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How long have you been an ASHI member? 8 years

When was your first ASHI Meeting? My first ASHI Meeting was in 2009 at the ASHI Regional Educational Workshop in Baltimore, MD. It was a lovely walkable city where you were able to stroll to the Inner Harbor and have lunch with a beautiful view. It was my first foray in making connections with former co-workers and being introduced to the unique culture that is ASHI. Watching members from all across the region interact really set the tone on the collaborative and welcoming nature of the community. This was the impression that I walked away with, and it has only strengthened with time.

What made you decide to work in HLA? Transplantation and immunogenetics had, and still has, such an amazing growth potential. It was exciting to not only be able to be present as history is made, but also to be on the forefront of the history making.

What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your work? One of the most rewarding experiences is seeing a complicated patient that you've invested so much time and energy on, not only get transplanted, but continue to make leaps and bounds in recovering their quality of life. You immerse yourself in studying a complicated patient profile. You tease out all of the nuanced epitopes and antibodies and match it up with the patient's sensitization history, medications, and treatment profile. After all the effort you end up with this in-depth picture of the patient's immunologic journey and you get to see that happy ending.

Fun fact: I started fencing (pre-COVID) and I was more than double the age of all of the students in the beginner's class. I'm happy to say that I ended up being the class Champion. The peak of my very short fencing career!