

ASHI VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**Ahmed Mostafa, MD, MSc, PhD, F(ACHI)
University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan
Health Authority**

What committee(s) do you serve on? ASHI Director Affairs as Vice Chair, ASHI University as Volume 5 manager, ASHI Education Committee, ASHI Proficiency Testing (PT), ASHI Annual Meeting Abstract Committee, ASHI Certified Inspector

How did you get started as a volunteer for ASHI?

My journey with ASHI began in 2016, coinciding with my membership. Annual meetings introduced me to ASHI's committees, sparking my interest. Volunteering has been transformative, offering valuable learning experiences and sharpening my skills. Active participation in committees provides firsthand insights into field developments, shaping ASHI's future. Contributing to educational resources, ensuring lab quality, and organizing events all advance ASHI's mission. Volunteering fosters collective advancement, benefiting patients, clinicians, and researchers globally.

How has volunteering for ASHI improved your professional development?

Through committees like Director Affairs and PT, I've deepened my knowledge of immunogenetics and histocompatibility. Lab inspections as a certified inspector sharpened my understanding of industry standards. Leading roles in Director Affairs and Education committees honed my leadership skills. Moderating webinars and contributing to ASHI University modules developed strong communication abilities. Volunteering facilitated extensive networking with field professionals. Collaborating on committees like the Annual Meeting Abstract strengthened teamwork skills and fostered lasting professional relationships. ASHI involvement fostered continuous learning. Authoring educational modules, participating in webinars, and committee work provided ongoing opportunities to expand knowledge and stay updated on industry advancements.

What is your most memorable volunteer moment? My most memorable volunteer moment was with the ASHI PT Committee. We encountered a challenging situation where a laboratory faced difficulty meeting quality assurance benchmarks. Collaborating with committee members, we offered targeted guidance and support. Through communication, mentoring, and sharing best practices, we witnessed a remarkable transformation. The laboratory not only overcame hurdles but also showed significant improvement in proficiency

and adherence to standards. This experience underscored the importance of our role in ensuring quality assurance within the immunogenetics community. It reinforced the value of collaboration and mentorship while deepening my commitment to serving ASHI and advancing our mission.

Why do you think it is important for others to volunteer with ASHI? ASHI volunteering offers practical experience, skill expansion, and industry insight through committee involvement, educational initiatives, and inspections. ASHI connects professionals in immunogenetics and histocompatibility, fostering collaboration, mentorship, and relationship-building. Volunteers directly advance ASHI's mission by shaping resources, ensuring lab quality, and contributing to research, benefiting the wider immunogenetics community. ASHI volunteering fosters a supportive environment where knowledge is shared, expertise is valued, and collective achievements are celebrated. Volunteering with ASHI provides a sense of purpose and fulfillment, empowering volunteers to positively impact patient care, clinician support, and research advancement.