



Press Release

AAHPO Announces 14th Anniversary Benefit Banquet *Honors Given to Dr. John P. Bilezikian and Dr. Roger Ohanesian*

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 – New York, New York – The Armenian American Health Professionals Organization announced today they will be hosting their 14th Anniversary Benefit Banquet on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the Union League Club in New York City.

Two remarkable medical professionals will be honored for their significant and lasting impact in the Armenian community:

- Dr. John P. Bilezikian, Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University is Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Director of the Metabolic Bone Diseases Program at Columbia University Medical Center. In 2007, he initiated an Osteoporosis Diagnostic and Treatment Program at the Research Centre of Maternal and Child Health Protection in Yerevan. This program included obtaining and installing a state-of-the-art bone densitometer and formal training of over 100 physicians. Dr. Bilezikian is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Yerevan State Medical University. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Distinguished Physician Award of the Endocrine Society and the Frederic C. Bartter Award of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research for excellent in clinical investigation. He has published over 500 works and is a sought after reference of endocrinology and metabolic bone diseases.
- Dr. Roger Ohanesian is the President and Chairman of The Armenian Eye Care Project, which he founded in 1992. Since its inception, the group has had many accolades including traveling to Armenia over 30 times to teach and perform procedures; sponsoring young Armenians for US Academic Fellowships; and the examination of over 160,000 Armenians on a mobile eye hospital. Additionally, the group of 50 medical volunteers teaches at the Center for Eye Care Excellence, a state-of-the-art microsurgical training facility – a donation facilitated by AAHPO. Dr. Ohanesian is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including The Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2004 and the Humanitarian Award for Service to Armenia.

“We are thrilled to pay tribute to such noteworthy medical professionals. Their work embodies our mission at AAHPO: to educate and serve Armenians both in the United States and Armenia,” said Dr. Lawrence V. Najarian, MD, President of AAHPO. “We have organized countless forums, panel discussions and screenings to increase awareness of

important issues, like heart disease, in our Community. As we build on our momentum into the 2009 Congress, we ask everyone to join us in our fundraising efforts.”

“The banquet is a unique event where friends, colleagues and business associates come together to enjoy an elegant evening out all-the-while supporting a great cause. This year, on top of funding our regular activities, we are earmarking a portion of the proceeds from the night to the Voskevan Medical Clinic project,” said Knarig Katchadurian, PhD, Chair of the Banquet. “This year, through donations from local businesses, we were also able to organize a raffle with some incredible prizes,” continued Dr. Katchadurian.

The gala promises to be a great success with over 250 guests expected. Tickets are \$200 for students and \$250 for professionals. These can be purchased by calling Knarig Katchadurian, PhD at (201) 444-0390 or Louiza Puskulian, DDS at (516) 248-2955.

About AAHPO

The Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) is a non-profit organization created to help medical professionals assist Armenians from the United States as well as Armenian. The organization fosters disease awareness and prevention by reaching out to the community with medical workshops, informative articles in newspapers, and radio appearances. AAHPO members also offer charity care and drug discount programs, as well as emergency consultation.

Abroad, AAHPO has facilitated and implemented the donation of a state of the art, one million dollar microsurgical laboratory to the Armenian Eye Care Project – a Center of Excellence in Armenia. Currently, the organization is engaged in developing a medical clinic in the border town of Voskevan.

The Armenian Medical International Committee (AMIC) has asked AAHPO to organize the 2009 Convention where health care providers from around the world will gather to discuss important health issues and concerns.

For more information visit www.AAHPO.org

Quick Facts about the Banquet:

When: Saturday, May 3, 2008

Where: The Union League Club – 38 East 27th Street, NY, NY

Time: Cocktail at 7pm

Music by the Johnny Roubian Band

Tickets: \$200 for students and \$250 for professionals

To purchase tickets contact:

Knarig Katchadurian, PhD at (201) 444-0390 or Louiza Puskulian, DDS at (516) 248-2955

For more information, please call:

Knarig Katchadurian, PhD

Banquet Chair

(201) 444-0390