents on Innovation in Quality and Safety



Professor the Lord Ara Darzi

The American University of Armenia (AUA)’s Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian School of Public Health (SPH) organized a public health seminar on “Innovation in Quality and Safety” featuring Professor the Lord Ara Darzi of Denham. AUA President Armen Der Kiureghian and SPH Dean

Varduhi Petrosyan introduced Professor Darzi. Over 200 health professionals including officials from the Ministry of Health, practitioners in the field of public health, nursing, and medicine, as well as AUA students, faculty, researchers, and members of the broader AUA community attended the public health seminar.

As a clinician, a patient, and a policy maker, Professor Darzi shared his wealth of experience in improving quality of care and patient safety through innovative approaches, emphasizing the role of public health as one of the most significant contributors to increased life expectancy. He shared experiences from the UK health system which have helped improve quality of care and patient safety, including publicly sharing data on patient outcomes, using smart phones to rate patient satisfaction with received care, refining designs in health facilities to improve hand hygiene practices, digitizing a set of health services through phone applications, and using machine learning in medical imaging. He concluded the talk with a quote from Charles Darwin, citing “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, not the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”

During the question and answer session, Professor Darzi addressed several inquiries from the audience on various public health and medical issues. In response to a question on medical errors, he stated, “The whole idea of medical errors is to have transparency to allow people to report those errors, so that we can learn from them. It is not a tool to punish them. Politicians need to understand that, because once you do that [punish] you suppress it, it goes underground. When it goes underground you are going to have many many more errors that no one will ever know about them and the system will be even more unsafe. If we do not learn we will never excel in life.”



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- Akopyan K, Petrosyan V, Grigoryan R, Melkom Melkomian D. Assessment of residential soil contamination with arsenic and lead in mining and smelting towns of northern Armenia. *Journal of Geochemical Sciences* 184, part A (January 2018) 97-109 (available online 16 October 2017). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gexplo.2017.10.010>
- Harutyunyan T, Giloyan A, Petrosyan V. Factors associated with vision-related quality of life among the adult population living in Nagorno Karabagh. *Public Health* 153 (December 2017) 137-146. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2017.09.004>
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- Abelyan G, Abrahamyan L, Yenokyan G. A case-control study of risk factors of chronic venous ulceration in patients with varicose veins. *Phlebology*. 2017 Jan 1: 268355516687677. doi: 10.1177/0268355516687677

Conference Presentations in 2017

European Network of Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP) International Conference on Tobacco Control 2017, Athens, Greece, May 24-26, 2017



Tobacco Control Team

Harutyunyan A, Abrahamyan A, Hayrumyan V, Petrosyan V. Discrepancy between primary healthcare physicians' attitude and practice in providing smoking cessation.

Harutyunyan A. Tobacco and Tuberculosis: Two Global Epidemics.

Harutyunyan A. Making treatment available and affordable.

Abrahamyan A, Harutyunyan A, Hayrumyan V, Petrosyan V. Missed opportunities for smoking cessation counseling in primary healthcare settings: a qualitative study in Armenia.

Hayrumyan V, Harutyunyan A, Harutyunyan Ts. The use of five "A's" tobacco cessation strategy among patients hospitalized for myocardial infarction in Armenia.

Hayrumyan V. Treating tobacco dependence in myocardial infarction patients.

Grigoryan Z, Musheghyan L, Harutyunyan A, Truzyan N, Petrosyan V. To What Extent the National Tuberculosis Control Center in Armenia Follows the Smoke-free Standards and Policies.

10th European Public Health Conference. Stockholm, Sweden, November 1-4, 2017

Thomas MS, Demirchyan A, Khachadourian V. The association between iron supplementation during pregnancy and childhood and anemia status among one to five year old children in India. ASPHER Young Researchers Forum.

Hayrumyan V, Harutyunyan A. Social Support and Smoking Cessation among Patients with Myocardial Infarction in Armenia.

Harutyunyan A, Abrahamyan A, Hayrumyan V, Petrosyan V. Training impact on physicians' knowledge in smoking cessation in Armenia.

Abrahamyan A, Harutyunyan A, Hayrumyan V, Petrosyan V. Limited availability of smoking cessation products in the Armenian pharmaceutical market.

Grigoryan Z, Musheghyan L, Truzyan N, Petrosyan V. Patients and family rights in an inpatient tuberculosis facility in Armenia.

Abelyan G, Movsisyan NK, Petrosyan V. Current and past smokers' beliefs, attitudes and experiences related to quitting smoking.

Lylozian H, Petrosyan V, Demirchyan A. Health Component of The Social Package in Armenia: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Beneficiaries.

Giloyan A, Harutyunyan T, Petrosyan V. Visual outcome and vision related quality of life among patients after cataract surgery in Armenia.

Sahakyan S, Akopyan K, Petrosyan V. Exploring nursing profession in Armenia from nurses prospective: a qualitative study.

Sahakyan S, Petrosyan V, Abrahamyan L. Retrospective cohort study of lost to follow up predictors among TB patients in Yerevan, Armenia.

Truzyan N, Petrosyan V. Population mobility and Tuberculosis-HIV/AIDS co-morbidity rates in Armenia.

Sargsyan A, Petrosyan V, von Braun M. Reproductive Hazards and Metal Smelting.

Sardaryan Y, Thompson M, Truzyan N. Risk factors impeding help-seeking behaviors among victims of domestic violence.

Muradyan S, Bagramian R, Akopyan K. Qualitative description of experiences of temporomandibular disorder symptoms in Yerevan.



CHSR Team and MPH Graduates

International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 20th Annual European Congress, Glasgow, Scotland, November 4-8, 2017

Truzyan N, Musheghyan L, Grigoryan Z, Petrosyan V. Bridging the Gap between International Standards of Quality of Care and Practices in the Inpatient Unit of the National TB Control Center in Armenia.

**Garo Meghriyan Institute for Preventive Ophthalmology
2017 Highlights**



May-July: the Garo Meghriyan Institute for Preventive Ophthalmology (Meghriyan Institute) of the SPH launched an eye screening and care program for family members of fallen soldiers and the socially vulnerable population living in Stepanakert, Artsakh. Goyamart National Charitable Union and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Artsakh helped the Meghriyan Institute in reaching family members of fallen soldiers in Artsakh.

The staff of the Meghriyan Institute carried out eye screenings and visited the Stepanakert Retirement Home as well as the Center for Single Elderly

and Disabled People. Overall, 182 people participated in eye screenings: 112 family members of fallen soldiers, 40 residents of the Stepanakert Retirement Home, and 30 members of the Center for Single Elders and Disabled People.

In July, the Meghriyan Institute distributed 172 glasses to those who were diagnosed with refractive errors such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism and presbyopia and provided medication to 27 people diagnosed with eye diseases. Those who had eye conditions needing more advanced care were referred to specialized centers. The Meghriyan Institute plans to visit members of the Gyumri Retirement Home and the Center for Single Elders and Disabled People in Vanadzor later this year.

June-September: the Meghriyan Institute implemented a comprehensive eye screening program among socially disadvantaged children, the elderly and disabled adults living in Shirak and Lori regions.

The staff of the Meghriyan Institute visited and treated patients at several locations, including a Gyumri retirement center, home to 160 older people, the Armenian Caritas NGO in Vanadzor, which serves around 100 older and disabled adults that live alone, the Poqrik Ishkhan social center in Vanadzor serving around 60 socially disadvantaged children and their family members, and a Vanadzor orphanage, home to 52 children. A total of 180 older and disabled adults, 103 children and 64 family members participated in the detailed eye screenings.

The Meghriyan Institute distributed spectacles and medication to those in need. Two hundred and twenty spectacles were distributed to those diagnosed with refractive errors such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism and presbyopia. Medical assistance was provided to 41 people who were diagnosed with eye diseases including infection and allergic conjunctivitis, retinal dystrophy, blepharitis and keratoconus. Those who had additional eye conditions needing hospital care were referred to specialized centers for more detailed examinations.



October: the Meghriyan Institute organized eye screenings among disadvantaged children living in Gyumri, Shirak in honor of World Sight Day 2017. World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment. The theme of this year's campaign was "Make Vision Count."

From October 12-14, the staff of the Meghriyan Institute visited Fridtjof Nansen Boarding School No. 2 for Child Care and Protection in Gyumri, which serves 72 children of school age. Sixty-one children participated in detailed eye screenings. Out of those, 25 children were found to suffer from some type of refractive error such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism, and will receive ophthalmic eyeglasses for free from the

Meghriyan Institute. Other eye conditions such as accommodation spasm, infections, allergic conjunctivitis and amblyopia were diagnosed in 16 children at the boarding school. All children with eye diseases will receive free medical assistance from the Meghriyan Institute.

Public Health Events



Workshop participants

Framework for Professional Nursing Practices: On July 26 and 27, the Nursing in Armenia project of the CHSR continued its contribution to strengthening the capacity of nurses through a workshop on Promoting Professional Organization of Nursing Practice among nurses in leadership positions in different inpatient healthcare facilities. The Ministry of Health, through the National Institute of Health, provided five Continuous Professional Development theoretical credits for participation in this workshop emphasizing the importance of this training for nurses.



Dr. Arusyak Harutyunyan

CHSR Trains Physicians from Marzes and Artsakh on Tobacco Dependence Treatment: June-October, the CHSR held a series of short trainings for physicians from Armenia's marzes and the Republic of Artsakh on the basics of evidence-based tobacco dependence treatment, as part of their ongoing collaboration with the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR). The trainings were organized within the scope of FAR's "Continuing medical education program for physicians working in the Republic of Armenia (RA) marzes and Artsakh" (CMEP).



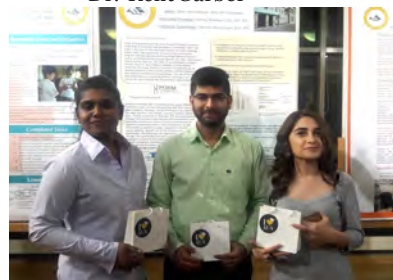
Dr. Arusyak Harutyunyan

World Lung Cancer Day: On August 1, Dr. Arusyak Harutyunyan, Senior Researcher at the CHSR, was invited to speak at the Surgical Management of Lung Cancer: Modern Management international symposium. She delivered a presentation entitled Smoking Cessation: An Integral Part of Lung Cancer Treatment that focused on the benefits of tobacco dependence treatment for lung cancer patients.



Dr. Kent Garber

How Journalists Think: Tips for Getting the Media Interested in Your Public Health Research: On November 6, the SPH organized a public health seminar led by Kent Garber, MD, MPH. As a former journalist and a physician with public health background Dr. Kent provided tips to the audience of health professionals on how to get the media interested in public health research.



Winners of MPH Poster Conference

Fourth MPH Poster Conference: On December 2, the second-year Master of Public Health (MPH) students delivered poster presentations describing their internship experiences at various public health related organizations in Armenia. Internship sites included the Armenian Red Cross Society, Nork-Marash Medical Center, the Clinic of Chemotherapy of Muratsan Medical Complex of Yerevan State Medical University, State Health Inspectorate of the Ministry of Health, Children of Armenia Fund, FMD KL Europe, Jinishian Memorial Foundation, the Medanta Institute of Education and Research India, Adyar Cancer Institute India, St. John's Research Institute India and Coimbatore Cancer Foundation India.

MPH Alumni & Student Successes



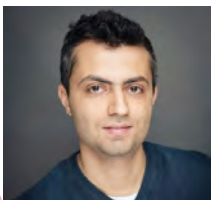
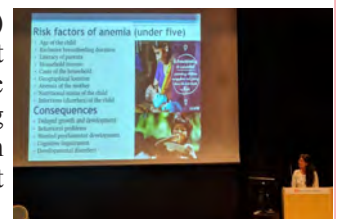
Dr. Kristina Akopyan (MPH' 13) earned German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship to conduct a research project that aims to facilitate automatization of characteristics measurement in liver imaging in sequencing techniques.

Drs. Kristina Akopyan (MPH' 13), Varduhi Petorsyan, Ruzanna Grigoryan (MPH' 07) and Dzovinar Melkom Melkomian (MPH' 11) authored an article on anthropogenic origin of contamination by heavy metals in Armenia.



Dr. Nara Melikyan (MPH' 18) joined Epicentre as the Operational Research Coordinator for the endTB observational study. endTB is a four-year project funded by UNITAID and implemented by Partners In Health (PIH).

Dr. Monica Steffi Thomas (MPH' 17) was awarded Best Oral Presentation at the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region Young Researchers Forum, at the 10th European Public Health Conference that took place in Stockholm, Sweden.



Dr. Vahe Khachadourian (MPH' 11) appointed as Assistant Professor at the SPH. He is completing his PhD studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, Fielding School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology.

Dr. Arusyak Harutyunyan (MPH' 09) participated in the 2017 European Regional Tobacco Control Leadership Program by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH).

