

ASHI VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



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What committee(s) do you serve on?
Bylaws Committee

How long have you been an ASHI member?
13 years

What made you decide to work in HLA and how did you get started as a volunteer for ASHI? It was Professor Manikkam Suthanthiran who introduced me to the field of HLA. While at HMS, I reached out to Prof. Suthan about a research position. Prof. Suthan shared that he doesn't have a research position, but instead has a right opportunity for me in Immunogenetics and Transplantation (IGT) Center at The Rogosin Institute. I joined as the Assistant Director of the Flow Cytometry division, passed the ACHI Laboratory Director's exam, and, under Prof. Suthan's mentorship, became an ASHI Director. I also serve as Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. During this time, I had the honor of serving as Chair for several ASHI committees, including the Bylaws, ASHI-U, Regional Educational Workshop (REW), and the Education Committee. Volunteering for ASHI provided me with invaluable experiences and the opportunity to collaborate with peers in the HLA field, many of whom have become lifelong friends. I have also been an ASHI inspector for the past eight years.

What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your work?

The most rewarding aspect of my work is directly impacting patients' lives. HLA is a complex field, and when a transplant decision is made in the middle of the night based on our interpretation and recommendation, and the patient survives without complications, the satisfaction is priceless. All your knowledge from PhD, post-doc, HLA laboratory, board certification, and ACHI portfolio come together that one night, and is tested.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself: You may have not heard as many dialects of a language as I have heard of my Indian name in the ASHI community. As a solution, some creative HLA friends called me 'Dr. PRA' (first three letters of my name and also a common abbreviation for panel reactive antibodies) and many call me 'Dr. P'. Those that worked with me on ASHI committees, call me 'Prabhakar' in a couple of dialects.

In my free time, I enjoy photography and cartooning. One of my photographs of a gorilla was featured on the cover of a college textbook in Chicago. Additionally, one of my illustrations is sold at the ASHI store. Cartooning is my favorite hobby.

