

ASHI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Reut Hod Dvorai, PhD, F(ACHI)
HLA Laboratory Director
SUNY Upstate Medical University

Graduated from: Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

How long have you been an ASHI member? I became an ASHI member in 2017 during my fellowship at the Transplant Immunology Laboratory at Northwestern University. I am proud to volunteer on several ASHI committees and I enjoy it tremendously! Currently, I'm the junior co-chair of the PT Committee, a volume manager for ASHI-U, and a member of the Portfolio Committee/DTRC. I encourage everyone to engage with ASHI committees, it is an incredible opportunity to learn, meet new people and share your expertise.

When and where was your first ASHI meeting? My first ASHI meeting was in San Francisco in 2017. It was my first time in San Francisco, and I was new to the country and to the ASHI community, but I felt most welcome and met some extraordinary people. ASHI is truly a special society.

What made you decide to work in HLA? I would say HLA chose me and not the other way around. I always found Immunology fascinating and wanted to do clinical work. The HLA lab was located right across the hall from the lab in which I did my PhD in Immunology and they were looking for a co-director right around the time I finished my PhD. I was offered the job and I just fell in love with this field. It was exactly what I was looking for!

Most rewarding aspect: About a year ago we transplanted a patient who was on the waitlist for 20 years, awaiting his second kidney transplant. He was an extremely challenging case from an immunological perspective, but we made it happen and he is doing very well. To me, that's worth all the effort. That story, and others, remind me of how meaningful this job is, and how fortunate I am to be doing what I love.

Fun fact: I love dancing, I absolutely adore cats and I enjoy traveling, being in new places (especially the great outdoors) and meeting new people. Fun fact about me is that I have a degree in Food Engineering which is bad news for my kids since every time they are about to eat a piece of candy I tell them everything I know about artificial food coloring. My son told me once, "Mom, you ruined candy for me". :)