

ASHI MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



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How long have you been an ASHI member? 25 years

Where was your first ASHI meeting? My first ASHI meeting was in Pittsburgh in 1995. It was very touching to be at this pioneering place of transplantation, to be part of this dedicated community, and having the opportunity for the first time to talk to all the giants of HLA whose papers I had devoured so often. The molecular era had started around that time with sequencing being discussed as a potential solution for perfectly matching HLA. It was just as all the ASHI meetings to follow - highly inspiring and motivating, exuding the random genius from working together.

What made you decide to work in HLA? After some years of clinical work seeing the helplessness to cure cancer and organ failure, I found HLA to be the key to successfully combating these major health threats with HLA being a friend in immunotherapy and a foe in transplantation. Knowing HLA created my vision that it delivers the enabling technology to fight against this injustice of life, to give hope to patients, and to bring a smile back to their faces. Driven by a passionate belief in a solution, I have the tenacious desire to see cancer suffering from non-expressing HLA and in transplants to see the immune system surrendering in view of our cleverness.

Most rewarding aspect: I love to see children smiling again after having been transplanted. Seeing a mother and a father each donating one pulmonary lobe to their child, breathing happiness again as a family, makes dedication to my work easy.

Fun fact: I like all kinds of fighting: fighting against waves and wind while sailing, fighting against the cleverness of nature when hunting, fighting against a competitor in martial arts or on the race track. I dislike any standstill and I dislike in particular my bad conscience associated with my dedication to reach the goal and thus not having spent enough time with my family and our five children.