



Member Spotlight



Name & Credentials: Kelley M.K. Hitchman, M.S., Ph.D., D(ABHI)

Job title and place of employment: Section Chief and Director, HLA - University of Texas Health Science Center

Graduated from: Iowa State University and Southern Illinois University

How long have you been an ASHI member? 4 years

Your first ASHI meeting (where was it held? when? special memories?)

My first ASHI meeting was held in Chicago, IL in 2013. I was able to meet in person so many of the HLA professionals I had admired when I was learning about HLA and preparing to enter the specialty.

What do you find to be the most valuable aspect of your work? HLA has allowed me to evolve from a basic scientist to a clinical transplant team member. Directly helping patients and clinicians is very rewarding to me.

What made you decide to work in this field? HLA seemed to me to be a wonderful opportunity to participate in clinical care while still pursuing research and further scholarship. The field of HLA is ever evolving and presents endless opportunities to learn and continue to be challenged. Never a dull moment!!!!

What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your work? Seeing a positive clinical outcome blossom from the cases we monitor so carefully, and cultivating strong collaborations and partnerships with our clinicians is a daily joy for myself and the laboratory. I also take great pride in seeing young technologists enter the field of HLA in our laboratory and excel in their technical and interpretive skills within the HLA specialty. What we do as a scientific community is so very important and unique.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself...likes? dislikes? hobbies? I am the proud Momma of an 8-year old daughter and a two-month old son. I am terrified to enter water that I cannot see through. I am a voracious reader; I enjoy both nonfiction biographical works and fictional suspense thrillers. Baking is soothing for me and I love to bake for others.