

The Erebuni Women Wellness Center is a consultative outpatient clinic and is a part of the Erebuni Multiprofile Medical Center. The Center is open to all women in Armenia and works in close collaboration with the Erebuni Maternity House. The WWC offers a full range of comprehensive women's health services, including primary care. We believe strongly in a confidential, client-based approach, and examinations are performed only with patient consent.

The Center conducts monthly educational courses and distributes brochures on prenatal care; sexually transmitted infections (STIs); family planning; pregnancy, delivery, the post-delivery period, and newborn care; the benefits



PHOTO: AIHA ARCHIVES

The WWC believes strongly in a client-based approach, and examinations are performed only with patient consent and with confidentiality.

Сотрудники Центра твердо придерживаются принципов индивидуально подхода к пациенткам. Любые обследования проводятся только с согласия пациенток и строго конфиденциально.

of breast feeding; healthy lifestyle choices; and female anatomy and physiology.

We have organized international conferences dedicated to pre-cancer diseases of the cervix and uterus, hyperthyroidism, breast cancer, and management of high-risk pregnancy. Since September 1994, the WWC has conducted a "Fellowship Program" accepting physicians from other clinics to train on-site at the Center. Our goal is to share our experience with others working in women's health. To date the Center has trained more than 20 physicians from other Armenian clinics in our unique, client-oriented approach.

Two physicians employed by the Center are also involved in a national family

planning initiative developed by the Health Ministry of the Republic of Armenia. As faculty for this initiative, the physicians participate in regional meetings, lectures, and workshops for doctors and nurses from across the country. For example, Center doctors have been in Nagorno-Karabakh, Sevan, Gavar, Ijevan, Vayke, and other districts of Armenia, where WHO-based guidelines and protocols for prenatal care, treatment of STIs, and infertility were presented. Center doctors have also participated in the organization of workshops and television campaigns focusing on family planning issues and conducted by John Hopkins University.

Lamaze classes are a unique feature of

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our prenatal care program. We began offering these classes in 1997 and, because of them, partner participation in the labor process has been put into practice at the Erebuni Maternity House. Additionally, the WWC is

the only institution in Armenia where physicians both treat their pregnant patients and manage their delivery and post-delivery periods. Another unique feature of our prenatal care program is that neonatologists working at the Center monitor newborns for the first four to eight weeks after birth. Since the inception of the prenatal program, prenatal mortality at the Erebuni Maternity House has decreased from 26 to 10.5 percent. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Armenia Children's Cardiology Center, we have implemented a project to diagnose fetal heart defects and to send newborns for surgery immediately after birth.

The Center has introduced American OB/GYN Board and American Cancer

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Society guidelines on cytology screening for cervical cancer, using the Bethesda taxonomy developed by National Cancer Institute. It is the only institution in Armenia where special protocols for screening, management, and treatment of patients with cervical pre-cancer diseases have been developed and put into practice.

The Erebuni WWC has been a self-financing institution since its establishment. A business plan was originally developed with the assistance of the deputy general director of finance of the Erebuni Medical Center and, through this financial planning, the Center is able to support 50 percent of its staff salaries, as well as taxes, communal charges, and payment for Center expenditures, construction, purchase of medication, and laboratory tests. The Center's fee-for-service prices are affordable and have been calculated taking into account the expenditures of the Center. The WWC also has "free admission days," which are open to everyone. The Center hosts these days especially for socially vulnerable groups, for women with many children, and for widows and disabled people. Since 1995, the Center has kept a computer registry of all patients, including their medications and test results.

ABOUT THE YEREVAN WWC

Date opened: 1992
AIHA partnership: Los Angeles/Yerevan

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04/01

