

Laboratory Procedure Manual

The Laboratory Procedure Manual is a comprehensive reference manual for standard procedures and advanced techniques and Quality Assurance practices in histocompatibility laboratories. Each procedure is written in the NCCLS format by recognized experts in the field. The fourth edition of the Laboratory Procedure Manual, published in 2000, is available in a two-volume printed format or on a searchable CD-ROM. ASHI members may purchase the manual at a reduced price.

Membership Directory

ASHI's annual Membership Directory includes names, postal and e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, and fax numbers of all members. It also includes general information about ASHI, its programs, executive committee, standing committees and bylaws. A listing of national and international histocompatibility laboratories is included for easy reference.

Membership Directory

ASHI's Web site (<http://www.ashi-hla.org>) provides information about the Society, its officers and activities. It provides resources of interest to the histocompatibility and immunogenetics communities, such as DNA sequences of HLA alleles, a link for online access to Human Immunology, order information for ASHI publications, a searchable version of ASHI's membership directory, postings of employment and training opportunities, and links to related organizations. The site also hosts a Digital Discussions bulletin board and the ASHI Technical Hotline.

For more information about any of the above programs, contact the management office at:

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**MEMBERSHIP
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ASHI Membership

The American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) is a not-for-profit association of clinical, scientific and research professionals including immunologists, geneticists, molecular biologists, transplant physicians and surgeons, pathologists and technologists. As a professional society, ASHI is dedicated to advancing the science and application of histocompatibility and immunogenetics, providing a forum for the exchange of information, and advocating the highest standards of laboratory testing in the interest of optimal patient care.

There are individual and institutional membership categories available. A special "sustaining" category of membership is available to full and institutional members wishing to express extraordinary support to the Society.

Information about the Society and the numerous benefits offered to members are outlined in this brochure. An application form highlighting the membership categories and annual fees is attached.

Education

ASHI provides many opportunities for continuing education. The annual meeting held each fall provides members the opportunity to meet their colleagues and keep current with advances in the field. Plenary sessions provide cutting-edge material across a wide range of subjects while concurrent basic research and clinical scientific sessions offer information in

specific areas of expertise. Additional presentations include both oral abstract and poster sessions. Educational workshops provide lectures and interactive discussions on specialized topics. Exhibits of commercial products and information and items of interest to the membership are also on display.

Regional education workshops, held in the spring and early summer, provide greater geographical accessibility to continuing education for ASHI members. These annual gatherings cover relevant topics in histocompatibility and immunogenetics as well as new technologies. These workshops also help meet the continuing education requirements of the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ABHI). One annual workshop is held at an international location. ASHI members qualify for discounted registration fees for the annual and regional meetings

Accreditation Programs

For Histocompatibility Laboratories

The objective of ASHI's laboratory accreditation program is to maintain the highest standards of reliability and quality in histocompatibility testing laboratories. The accreditation program evaluates laboratory personnel, procedures and facilities to determine if they are in compliance with ASHI standards and with those standards of organizations by which ASHI is deemed. It promotes the educational aspects of the accreditation process, particularly in assisting laboratories in the correction of deficiencies, and maintains the Society's awareness of standard and novel testing procedures and methodologies. Areas of accreditation include: Stem cell/bone marrow transplantation (related and unrelated); solid organ transplantation (live donor and deceased donor); genetic identification, transfusion support and histocompatibility testing for other clinical purposes. This voluntary program has accredited over 200 histocompatibility laboratories worldwide and is administered by the ASHI Accreditation Review Board. The ASHI accreditation program has deemed status with CMS, JCAHO and UNOS.

For Histocompatibility Laboratory Directors and Credentialing of Directors

Laboratory programs for training post-doctoral candidates to become histocompatibility laboratory directors may be accredited through ASHI. Training programs are held to consistent quality through evaluation against established criteria for curricula, requisite faculty and facilities. The

guidelines for selection of candidates and criteria for approval of training programs are available in written format by contacting the ASHI Executive Office or they may be found on the ASHI Web site. ASHI also reviews credentials and case portfolios from individuals who wish to direct ASHI accredited laboratories to assure that they meet ASHI standards. Accreditation of director training programs and credentialing of directors is the responsibility of the Laboratory Directors Training Review and Credentialing Committee of ASHI.

Proficiency Testing

ASHI conducts a proficiency testing program for clinical histocompatibility testing laboratories. Surveys include HLA typing modules for (1) serological HLA-A, B, C, DR, and DQ typing and ABO grouping; (2) DNA testing for HLA-A, B, C, DR, DQ, and DP; (3) HLA-B27 determination; (4) stem cell engraftment monitoring; and (5) antibody determination and crossmatching. The antibody and crossmatching survey offers unknown class I and class II antibody samples that may be tested using a variety of methods from standard cytotoxicity assays to flow cytometry. Participants may view and report proficiency testing data via internet-based, menu-driven software.

Standards for Histocompatibility Testing

ASHI Standards for Laboratory Testing have been established to ensure accurate, reliable, and appropriate histocompatibility testing results. The Standards establish minimum criteria that must be met by all histocompatibility laboratories in order to operate. The Standards are regularly reviewed and updated by the Committee on Quality Assurance and Standards and are subject to public comment and final approval by the ASHI Board.

American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ABHI)

ABHI was established to develop standards of competency and to examine and certify individuals in histocompatibility. The certification process is designed to promote and measure a standard of knowledge and competency for medical laboratory personnel, encourage professional growth and individual study, and formally recognize those individuals who fulfill the requirements for certification.

Certification is available at four levels: the Certified Histocompatibility Associate (CHA), the Certified Histocompatibility Technologist (CHT), the Certified Histocompatibility Specialist (CHS) and the Certified Laboratory Director (Diplomate, ABHI). Documentation of continuing education is required to maintain certification. Records of continuing education are maintained by ABHI. Examinations are offered annually.

Human Immunology

Human Immunology is a monthly, peer-reviewed journal providing articles on a wide range of topics in immunology and other related scientific disciplines. Subjects include structural polymorphism of HLA genes in healthy and diseased populations and the function, regulation and expression of HLA in normal and malignant cells. The journal publishes research on molecules involved in immune activation and the regulation of the immune response in transplant patients and in patients with autoimmune, immunodeficiency or infectious diseases, and articles on neuroimmunology, immunopharmacology and developmental and reproductive immunology as well as editorials and seminar series on topics of general concern. *Human Immunology* is published monthly by Elsevier Science Publishing Company, New York. An online subscription is included in the ASHI full and associate membership categories.

ASHI Quarterly

The *ASHI Quarterly* is a newsletter that offers members information regarding Society activities and also provides educational opportunities in the form of clinically relevant scientific articles. Regular features include updates on accreditation, new governmental regulations, summaries of the annual meeting and regional workshop sessions, ASHI Board meeting summaries, vendor forums, and a classified section with position announcements and educational opportunities. An *ASHI Quarterly* subscription is included as a benefit in all membership categories. The *ASHI Quarterly* also provides a continuing education quiz for CE credits as an added benefit for members. Non-members are required to pay \$30.00 for each quiz. An *ASHI Quarterly* subscription is included as a benefit in all membership categories.