

Update from the Laboratory Professionals Recruitment Initiative (LPRI) Taskforce

ASCP Annual Meeting Preparation:

The ASHI Board has approved the participation of two representatives at the ASCP Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, from September 3-6. Dr. Kelley Hitchman and Cordy Kudika have been selected as delegates, with Dr. Cathy Gebhart, our committee chair, also attending. Dr. Hitchman successfully negotiated a 50% discount on a small booth and secured one free registration for the event.

The Taskforce US vacancy survey data was utilized to submit an abstract titled 'Addressing HLA Laboratory Vacancy Challenges: Insights from a Survey-Based Analysis.' This has been accepted for a poster presentation. Cordy will present the poster, highlighting how ASHI's LPRI survey will guide future ASHI LPRI Taskforce efforts, advocating for fair compensation adjustments, targeted recruitment strategies, and policy discussions to support recruitment.

Next Steps:

- Prepare poster presentation.
- Collaborate with ASHI staff to finalize booth preparations and materials aimed at engaging meeting participants effectively.
- Contact US ASHI laboratories to query interest in partnering with accredited laboratory programs to provide clinical practicum experiences to students. This partnership could range from single day to multiple week arrangements. This will allow us to make a contact list of interested laboratories available to program directors at the ASCP Meeting.
- Record a 10-20 minute video for YouTube and ASHI website that can be referred to at the booth.

International Vacancy Survey:

A vacancy survey was recently distributed to all laboratories outside of the US. This survey, similar to the earlier US survey, aims to identify areas of concern that can become focus points for the Workforce. Please contact ASHI if your laboratory did not receive this survey. Data for both surveys will be shared in the Q3 issue of the ASHI Quarterly.

ASHI Educational Workshop Outreach:

Invitations were extended to four NAACLS MLS programs in North Carolina to participate in the ASHI Educational Workshop. Unfortunately, no students attended the workshop. Despite this, ASHI remains committed to promoting and raising awareness of HLA Laboratories as a career path. Efforts will continue to engage with educational institutions and cultivate interest in our field.

These updates highlight LPRIT's proactive efforts in research, international collaboration, and educational outreach, reinforcing our commitment to advancing the field of histocompatibility and immunogenetics.