

ASHI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Shaniece Nelson, CHT(ACHI), MHS,
MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
Medica Technologist I
Emory University School of Medicine,
ELIAD (Emory/Children's Laboratory for
Innovative Assay Development)**

Graduated from: Augusta University, Augusta, GA
(Master in Health Science, Clinical Laboratory Science)

How long have you been an ASHI member?

6 years

What made you decide to work in HLA? I actually had no idea what HLA was when I was hired as a lab assistant. I quickly learned more about the field and found how fulfilling and satisfying it is to help patients get organ transplants. I studied and trained in the Emory HLA lab and eventually sat for the CHT exam. I gained my certification and became a histocompatibility technologist. Throughout my HLA career I enjoyed studying complex typing abnormalities and tough cases. I most recently completed my Master of Health Science in Clinical Laboratory Science. I am currently working as a Medical Technologist in a research lab at the Emory University School of Medicine, specializing in the development of complex clinical assays and reference lab testing.

What is the benefit if being an ASHI member? One of the great benefits of being an ASHI member is the access to informational webinars and opportunities to earn Continuing Education credit. Although I am no longer working in an HLA lab, I still like to attend ASHI webinars and read featured articles. HLA is ever changing with new developments and techniques. Staying informed keeps me up to date and helps me maintain my ACHI certification.

What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your work? The most rewarding aspect of my job while in HLA was getting the call to do a deceased donor typing or crossmatch because I knew that meant that one of my patients

would soon be possibly receiving an organ. It felt good knowing that my work contributed to their organ procurement.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself: My hobbies include walking nature trails, reading, and attending Atlanta Braves baseball games.