

ASHI Member Spotlight

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Name & Credentials: Maureen Miller, B.S., MT ASCP, CHT, CHS

Job Title: Clinical Technologist III

Place of employment: Yale School of Medicine

Graduated from: University of Scranton

How long have you been an ASHI member? 25 years

When did you attend your first ASHI Meeting? The meeting was held in Pittsburgh, PA. I passed the CHS exam and presented my first poster, on Class II antibodies.

What made you decide to work in HLA? At the end of an interview for a blood bank position at Massachusetts General Hospital, the HR representative suggested I meet with Tom Fuller and Donna Fitzpatrick of the Tissue Typing lab. After two and a half hours of fascinating and inspiring discussion about the field, I knew I belonged in HLA.

Most rewarding aspect: Knowing that my work has a positive impact on the lives of patients and can bring solace to donor families is very rewarding. Tremendously rewarding, too, is the experience I've had in working for some amazing people in three remarkable institutions in my career, each helping me to grow in the field of HLA. At Massachusetts General, I learned how to perform as a member of a top program while recognizing the importance of lab testing in patient care. Also, I was taught to always read, constantly think and learn about new developments in the field. At Hartford Hospital, the value of lab work and continuous improvement was emphasized, along with the importance of engaging with donor families. It was made clear that those at every level of the organization can have an impact on quality and patient care. At Yale, the institution where I was first trained as an ASHI Inspector over 20 years ago, I have been privileged to play a role in the swap program and gain experience in the integration and operation of electronic medical records systems. The rewards of serving as an ASHI ARB Commissioner have been very fulfilling, not only because of the opportunity to learn ASHI rules and policies more deeply but to work with and learn from others in this wonderful field.

Fun fact: I love to bake, so if I wasn't working in HLA, I would own a bakery.