

ASHI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Graduated from: George Main University

How long have you been an ASHI member?
6 years

Your first ASHI meeting? I attended my first ASHI meeting in 2016 in St. Louis, Missouri, just after passing my CHS certification. It was an exciting milestone in my HLA journey, and I was eager to immerse myself in the professional community. I still vividly remember that meeting—not just for the energy and learning, but because I missed the inspector workshop, which is the first step toward becoming an ASHI inspector.

What made you decide to work in HLA? I was first introduced to the world of HLA during my clinical rotation in Med Tech school. The complexity and significance of the field immediately caught my attention, and I knew I wanted to be part of it. After graduation, I chose to pursue a career in HLA, drawn by its unique blend of immunogenetics, transplant science, and cutting-edge technology.

What keeps me in HLA is its ever-evolving nature. The field is constantly advancing—whether it's new testing methodologies, emerging research, or innovations in transplant testing. I thrive on the continuous learning and the opportunity to stay at the forefront of medical science. Every day brings something new, and that's what makes this work so rewarding.

What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your work? One of the most meaningful aspects of working in HLA is following a patient's journey—even if it's just through the data. From the initial evaluation to organ offers, to successful transplant and post-transplant monitoring, each step tells a story. Over time, you begin to feel a connection to these patients. You celebrate their victories, knowing that your work played a role in helping them receive a life-changing organ. It's incredibly rewarding to

know that behind every match and every report, there's a person whose quality of life is being transformed.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself: I tend to change hobbies about once a year—not out of indecision, but because I love exploring new interests. For reasons I can't quite explain, I often lose steam once I feel I've grasped the basics. My journey has taken me from learning piano to studying Spanish, and now I'm elbow-deep in flour and frosting, fully immersed in baking. Whether it's crafting cake pops or experimenting with homemade bread, I enjoy the process of learning something new and seeing where it takes me.