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I graduated with my PhD in Microbiology and Immunology from Wake Forest University in 2009. After completion of my PhD, I pursued a traditional post-doctoral position with Dr. Thomas Tedder at Duke University Medical Center investigating regulatory B cells role in infectious disease. Following my two years within Dr. Tedder's laboratory, I decided to come to diagnostic immunology through the CPEP Immunology training program directed by Dr. John Schmitz at UNC-Chapel Hill. During that fellowship, I was able to apply the basic immunology training with the clinical diagnostic immunology approaches to testing. As part of my fellowship, I led the next-generation sequencing validation in the HLA laboratory. UNC became one of the first academic medical centers to receive accreditation for NGS testing in HLA. Since my fellowship, I've expanded my expertise beyond HLA also to include primary immune deficiencies. I started the Molecular Immunology laboratory at UNC, which focuses on genetic testing for primary immune deficiencies in conjunction with flow cytometry assessments.

During my CPEP Immunology training AMLI was the first meeting I attended and loved the collegial interaction between colleagues and how the society welcomes new members with open arms. While AMLI is a smaller society compared to some other clinical Immunology societies (i.e. CIS or AAAAI), I firmly believe that our collective expertise in diagnostic immunology will play a vital role in diagnostic stewardship going forward. AMLI has the opportunity not only to partner with sister societies with shared strategic goals, but also, advance the field of diagnostic immunology by using evidence-based practices for immunologic disorders.

I think one key aspect for AMLI will be ensuring our collective voice in the diagnostic stewardship conversations that are key to the next evolution of diagnostic testing. Webinars and joint conferences are a great way to spread the name and value of AMLI, but additional methods should be evaluated to further AMLI's scientific and education missions.

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