



## Sharon D. Adams, CHS

I have been active in ASHI for over 30 years with a focus on several leadership positions. Currently I am serving as Vice President of Operations for the society. I enjoy mentoring and guiding individuals with decisions in both their laboratories and careers. Having recently retired, I hope to impart some of the knowledge that I have gained through the years in the field of HLA and leadership to others.



# Linda Buckert, MT(ASCP)SBB, CHS

I have been working in the HLA Lab at Loma Linda since 1985. Before that I worked at a small blood center in the Midwest as I initially was a blood banker. I started the HLA Lab at Loma Linda and was the one and only employee in the beginning and now oversee a staff of 10.

I have served on many ASHI committees and also the ABHI board. I have been performing inspections for both ASHI and CAP for most of my career. I have seen many changes in technology over my career, I enjoy teaching and enjoy conversations with colleagues.



# Steven Heron

I have worked in HLA for 32 years, I am a Certified Histocompatibility Specialist with a Master of Clinical Immunology degree. My experience includes T and B cell separation using nylon wool (yeah, I'm mature, or experienced as I like to think of it), as well all the recent typing and antibody screening methods including NGS analysis, solid phase antibody assay development, and STR for engraftment. I have been an ASHI inspector as of the past 4 years to "give something back."

More recently, I've begun to view HLA very differently than my peers after a discovery I made. I'm very excited and passionate about this new hypothesis and the field of transplantation. My views of HLA are not mainstream, but are scientifically sound and based on historical publications. I'll submit to the current paradigm and teach you what I've learned so far- I won't rock your boat just yet. But I will push you to think beyond your comfort zone. I think way outside the box of HLA, and have been criticized for it; such is the path to innovation. I look forward to working with you.



# Yasmine Shaaban CLS (CHT)

This opportunity is very exciting to me! I have five years experience between Immunohematology (transfusion service) and Immunogenetics (HLA Laboratory) currently solid organ transplant.

I would like to help my mentees learn more about histocompatibility lab practice and grow in their career. In our lab we do rotation between HLA typing, antibody detection/identification and flow cross-matches. We have a great supportive team open 24/7, saving lives every day.



# Doreen Sese, CHS (ABHI)

Currently the general supervisor of the Histocompatibility & Immune Evaluation Laboratory at Yale University School of Medicine. Previously worked at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Mass General Hospital, & The Rhode Island Blood Center. Experience in stem cell & solid organ transplant workups, molecular & serological typings, CDC & solid phase antibody screening, chimerism testing, human identity testing, HLA matched platelets, and lab management.

**Volunteer service:** ASHI & ABHI Board of Directors, Chair of ASHI Membership Committee, Past Chair of ASHI Technologists' Affairs Committee, Chair of ABHI CHS/CHT Exam Committee, Board Liaison to the ASHI Marketing Committee, and member of the ASHI Regional Education Workshop Committee. Publications in Blood, Human Immunology, Tissue Antigens, Transfusion, Nature Genetics, and the ASHI Quarterly.

# Amy Younie MT ASCP, CHT



Hi! I am excited to become a mentor in the HLA field. I have been working in HLA for 13 years. Before HLA I worked as an MT generalist for 7 years. I am located in Indianapolis, IN at IU Health. My lab works with the solid organ transplant program. In 2019 our center performed 486 transplants. We do flow crossmatches, Luminex single antigens, flow pra's, CDC pra's, CDC crossmatches, and HLA typing. We also type all the donors for the state of Indiana.

Outside of work I enjoy camping, taking walks with my husband, golf cart rides, and spending time with friends & family. I have 3 children that swim, and the that keeps us very busy. Finding work/life balance is very important to me, and working at IU Health HLA lab has made that possible for me. I really enjoy what I do. It can be challenging at times, but that's what keeps me on my toes. I am constantly learning new things. Never a dull moment!



# Wendy Hanshew MS, MT(ASCP), CHS

I have worked in an HLA Laboratory since graduating in 2003 from the MS Clinical Lab Science program at Rush University in Chicago. I started as a Medical Technologist in the HLA Lab at Rush, then moved to the Transplant Immunology Laboratory at Northwestern University for 2 years before becoming their HLA Flow Cytometry Lab Supervisor for the next 5 years. In 2011, I move to North Carolina to become the manager of the Clinical Transplantation Immunology Laboratory at Duke.

I currently manage a staff of 20 technologists and support staff. We are a full service HLA Lab, offering everything from deceased donor testing, HLA antibody monitoring, to NGS HLA typing. From a laboratory testing perspective, HLA antibody testing and cross matching are my strengths. From an operational/leadership perspective, I have navigated a wide range of issues that managers/supervisors are often faced with. I absolutely love the field of Transplant Immunology and am happy to share my experiences and offer input and guidance to anyone that would like to find a long term career in HLA.



# Rebecca Upchurch, MPA, MLT(ASCP)cm, CHS

With 12 years of experience in the field of Histocompatibility, Rebecca has fulfilled several roles in the Transplant Immunology and Immunogenetics Laboratory at UChicago Medicine. She is a graduate of Indiana University and has obtained several degrees including a Certificate in Phlebotomy (2005), an Associate of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology (2007), a Bachelor of General Studies (2011), and most recently, a Master of Public Affairs with Concentration in Health Services Administration (2020).

Currently, in the role of Chief Histocompatibility Technologist, she oversees the daily operations of the clinical laboratory, including support for both solid-organ and stem cell transplantation, immunogenetic testing, and ancillary support for blood bank donation. While knowledgeable in several areas of the laboratory, including flow cytometry, solid-phase antibody detection, and molecular assays, her interests are in teaching, training, and development of professional skills. She has attended several ASHI meetings, presenting oral case studies as well as posters (cases for abstract), and served as faculty for the 2019 ASHI regional meetings. This also included an extended invitation as one of four guest speakers, with presentations on ASHI and the evolution and use of the various assays utilized in the histocompatibility laboratory. As part of her Master's program at Indiana University, was invited to join the National Society of Leadership & Success and the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration.

In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys baking, running, playtime with her dogs, and her recent hobby of board gaming. She currently resides in Chicago, IL.





# Carey Killion, BS, MT(ASCP), CHS(ABHI)

I am currently the Transplant Immunology Laboratory Supervisor at IMMCO Diagnostics in Buffalo, NY. I graduated from the University at Buffalo with a BS degree in Clinical Laboratory Science in 2003, and worked as a technologist at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center for just over a year. I then joined the HLA Laboratory (which was a part of the OPO at the time) in 2004 as a Histocompatibility Technologist. In 2007, I assisted the OPO in forming a Community Blood Bank as the Laboratory Supervisor. In 2008, I moved back into the HLA lab and never looked back, becoming the Supervisor in 2011.

When I initially took over as Supervisor, we were still performing the same methodologies we were when I started in 2004. After attending my first ASHI Annual meeting in Denver and seeing all the possibilities, I jumped in with both feet and starting making changes to our technologies. We have brought in SSO, RT-PCR, and NGS, and currently serve both the local Solid Organ Transplant Program and HSCT Transplant Program. I'm also active in ASHI, and am proud to serve as the Chair of the Technologists' Affairs Committee, incoming Chair of the ASHI Membership Committee, on the ABHI CHA/CHT/CHS Examination Committee, and as a member of the ASHI Marketing Committee.



## Melissa Glenn, CHT (ABHI)

I started my HLA career in Michigan at Gift of Life Michigan where I learned HLA typing techniques, flow crossmatches, ABO typing, and infectious disease testing. I have moved to North Carolina and now work on the hospital side where I have learned to run Luminex as well and go to recipient meetings with the transplant team. I'd love to help you in any way possible!

# Rachel Wahlert, MS,CHS

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I have a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from the College of Charleston and a Master of Science in Forensic DNA from the University of Florida. I worked in research for a few years at the Medical University of South Carolina before going to Grad School and eventually working for the Georgia Crime Lab for 5 years.

I have been working in HLA at Augusta University Medical Center for 9 years. I have experience in all sections of our lab but most of my expertise is in molecular and antibody detection. I have been working with my Director for the past 2 years to make sure that our lab was promoting career development and to get a career ladder in place.



## Andres Rondon, CHT, CHS

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Certified HLA Specialist with over six years of laboratory experience. I've developed a strong understanding of the immunological functions behind the assays used in histocompatibility testing, and built a solid foundation in running a clinical laboratory setting. I'm knowledgeable with direct experience in the following areas of HLA: antibody screening and identification (SA, Phenotype, FlowPRA, Epitope ); flow cytometric crossmatch (Halifax protocol and Ficoll Hypaque ); DNA typing (NGS, rSSOP, SSP).

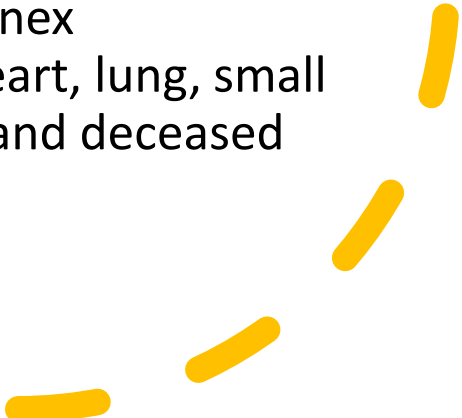


# Betty Hunter

## BS, CHS

I earned my BS in Microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1995. I have worked for UPMC since May 1996. After starting out in the clinical Microbiology lab; I joined the HLA lab in August 1999. I obtained CHT from ABHI and worked the benches in our lab (including antibody, HLA typing and crossmatching, and engraftment studies). I was promoted to lead technologist in March 2005, tested and passed my CHS from ABHI shortly after, and continue in this position currently.

As a lead, I am primarily in charge of the review and reporting of deceased donor/solid organ cases. This includes the evaluation of cytotoxic and flow crossmatches, molecular HLA typings and HLA antibody testing using the Luminex platform. UPMC transplant programs include heart, lung, small bowel and multi-visceral as well as living donor and deceased donor programs for both kidney and liver.





# Donna L. Phelan, BA, MT(HEW), CHS(ABHI)

Donna Phelan has been in the field of Histocompatibility and immunogenetics since 1979, 41 years. Her initial work was with antibodies, specifically defining the Cross Reactive Groups (CREGS) with her mentor, Glenn Rodey, M.D., author of HLA Without Tears and HLA beyond Tears. Donna's interest today is still in antibody identification and specificity. She has co-authored over 50 peer reviewed journal articles, has had over 100 abstracts accepted for presentation and has authored 10 Chapters.

Donna has been very active in ASHI over the years. She has participated on numerous committees, as participant and chair. She was the first technologist Program Director of the Accreditation Program and the first Vice President of Operations. Donna continues to be an ASHI Laboratory Inspector having worked on the first set of standards ever implemented.

Donna has also received several awards from ASHI including Outstanding Technologist in 1991 and Distinguished Service Award in 2004.

# Selina J Taylor, BS CHS(ABHI)

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Selina J. Taylor started with the Penn-Jersey region HLA Laboratory at the turn of the century. She was awarded her CHT in 2002, CHS in 2020 and continues to grow in the field of HLA. From new equipment implementation to tried and true classic HLA serologic methodologies, Selina has been involved in every aspect of the laboratory in one way or another. In her 20 years, she has seen many advancements in both HLA typing and antibody screening. Those advancements, of course, are driven by the needs of the patients, and those that administer their care.

To that end, Selina has been instrumental in implementing the first ever Health Level 7 (HL7) connection here at the Red Cross. Many years in the making, Selina has worked closely with both local and national personnel to set up this direct connection between the Hospital's information management system and that of the laboratory, allowing for the direct ordering of tests and subsequent resulting. A Herculean task, this project was fully implemented in April 2019. Selina is unrelenting in her endeavors to make not only her lab but the entirety of the Red Cross HLA community a shining example of efficiency and productivity. She is a recipient of the American Red Cross Employee Excellence award and does her best to "Live the Mission" every day.



# Carolina Kneib, MSc

- Solid Organ Transplant Team Lead
- Technical Specialist III
- Immunogenetics Laboratory
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

