



2019-2020 ASHI Board Candidates

President-Elect

William Hildebrand, PhD



William Hildebrand is a Professor of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Director of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center High-Resolution HLA Typing Laboratory. He is the scientific founder and Chief Scientist at the Pure MHC and Pure Protein biotech companies. Dr. Hildebrand received his MS and PhD in Microbiology & Immunology from the University of Southern Illinois and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in HLA Immunogenetics at Stanford University. Dr. Hildebrand completed his training in Clinical Histocompatibility Testing in Oklahoma

where he founded a high-resolution HLA typing laboratory. He maintains board certification with American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics.

Dr. Hildebrand participates in teaching Medical Students and Graduate Students at the OUHSC School of Medicine as well as teaching students at the University of Oklahoma undergraduate campus. He founded and directs the graduate course Immuno-Oncology. Dr. Hildebrand's research laboratory characterizes HLA molecules and their interaction with alloantibodies, how HLA molecules distinguish cancerous cells to facilitate the immune recognition of tumors, and the role of HLA molecules in autoimmune responses. Dr. Hildebrand is actively involved in ASHI having attended the ASHI annual meeting for more than 25 years, regularly reviewing meeting abstracts, serving as faculty for the ASHI regional workshops, serving on the ASHI Program planning, chairing the ASHI partnering committee, and serving on the ASHI Board of Directors.

Secretary

Catherine F. Klimek, BS, CT (ASCP), IAC, CHS(ABHI)



Catherine Klimek received her B.S. degree in Cytotechnology from the Medical University of South Carolina with ASCP and IAC certifications in Cytology. She received her ABHI CHS certification in 1994.

Her professional career includes 8 years at the MUSC Cytotechnology department followed by a move to Histocompatibility in 1986. She is the current manager of the Histocompatibility Immunology Laboratory at AU Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia.

Ms. Klimek has served, and currently serves on committees for ABHI and ASHI. She is a past ABHI Continuing Certification Chair (2000-2003) and ASHI Technologist Affairs Chair (2014-2016). She currently serves as the ASHI Bylaws Chair (2017-2019) and by appointment is proudly serving on the ASHI Board of Directors for 2019.

Doctoral board member candidates – US & Canada (choose **three from this category)**

Noureddine Berka, PhD, D(ABHI)



Noureddine Berka is a Clinical Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Calgary and the Clinical Director of the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory, Calgary, Canada. Dr. Berka obtained a Masters and PhD in Genetics and Human Genetics from Howard University in Washington DC, and pursued postdoctoral clinical fellowship at the University of Maryland Medical System, Baltimore, Maryland. He is board certified by the American Board for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. Dr. Berka has 29 years of experience in HLA and immunogenetics and has served in the ASHI accreditation review board as commissioner, he is the past chair of ASHI DTRC, and is an active ASHI inspector. His research focuses primarily on immunology of solid organ and stem cell transplant, the role of host immunogenetics in disease, and the characterization of HLA polymorphism and population genetics studies. Dr. Berka has published numerous articles in prominent journals, such as Nature Genetics, Blood, Diabetes, American Journal of Transplantation, Biology Blood Marrow Transplant, Transplantation, and Human Immunology. He has been invited to speak on his research at many universities and conferences throughout the U.S. and abroad. He is a member of many National and International professional organizations. He is a passionate educator who has trained many transplant professionals that are now serving as part of transplant programs in Canada and around the world. In 2008 Dr. Berka initiated the first Canadian Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Fellowship accredited by ASHI and one of only four in the world.

Luis G. Hidalgo, PhD, D(ABHI)



Luis Hidalgo is the HLA laboratory director at the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he also serves as an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at UW. His interests in science began as a biochemist before turning to transplantation immunology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. In Edmonton Dr. Hidalgo led the transplant immunology focus at the Alberta Transplant and Applied Genomics Centre where he sought to understand the processes of graft rejection and define the immune cells involved. As a result of multiple studies and collaborations his work helped identify new immunologic processes in antibody-mediated rejection key to our mechanistic understanding of ABMR across different organ groups. His research interests include: factors contributing to the immunogenicity of HLA mismatches and the generation of HLA antibodies, HLA antibody assessment methods, immune effector mechanisms of antibody-mediated rejection, and gene expression analyses for diagnostics. Dr. Hidalgo has >50 peer reviewed publications and is an active member in the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics.

Zahra Kashi, PhD, HCLD



Zahra Mehdezadeh Kashi, PhD, HCLD, is a board-certified molecular immunohematologist with nearly 30 years of experience in clinical laboratories, biologics, and pharmaceuticals. Dr. Kashi holds a doctorate degree in molecular immunohematology from Portland State University. She completed her doctoral thesis under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Heinrich at Oregon Health Sciences University. She also completed the Michigan Ross Executive Program at the University of Michigan in 2005.

Dr. Kashi has extensive leadership training, having completed more than 1,000 hours in areas such as clinical development and trial protocols, quality system auditing, GMP development and process, project management, inspection, regulatory agencies, strategic planning and business development.

Dr. Kashi is a highly-sought clinical laboratory consultant, with dozens of peer-reviewed publications and abstracts, as well as numerous invited presentations. Over the years, Dr. Kashi has been a consultant for many Northwest and western state laboratories including LABS Inc., Fanno Creek Clinic, Portland Family Practice, Pediatric Associates of the Northwest, the Portland Clinic, VRL Laboratories, Portland Pain and Spine Clinic and the American Red Cross. She is active in the American Society of Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics where she is an inspector, and a liaison for the Relationship Testing Standards Program, and previously was a commissioner and Accreditation Review Board Program Director. She is currently an inspector for the College of American Pathologists and an expert witness on genetic identity. In addition, Dr. Kashi has served as a clinical assistant professor in the department of pathology/CLS at Oregon Health & Science University and has also held a number of other education and research positions at local universities, hospitals, and corporations.

Ruth Koester, PhD, D(ABHI)



Ruth Koester is a Technical Director in the Laboratory Corporation of America Holding's (LabCorp's) DNA Identification Division, Histocompatibility Laboratory. She has over 25 years of experience in HLA typing using multiple technologies: from serology, SSP, SSO, and Sanger SBT to various platforms of Next Generation Sequencing. She earned her PhD in Genetics from North Carolina State University in 1992 following a BS from Cornell University. Dr. Koester was introduced to the challenges of HLA through her experience with Paternity testing in the 1990s. Her first ASHI meeting was a Regional workshop in New Orleans in 1994 and she hasn't missed an annual meeting since. Ruth was drafted onto the ASHI Publications Committee when she (politely) raised concerns about the ASHI Quarterly quiz questions and has been working to help all of the documents representing our Society to be as concise and professional as possible ever

since. She has served on the Publications Committee for many years and as Co-chair since 2016. The committee recently handled several large projects and is currently working with the Education Committee to update and review all of the ASHI-U modules for release on the new website. She has discovered first-hand through this role that ASHI volunteers are talented and generous givers of their time and expertise.

Ruth would be honored to serve on the ASHI Board of Directors. She has made wonderful friends through her work in the ASHI community and looks forward to volunteering in whatever capacity is needed.

Dimitri Monos, PhD



Dr. Monos is a professor of Pathology and Lab medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Immunogenetics Lab supporting the transplant programs at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. His research interests cover a wide spectrum of HLA-related topics. His lab has pioneered DNA-based methodologies for HLA typing and more recently the introduction of Next Generation Sequencing in the field of Immunogenetics. He has worked on a number of structure/function relationships of HLAs, contributed to identifying the exact structural elements on the different HLA molecules associated with several autoimmune diseases and through genome-wide association studies identify additional genomic regions associated with autoimmunity. Most recently, his lab has identified miRNAs encoded by the

HLA genes and miRNAs targeting the HLA genes. These new findings identify a new functional role for the HLA genes potentially influencing a large number of cellular pathways that may explain the significant associations of these genes with many diseases. His work has been funded by: NIH, ADA, JDF, University of Pennsylvania, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Diabetes Research and Education Foundation, National Marrow Donor Program and other foundations. He has authored/co-authored more than 120 original publications in international journals and served on the editorial boards of several journals. Dr. Monos has been invited to present his work at different Universities, National and International meetings. He has also participated in Study Sections reviewing grants for NIH, NMDP, University of Pennsylvania and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Doctoral board member candidates – International (choose **one from this category)**

Heather Dunckley, PhD



Heather Dunckley has worked in histocompatibility testing for more than 25 years, commencing in the Tissue Typing Laboratory in the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Sydney, Australia, where she trained and became the ASHI Director. During her time in Sydney she served as an ASHI Lab Inspector, was a member of the ASHI International Affairs Committee and was a council member and President of ASEATTA, (later renamed as APHIA, the Asia Pacific Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Association). Heather served on several committees including the Blood and Marrow Transplant Network Allogeneic Working Group of New South Wales (NSW), the Australian Bone Marrow Donor

Registry Scientific Expert Advisory Committee and the Renal Transplant Advisory Committee in NSW; she was also a Lab Inspector for the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) in Australia. Heather is now the ASHI Director of the New Zealand (NZ) National Tissue Typing Laboratory based in the New Zealand Blood Service. She is a member of the NZ National Renal Transplant Group, the NZ Bone Marrow Donor Registry Management Committee, and the Australia New Zealand Kidney Exchange Collaboration Group. Heather continues to serve ASHI as a Lab Inspector and is a member of the ASHI Proficiency Testing (PT) Committee. She is also a current council member of APHIA and coordinates the APHIA DNA PT results review. Heather is a committed educator and regularly lectures to science students and healthcare professionals in NZ and Australia at undergraduate and post graduate levels on topics related to histocompatibility and transplantation. Heather is honored to be nominated to stand for election to the ASHI Board and sees this as an opportunity to serve all ASHI members.

Janette Kwok, MBBS, PhD, FRCPA, FHKCPATH, FHKAM (Pathology), D(ABHI)



Janette Kwok is the Consultant and Division Head of Transplantation and Immunogenetics, Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in Hong Kong. She began her career as an Immunopathologist in the Clinical Immunology Division in QMH after her MBBS degree from the HKU. She subsequently received her fellowships from both the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and the Hong Kong College of Pathologists, and her PhD in Immunology from the HKU. Dr Kwok started her career in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics in 2004 and completed the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) Director training and obtained board certification as a Laboratory Director by the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics in 2006.

Dr Kwok became a member of ASHI in 2004 and has served as an HLA Laboratory Inspector since 2013 as well as a member of the ASHI Proficiency Testing Committee (2011-2016), the ASHI Quality and Assurance Committee (2006-2008), the ASHI International Committee (2012-2018) and an abstract reviewer (since 2008). Dr Kwok thanks the ASHI Nominations Committee for nominating her to serve on the ASHI Board of Directors.

Dr Kwok's research interests include transplantation immunology, antibody mediated rejection, the role of NIMA in HSCT, population genetics and immunogenetics associations. She is an active member of the histocompatibility community, contributing articles to many journals and participating in workshops and related courses.

Rami Mahfouz, MD, MPH



Dr. Mahfouz earned his medical degree from the American University of Beirut followed by a Clinical Pathology residency and a Fellowship in Molecular Pathology at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee focusing on HLA and molecular diagnostics and microarrays technology in research. In 2002, he joined the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the American University of Beirut Medical Center as Assistant Professor and has worked since then on establishing a Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory with a service scope covering different specialties including Transplantation, Molecular Microbiology, and Molecular Pathology.

His research interests include natural killer cell immunoglobulin-like receptors (KIR) genotyping, HLA associations, and molecular thrombophilia profiling. He has more than 160 publications, some in high impact factor journals like NATURE COMMUNICATIONS, BLOOD and CANCER CELL and serves as Associate and Executive editor on several international journals including GENE and META GENE.

He is currently a Tenured Professor and Head of Division of Clinical Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at AUBMC and the Director of the Histocompatibility and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Director of the Residency Training Program, and Vice-Chairman of the Biomedical Institutional Review Board. He is a member of several international and professional societies including the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI), and the American Association of Molecular Pathologists (AMP) where he has been lately appointed as Chairman of its International Affairs Committee.

Non-doctoral board member candidates – (choose one from this category)

Arianne Mankey, BS, CHS(ABHI)



Arianne Mankey, B.S., CHS(ABHI),CHS(CA), is a dedicated and motivated histocompatibility specialist with over 18 years of experience in HLA laboratory settings. Ari has focused her career on becoming expert in all aspects of histocompatibility testing, laboratory operations, quality improvement, and implementation of laboratory best practices.

Ari earned a B.S. degree in Medical Technology from Michigan State University. She had the good fortune to work for over a decade in the MSU Immunohematology and Serology Laboratory under Dr. John Gerlach, first as a student assistant and then as a technologist, gaining a strong fundamental understanding of HLA. Ari moved to the Stanford HLA lab in 2011, and quickly became very familiar with the demands of deceased donor testing, as well as with testing requirements for bone marrow transplantation. In this busy and diverse lab, Ari has taken on increasing levels of responsibility for developing and implementing new policies and procedures, and for ensuring compliance with established regulations and quality control requirements. She has served in a supervisory role for over six years, and as General Supervisor of the Serology area for the past three years.

Ari has been a full member of ASHI since 2003. She has shared her expertise in laboratory operations and logistics as member, vice-chair, and chair of the ASHI Technologist Affairs Committee. She currently serves as a member of the ASHI Proficiency Testing Committee and as an ASHI inspector. Ari is honored to have an opportunity to further give back to the HLA community with this nomination for the ASHI Board of Directors.

When she is not working, Ari loves traveling, reading fantasy novels, testing new cocktail recipes, and shredding the competition at Trivia Night. She has a refined appreciation of single-malt Scotch, and is famous for her homemade ice cream!

Anne Marie Pichotta, MPH, CLS, MT(ASCP), CHT



Anne Marie Pichotta is currently Quality Manager and Clinical Specialist at the UCLA Immunogenetics Center. She has loved science since her high school years and won first place in the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair, both as a Junior and Senior, advancing to compete in the final rounds at the California State Science Fair as one of the top high school students in California. She decided to become a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in order to continue performing experiments with the ultimate goal of touching lives. Upon graduation, she became a Clinical Coordinator in Microbiology. Her passion for mentoring and teaching others led her to accept the position of

Education Coordinator of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program at Loma Linda University and faculty member at both Loma Linda University and Cal State University, Dominguez Hills, teaching immunology, microbiology, phlebotomy, and body fluid analysis to CLS students and medical school residents and fellows. She developed the curricula and was responsible for the acceptance and approval of the Clinical Laboratory Technician, Associate of Science degree at Loma Linda University. A passion for learning led Anne Marie to earn her Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology where she could be involved in research and test development. In 2000, she began working in the HLA Laboratory at Loma Linda University Medical Center and her love of immunogenetics and histocompatibility was born. She embraced the field of histocompatibility as a technical specialist in molecular diagnostics and then as manager of two HLA laboratories. During this time, Anne Marie continued mentoring HLA technologists, developing workshops in flow cytometry, single-antigen, and, NGS techniques. She currently serves ASHI as an Inspector and as Chair of the Quality Assurance and Standards Committee.

“Being a part of ASHI has provided me with the privilege of working with some incredible people whom I greatly admire. The fields of histocompatibility and immunogenetics are evolving rapidly and it is my pleasure and privilege to be a part of these new technologies with their impact on improving patient care. I am truly honored to be nominated for a position on the ASHI Board of Directors and look forward to continue serving ASHI and my HLA family.”

Doreen Sese, CHS (ABHI)



Doreen is truly honored to be nominated for service on the ASHI Board of Directors. She is currently the general supervisor of the Histocompatibility & Immune Evaluation Laboratory at Yale University School of Medicine. Her career in HLA began over 30 years ago when she decided to move from Wisconsin to Boston and was extremely fortunate to be hired as a technologist in the Tissue Typing Lab at Brigham & Women’s Hospital. During the early 1990s, she designed an in-house method for high resolution molecular HLA typing, and subsequently validated and received accreditation for stem cell transplant HLA typing and engraftment monitoring. Much of her time was dedicated to educating and training clinicians, fellows, residents, and students from all over the world. She served as a liaison to multiple hospitals for HLA unrelated donor/cord blood unit searches, disease association testing, pharmacogenetics, chimerism/human identity testing, matched platelet searches, and research studies.

Before joining Yale, Doreen worked at NetBio as a Research Scientist, Massachusetts General Hospital as a Stem Cell Transplant Search Specialist, and Rhode Island Blood Center as the HLA Lab Supervisor. She has given presentations at several ASHI Regional Workshops, Annual Meetings, and Yale New Haven Hospital in-service programs and has contributed to publications in *Blood*, *Human Immunology*, *Tissue Antigens*, *Transfusion*, *Nature Genetics*, and the *ASHI Quarterly*.

As a member of ASHI and ABHI, Doreen serves as Chair of the Technologists’ Affairs Committee and Chair of the ABHI CHA/CHT/CHS Examination Committee and is a member of the ASHI Educational Task Force Committee and the ABHI Board of Directors. She is also the incoming Chair of the ASHI Membership Committee and is currently focused on enhancing ASHI’s benefits and educational offerings for its international members. Doreen is dedicated to helping technologists advance in the field and is committed to increasing the many benefits ASHI provides to the HLA community.