

President's Column

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Education is one of the pillars that supports all of the work that we do. Members have been very busy since our meeting in October putting together a menu of options for the coming year. My thanks go to all of the volunteers that have been working so hard to put these programs together.

Regional Workshops are designed to bring topics highlighted at the annual meeting to venues more accessible to the membership. Once again, the faculty includes members who truly know their topics and are effective presenters. Plan to take part; attend a meeting yourself or send your colleagues to your Regional Workshop.

The program for this year's annual meeting in Minneapolis has been finalized. This meeting again starts by bringing us up to date on the basic science of immunogenetics. Sessions will highlight cutting-edge progress in cellular immunotherapy, stem cell transplantation, autoimmunity and organ transplantation. The committee has assembled a faculty of internationally recognized experts—a meeting not to be missed. Autumn is a great time to enjoy the Twin Cities. See you there.

The launch of the first modules of ASHI University is imminent. A number of additional modules are in the works. This new venture for ASHI will truly serve members by

bringing the theory and practice of what we do to a computer on your desk or lab bench. Design and implementation of this web-based resource has been a truly monumental undertaking for the volunteers. Take advantage of the opportunity for continuing education credits offered by this resource.

The *Quarterly* continues to provide education and opportunities for continuing education credits essential for maintaining certification. Our society's journal, *Human Immunology*, keeps us informed on new discoveries in our field.

ASHI's committees in the Professional Standards Division have also been hard at work. The Accreditation Review Board responded quickly to the mandate for changing the way we schedule inspections; see their update in this issue. Quality Assurance and Standards put in a few marathon sessions streamlining our standards. The improved version is scheduled for public comment this spring. The Proficiency Testing Committee has implemented changes in surveys and grading this year to respond both to changes in clinical practice and to changes in the format needed by the ARB to comply with federal mandates.

Once again, thanks to all of the members who give their time and energy to ASHI.