

ASHI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jessica Brown, CHS Histocompatibility Specialist IU Health

Graduated from: Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

How long have you been an ASHI member? I am not sure exactly. I started working in HLA almost 9 years ago and feel like I have always heard and been a part of ASHI offerings.

When was your first ASHI Meeting? Denver, June 2023.

This was the first meeting I was able to attend. It was an ASHI Educational Workshop and I got to go with my work bestie, turned real life bestie! The workshop was great. I really enjoyed all the presentations as well as the overall experience. I can't go without saying I love experiencing Denver too. As a mom of 3 kids under 5, it was a great destination and a nice little get away for my first work trip. We were able to explore the city, hit a Rockies game, and check off seeing a concert at Red Rocks while there!

What made you decide to work in HLA? I came to work in HLA sort of by accident. I graduated college with a degree in Cytotechnology and had been working in that field for about 5 years before our lab was ultimately bought out and the cytology department was moved out of state. I found myself exploring a few options (data analytics, gene therapy) but decided to apply to an open position in HLA, not really have much idea of what it was. The idea of working in Transplant sounded extremely rewarding and the rest just sort of fell into place as I learned all about HLA.

What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your work? The most rewarding aspect of the work for me is following particular patients through the entire process. We are the solid organ transplant center for IU Health as well as the HLA lab for our OPO. Because of this, I feel like I get to see the entire process beginning to post care years down the road. I particularly get sucked into our pediatric patients that have social media accounts so I can really put a face with the name / sample I am constantly running.

Fun fact: I spent 8 years playing competitive roller derby for Naptown Roller Derby in Indianapolis. I now have 3 little kids that take up a lot of my time. Recently, I have been exploring my artistic side, painting jean jackets, ornaments, buckets, etc., for friends and family or for people who happen to see my work on Instagram.