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Armenian Inventions: MRI Machine

There are numerous inventions that have been created by Armenians and have drastically improved the lives of many across the globe. One such example is the invention of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine. Most people don't know that it was made by someone from a predominantly not known culture--an Armenian. Raymond Damadian--the creator of the MRI--created something innovative that is one of the most technologically advanced inventions in the history of medicine. Not only has this invention changed and improved the medical field, but it has also inspired Armenian youth all over the world that the thoughts and ideas of one person can make a huge impact on society and better the lives of many.

Raymond Damadian is one of the most respected people in his line of work. He is an American with Armenian descent. Born in 1936, at the age of 16 he won a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin. He received a Medical degree from Albert Einstein School of Medicine of Yeshiva University in 1960. He received the National Medal of Technology in 1988 and a year later was inducted into the hall of fame and was given the Caring award in 2008 (Lemelson). His early achievements and accomplishments paved the path to his success.

The MRI machine is a long tube that uses a magnetic field to give a more detailed x-ray. This invention forever changed the way we see images of the organs in the human body. (Pruthi) It is a very important innovation that is used by doctors and radiologists all over the world to help them pinpoint the exact area and reason for the patient's visit. Not only has it impacted society by revolutionizing how doctors diagnose illness in their patients, but also has served as a beacon shining light on the contribution Armenians have made on a macrocosmic level.

Contributions of Armenians have been noticed and praised by influential members of American society. President Barack Obama during his statement on April 24, 2009 noted that “The United States of America is a far richer country because of the many Americans of Armenian descent who have contributed to our society”(Partamian). With their intellect and resourcefulness Armenians build and create, enriching the society around them. Even if society does nothing for them. Armenians as a whole are not talked about enough. Unfortunately, most of the time they are seen as a minority. It is our duty as Armenian youth to bring honor and praise to our race, to honor the memory of our forefathers, by becoming productive members of society.

Raymond Damadian's MRI machine has inspired me as well as many other Armenians to become more inquisitive and use our intellect to make improvements in society. Raymond Damadian must have had a very deep understanding of technology and how x-rays work. This invention, even if I choose not to go into the field of medicine, inspires me to create and understand the world just like he did. It inspires me to find everyday items we use and make improvements or note where we fall short as a society and create innovative products to improve our lives. I want to be able to make something that benefits people just like he did. The feeling of knowing you are helping people everyday is much better than any fame or praise you can get from it. That is what inspires me, creating objects that can always show people the selflessness of others in the world and will hopefully inspire them to create things selflessly like it did me. Other than helping and inspiring me, those contributions have helped the Armenian society as a whole.

These inventions are very important to all Armenians as it shows that we can do anything that we want even if we think it might not happen because of who we are and what our ancestors have faced. These inventions are important to us because they show who we are and what we are

capable of. The MRI as well as so many other inventions, companies, and discoveries show that we are strong and intelligent and that we will not give up because of something that happened in our past. On the contrary, we are using those stories and memories to fuel our longing for positive change. Every invention is one more hit at all those that tried to eliminate us. We are still here and we are still fighting because we are strong and we can. “Gank bidi linenk, u ter sdeghzenk.”

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