

President's Column

Karen Nelson, *PhD, D(ABHI)*

In June, the members of our board reviewed ASHI's strategic plan. This plan, developed in January 2005, has provided clear goals to move our society forward. The board recognized the progress made by committee members on a number of objectives: most recently, expanded membership categories, streamlined standards, and updated bylaws.

We also identified four objectives as high priority in the next months. First is launching ASHI-U to our members. This is planned to coincide with the annual meeting. Second is an update of the ASHI website. The first part of that project is underway—the creation of an ASHI center. This center will provide a single, easily navigated site for laboratories to interact with ASHI's accreditation and proficiency testing services. More information will be provided during the PT and ARB updates at the annual meeting. A total revamp of our website is in the planning stages. The third priority is organizing a conference to examine the clinical relevance of antibodies to HLA identified using solid phase assays. This working

conference will be in collaboration with OPTN/UNOS, NIH and the transplantation societies. The goal will be to examine the data currently available, evaluate whether there is a basis for consensus and to identify what additional data are needed. The fourth effort is assuring the succession, and success, of the proficiency testing program. A task force headed by Harriet Noreen has been working with the committee on reviewing its structure and processes.

I want to thank all of the committee members who are rotating off for a job well done and welcome the new volunteers who will begin committee work.

As the time for our annual meeting nears, I look forward to the program developed by Peter Nickerson and his team, and to a chance to say hello to many of you and to thank you for your service to ASHI.