

Vanessa Menard

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I am a Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. student with over a decade of clinical laboratory experience across diverse healthcare settings, including blood banks, hospital laboratories, and specialty diagnostics. Building on my foundation in laboratory medicine, I am now pursuing research in HLA immunology and bioinformatics, focusing on building computational tools for optimizing donor selection. My combined background in clinical diagnostics and emerging research experience positions me to contribute to healthcare advancement through rigorous scientific investigation.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences - Tulane University, New Orleans, LA (Expected 2027)

- ◆ 3.9 GPA

Master of Science in Molecular Medicine - Tulane University, New Orleans, LA (2023)

- ◆ 3.9 GPA

Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science - University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH (2016)

- ◆ 2.8 GPA

Associate of Science in Medical Laboratory Science - South Louisiana Community College, Lafayette, LA (2013)

- ◆ 3.7 GPA

RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST

- ◆ Human Leukocyte Antigen
- ◆ Bioinformatics
- ◆ Immunogenetics
- ◆ Histocompatibility
- ◆ Population genetics
- ◆ Translational Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant - Tulane University School of Medicine (2023 - present)

- ◆ Developed population genetics models for analyzing ethnic disparities across HLA match stringency levels in platelet transfusion, finding relaxed match stringency improved equity
- ◆ Implemented a virtual HLA crossmatch algorithm for analyzing platelet transfusion HLA antibody profiles and donor HLA genotypes for donor-recipient compatibility.
- ◆ Presented project at vendor-sponsored HLA Antibody Workshop (November 2024)
- ◆ Manuscript submitted for publication

Graduate Research Assistant - Tulane University School of Medicine (2022 - 2023)

- ◆ Investigated HDAC1,2 regulation in chronic kidney disease using mouse models, and found that a maternal high fat diet leads to aberrant fetal HDAC1,2 expression and predisposition to CKD
- ◆ Presented research findings at institutional research symposiums
- ◆ Manuscript submitted for publication

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Abstract

Liu H, Menard VW, Harkrider J, El-Dahr SS, Mumtaz M, Chen C. Developmental Programming of CKD. *Oral Presentation*. American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week, November 2024. Published in *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* 35(10S):10.1681/ASN.20247stq93cp. (manuscript submitted)

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Manuscript

Yu N, Panch S, Mepani K, Stanworth S, Bonet-Bub C, Gragert L, **Menard V**, Mangiola M, Maiers M, Berka N. Epitope-Based Matching for Platelet Transfusion Overview 'Is it time?': Insights and Future Directions from the 2024 American Red Cross Symposium on Platelet Component Selection. (submitted)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UCLA Health - Ronald Reagan, Los Angeles, CA (2019 - 2022)

Clinical Laboratory Scientist - Contract Position (2022)

- ◆ Served as CLS generalist at 684-bed Level I trauma center
- ◆ Performed complex immunohematology testing and Blood Bank operations

Clinical Laboratory Scientist - Contract Position (2019 - 2020)

- ◆ Specialized in Blood Bank department operations
- ◆ Managed high-volume transfusion services

Aspira Labs, Austin, TX (2021 - 2022)

Medical Technologist

- ◆ Conducted immunoassays for ovarian cancer risk assessment
- ◆ Contributed to early-stage laboratory development

Ascension Seton Hays, Kyle, TX (2020 - 2021)

Medical Lab Scientist

- ◆ Managed testing across multiple departments during COVID-19 pandemic

Sutter Health - Alta Bates, Berkeley, CA (2019)

Clinical Lab Scientist - Contract Position

- ◆ Provided generalist coverage at 340-bed hospital
- ◆ Managed second shift operations and emergency testing

Covenant Healthcare, Saginaw, MI (2017 - 2019)

Medical Technologist

- ◆ Performed testing in 623-bed Level II trauma hospital
- ◆ Managed quality control procedures across laboratory disciplines

Central Vermont Medical Center, Berlin, VT (2017)

Medical Technologist - Contract Position

- ◆ Generalist assignment at 122-bed acute care hospital
- ◆ Provided coverage across laboratory departments

Women's & Children's Hospital, Lafayette, LA (2014 - 2017)

Medical Technologist

- ◆ Advanced from MLT to MT upon bachelor's degree completion
- ◆ Created and managed laboratory newsletter

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant - Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Cell & Molecular Biology (Undergraduate Level, Fall 2023)

- ◆ Assisted students with laboratory experiments
- ◆ Evaluated assignments and provided feedback
- ◆ Supported laboratory preparation

Genome Biology (Graduate Level, Spring 2024)

- ◆ Assessed student assignments and provided feedback
- ◆ Collaborated on course grading
- ◆ Managed course materials

Genetics (Undergraduate Level, Spring 2024)

- ◆ Evaluated student work and provided feedback
- ◆ Assisted with course organization
- ◆ Supported administrative tasks

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Poster

Tulane Research, Innovation, and Creativity Summit (TRICS) (New Orleans, LA 2023)

“Developmental Programming of Chronic Kidney Disease by Histone Deacetylases”

Tulane University School of Medicine Annual BMS Retreat (New Orleans, LA 2023)

“Developmental Programming of Chronic Kidney Disease by Histone Deacetylases”

Presentation

Werfen HLA Antibody Workshop (New Orleans, LA 2024)

“Optimizing Platelet Donor Selection for High-Risk Thrombocytopenia Patients”

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ◆ Immunohistochemical / Immunofluorescence staining
- ◆ Microscopic imaging
- ◆ Cell culture & transfection
- ◆ SDS PAGE protein gel electrophoresis
- ◆ Immunoprecipitation
- ◆ Python programming
- ◆ Big data analysis

Certifications & Licensure

- ◆ Medical Laboratory Scientist, American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) - Board Certified
- ◆ Medical Laboratory Scientist, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners - State Licensed
- ◆ Clinical Laboratory Scientist, California Department of Public Health - State Licensed
- ◆ Clinical Laboratory Technologist, State of Hawaii Department of Health - State Licensed