ASHI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Karla Escobar-Castro, QB. PhD
Immunogenetics Lab Director
Hospital General San Juan De Dios. Guatemala, Guatemala

Graduated from: Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala

How long have you been an ASHI member? I have been an ASHI member since 2014.

When and where was your first ASHI meeting? My first ASHI meeting was the ASHI 11th International Summer School in Boulder, Colorado in 2014. It was a very exciting week full of networking and excellent speakers. In 2018, I attended the ASHI Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, and in 2021 I was awarded with an international travel award to attend the ASHI meeting in Orlando, Florida.

What made you decide to work in HLA? Since my years of residency, I have been very interested in the kidney transplant unit. I learned that Guatemala did not have an HLA lab, so I worked with colleagues to open our first immunogenetics lab in the largest public hospital in the country.

Most rewarding aspect: It has been a long and happy journey. I am excited to see the transplant patients recover and to know that the HLA tests are now done in our country instead of being sent abroad.

Fun fact: I like to travel, to meet new people, read, learn other languages, and I love fashion. I love my dog; I don't like spiders, they're scary.