



## Member Spotlight



**Name & Credentials:** Dean Sylvaria, CHS(ABHI)

**Job Title:** Supervisor

**Place of employment:** Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts

**Graduated from:** University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth

**How long have you been an ASHI member?** 24 years

**When did you attend your first ASHI meeting?** My first ASHI meeting was the 20th Annual Meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1994. It was special because it was my first exposure to ASHI and I was mesmerized by one particular speaker, Dr. Andrea Zachary. I don't recall the particular subject matter on which she spoke, but I will always remember her passion. She left me wondering how I could get involved in this amazing society. This was also the meeting hosted by my director, Dr. Edgar Milford, ASHI President. It wasn't all business though as my wife, Michelle, and I attended a Led Zeppelin laser light show. It will be 25 years since my first meeting when ASHI returns to Pittsburgh as host of the 2019 ASHI Annual Meeting.

**What made you decide to work in HLA:** Quite frankly, I needed to find a way to support my family. In 1993, an HLA technologist's wages were not going to make you rich, but you had the potential for near endless on-call hours. Oh, those beloved 24 hour shifts. In college, I dual majored in Biology and Marine Biology. I thought I would spend my days on a research vessel in the Atlantic or Caribbean. How wrong I was, but I grew to love HLA and ASHI.

**Most rewarding aspect:** On the clinical side, I know my work benefits our patients. It's as simple as that. I approach every sample and every test as if it were a family member's. From a volunteer perspective, I find the educational opportunities and collegiality of ASHI very rewarding. I have been fortunate to have met so many wonderful individuals over the last 24 years. My ASHI family has given me so much and I am truly grateful.

**Fun fact:** I grew up playing the three major sports: football, basketball and baseball. I ended up coaching and volunteering in every capacity for youth soccer. It was a special time to share with my son. When asked why I continue to do it even though my son's playing days are over at age 22, I just remind them of the reward - the smiles of children. It doesn't get any better than that.